STATEMENT ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE TRANSKEI

The establishment of an independent Transkei does not rise from the people located therein but from the government of South Africa which is using the proposed "independence" of the Transkei to legitimatize its policies. Black South Africans who have never seen the Transkei will be arbitrarily assigned there when they are no longer able to be productive for South Africa. Rights of citizenship will be denied black South Africans in South Africa on the pretext that they are "citizens" of the Transkei - even though they are living and working within the bounds of South Africa. The Transkei "independence" violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, passed by the United Nations in 1948, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State, the right to take part in the Government of his/her country, and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his/her nationality.

The United States must not recognize the Transkei! To do so would violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which the United States voted for. To do so would violate our own tradition of "freedom and justice for all". To do so would violate humanity, stamping us as a people with no respect for the life and dignity of others. To do so would violate a sense of decency that insists people come before politics. To recognize the Transkei would place us among the naive who have been outmaneuvered by South African propaganda; or even worse, to label the United States as a government that places trade agreements above human life.

The government of South Africa has not accepted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and this creation of an "independent" Transkei is only a beginning. Other "Transkeis" will become "independent" and South Africa will continue the exploitation of the labor and the lives of all non-Europeans. "To cooperate with evil, IS EVIL." * The Transkei must not be recognized!

* Quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Signed for the Task Force by

Mary L. Pottle