PROCEDURE FOR JOINING THE COALITION FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. A local group may join the Coalition by sending the coordinator a written statement of their acceptance of the Basis of Unity. On receipt of this statement, the group will automatically be given preliminary membership in the Coalition, subject to final acceptance by action of the Steering Committee at its next meeting. Any group with preliminary membership will receive all communications from the Coalition and be invited to attend any meeting with observer status (with voice but no vote) until its membership is formally accepted by majority vote.

2. A national group actively working on southern Africa may be invited to join the Coalition by two-thirds vote of those present of the Steering Committee. Their full membership will be effective when they send to the coordinator a written statement of their acceptance of the Basis of Unity. Chapter organizations and newspapers and periodicals are considered to be national groups.

(The purpose for the differentiation between local and national groups is to enable local groups to join easily, since it is for their benefit that the Coalition operates, and to retain the careful method of selection for national groups which could dominate the Coalition.)

3. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has been granted the status of an associated organization by the Coalition, receives all Coalition communications, and is invited to all Coalition meetings with observer status (with voice but no vote). (This is a precedent for possibly taking actions on other groups on an individual case-by-case basis.)

4. Groups who join the Coalition should send, along with their statement of acceptance of the Basis of Unity, a mailing address and two contacts for the Coalition phone tree/hot line. Membership dues of $15 yearly should also be paid at this time.

(Taken from Coalition Steering Committee Meeting minutes, December 18-19, 1976 in Chicago, Illinois)
Basis of Unity
of the coalition for the liberation of southern Africa

Preamble: The liberation movements are in the forefront of the struggle in southern Africa and we pledge our support to them. We seek a working relationship with them in our solidarity work in North America.

1. The system of white minority rule in southern Africa will not be overturned either by appeals to the goodwill of the ruling minority or by gradual reforms such as increased wages for blacks, abolition of "petty apartheid" or internal or international dialogue or "detente".

2. The only just and viable solution in southern Africa is that solution determined by the African masses as well as by full participation by all citizens, without manipulation by any form of imperialism or neo-colonialism. We reject the concept of bantustans as unviable and unacceptable.

3. The African people of southern Africa have the right to choose such means as may be necessary, including the use of armed force, to achieve their liberation.

4. The U.S. government is in complicity with the present Apartheid regimes in southern Africa and shares direct responsibility for blocking majority rule there. This active American support is an inseparable part of United States imperialism and racism toward the Third World. The struggle in southern Africa is the same struggle in which we are engaged in the U.S. against the forces of economic and political exploitation.

5. As groups we are committed to the goal of overcoming the racial and class divisions which have surrounded anti-imperialist struggles in the United States. Thus we shall strive toward broadening the constituencies with whom we work and to whom we appeal.