February 12, 1981.

Dear Friends,

Faced with a heightened level of crisis in Namibia, a group of organizations dealing with the situation in Southern Africa has called for an all-day Emergency Conference on Namibia to be held at the Church Center for the United Nations on Friday, March 13th.

The Conference callers have felt that it is most imperative to give close scrutiny to the current situation and to explore the immediate future with a view towards providing the maximum possible assistance to the Namibian peoples in their struggle for independence.

The crisis in Namibia has reached a new and more dangerous stage after the breakdown of the Geneva talks in January. By blocking any meaningful negotiations, the South Africans seemed to demonstrate the continuation of their unwillingness to allow the people of Namibia to freely choose their own government. South Africa is responsible for continuous attacks against SWAPO and civilian targets in southern Angola, wiping out entire populations of men, women and children. These attacks appear as a warning to the national liberation movements and the Frontline States which support them.

The United Nations will debate the Namibian crisis later in March. In the meantime, the Pretoria regime awaits indications of what to expect from the Reagan Administration with considerable optimism.

All these factors dictate the importance of holding the Emergency Conference on Namibia. The preliminary program which is attached indicates the format, topics and speakers. We hope that you or someone from your organization will attend and actively participate in the Conference.

The number of participants is limited by available space at the Church Center. Therefore, we ask that you return the enclosed preregistration form and fee by February 24th so that we can arrange for adequate facilities. Lunch will be available at the Conference at your option but only if payment is enclosed with the preregistration fee. Please call if you have any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Lapchick
Conference Coordinator