Will South Africa use the bomb?

“We can ascribe our degree of (nuclear) advancement today in large measure to the training and assistance so willingly provided by the United States of America.”

Dr. A. J. Roux
President of the South African Atomic Energy Board, 1976
South Africa: the nuclear connection

More and more people are recognizing that nuclear technology, in the form of power plants as well as weapons, is a threat to human life. In the hands of South Africa’s apartheid regime, nuclear technology may become the ultimate threat. To maintain a system where the white minority controls four fifths of the land, where white wages are five to ten times those paid to blacks, and where educational and medical resources are designed to serve whites, South Africa has constructed one of the most brutal police states in the world. Threatened by the advancing liberation struggle in South Africa and the rest of southern Africa, the regime has built, with Western help, the most powerful military machine in Africa. It has used its military strength to massacre unarmed demonstrators at Sharpeville and Soweto, to murder Namibian refugees at Kassinga, and to imprison, torture, and murder opponents like Steve Biko. Such defense of white supremacy and disregard of human life makes nuclear weapons in their hands the ultimate threat against the Black majority.

Along with its A-Bomb program, South Africa promotes nuclear power world-wide. As one of the world’s largest producers of uranium South Africa benefits from any growth in the market for nuclear fuel. The South African regime seeks energy self-sufficiency to combat an increasingly hostile international community which is unwilling to openly support it with oil or other strategic resources.

Fight the U.S./South Africa Link

The US stake in South Africa’s nuclear development has been large. Besides investments in uranium mining, US corporations have helped construct South Africa’s nuclear facilities. By 1977, at least 155 South African scientists had visited US nuclear facilities—under the “Atoms for Peace” program!

The US government and US corporations have always supported the apartheid regime, seeing it as an outpost of the “white, western, free enterprise system” in Africa. US corporate investments in South Africa total over $2 billion. These investments provide tax revenues for the South African regime and introduce advanced technology into the energy, electronics and armaments industries. Between 1972 and 1976, US Bank loans amounted to more than South Africa paid out to triple its military budget.

Targeting Citibank.

Citibank has financed apartheid and nuclear power, and has played a key role in undermining housing and social services for New York City residents—especially in the black and Latin communities.

The New York Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa has started a withdrawal campaign against Citibank to protest its role as the largest US lender to South Africa. We see this campaign as one way of building support, understanding, and solidarity with the liberation movements in southern Africa, while confronting corporate disregard for the pressing needs of people in this country.

- Citibank was a leader in the bailout of Three Mile Islands owners—once it was assured that rate hikes would cover the cost.
- Citibank was the voice of the big banks when they demanded cutbacks in New York City’s essential services—hitting Third World and poor people, especially women, the hardest.
- Citibank has participated in over one and one half billion dollars in loans to South Africa.

US Banks and corporations have supported oppression in South Africa for the same reason they support nuclear power and nuclear weapons development here—they feel that their continued profits and power should come before human rights and needs.

END BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA
END THE US-SOUTH AFRICA NUCLEAR LINK
NO NUKES

NY COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA (NY-COBLSA)
4R, 313 West 78 Street, New York, N.Y. 10024. 865-8972