OUR FIRST ISSUE – MOVING FORWARD

by Ros Purnell

For the past several months the United Peoples’ Campaign Against Apartheid and Racism has been evaluating and re-evaluating its work and trying to plot a course for the coming period. Some of you may remember our demonstrations on Provident Bank in support of South African liberation, or presentations and solidarity events in past years as being a positive part of work being done across the country to aid the struggle in southern Africa. Our work in the most recent period, however, has been in a low state of activity. Because we thought it important to do research and develop a position on the role of the banks here in Philadelphia, UPCAAR’s role in really pushing forward the issue of southern Africa in the city’s communities has taken a low profile. Our aim was to develop a strategy to target a particular bank and wage a campaign against its racist practices, both in terms of redlining here in this city, and in supporting the apartheid regime in South Africa.

In fact our pursuing that line of thinking effectively led us to this low point. During the spring and early summer, we had several opportunities to show our support of and solidarity with the struggles in southern Africa: we failed to respond to the sabotage of oil tanks in South Africa, the continued fight back by Black and Coloured students in South Africa, or the invasion of Angola by South Africa.

At this time, we are trying to turn around our past practice. This newsletter represents a positive step forward in an attempt to let you know where we’re at. Our newsletter will be sent every other month. We encourage your support and your criticisms. We welcome your active participation in this work with time, ideas or financial contribution. Letters to the editor will be published dependent on space. We look forward to hearing from you.

PURPOSE OF THE TOUR

In an attempt to inform and to build political support for the freedom fighters, SWAPO and SAMRAF have initiated this tour. At this point, the tour will include at least one speaker from SWAPO and a white South African war resister. It may also include a new film on the history of Black resistance called Generations of Resistance.

The SWAPO speaker will be a doctor and she will address the issue of the urgent need for medical supplies, among other topics. SWAPO hopes to raise funds for a mobile health unit. The SAMRAF representative will discuss the efforts to build a white resistance movement within the South African army. Since its formation in 1978, SAMRAF has also worked to obtain asylum for war resisters in this country.

Planning and executing this tour will take a lot of work and we welcome your help. If you would like more information on the tour or can offer assistance, please call Cornelius Moore, 726-5113 (evenings) or 387-5125 (days).
UPCOMING TOUR WILL ADDRESS CURRENT EVENTS IN NAMIBIA
by Cornelius Moore

Beginning in September and ending in December, the South West People's Organization (SWAPO) and the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF) will launch a nationwide speaking tour on the critical situation in Namibia. Representatives from the two organizations will stop in Philadelphia in late September (at press time we are unable to confirm the exact dates), and the United People's Campaign Against Apartheid and Racism will coordinate the efforts here.

BACKGROUND ON NAMIBIA

SWAPO was formed in 1960 to fight the colonial oppression of Namibia's people by South Africa's racist apartheid regime and it began armed struggle in 1966. For over the past ten years, the United Nations has condemned South Africa's occupation of Namibia and has ordered it to leave. In 1972, the U.N. General Assembly recognized SWAPO as the "sole legitimate representative" of Namibia's people. Over the past three years, South Africa has refused to seriously negotiate with SWAPO preferring to rely on bogus elections which exclude even SWAPO's participation. Many believe that South Africa hopes to engineer an "internal settlement" and install a government similar to the deposed Muzorewa government of Zimbabwe. But it is South Africa's actions of war against SWAPO that clearly give away its strategy, for presently, Pretoria has a force of 70,000 troops fighting in Namibia. And on June 7, South Africa decided to widen the war on SWAPO by invading Angola, leaving over 300 Namibian refugees and Angolan civilians dead. The rulers of the US share responsibility for these actions. In the United Nations' Security Council, the US refused to condemn the invasion. In addition, Philadelphia's First Pennsylvania Bank which has a significant interest in the Space Research Corporation which has sold arms to the apartheid regime against international law - weapons which are being used against the Namibian people.

FIRST PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN PLANNED

UPCAAR is in the early stages of planning a campaign against the First Pennsylvania Bank. First Pennsylvania has been chosen as a particular target because it has been involved in both illegal arms sales to the South African government and racist practices in Philadelphia. Last year the story broke of how First Pennsylvania had loaned $25 million to Space Research Inc., an American Company illegally shipping howitzer shell casings to South Africa. At the same time First Pennsylvania is known for its redlining policies, its financing of recycling, and its leadership in the consortium of banks that holds the Philadelphia School Budget hostage. Before UPCAAR takes on too ambitious a campaign we want to test the waters and see how much support is realistically available. The first stage of the campaign will be planning a presentation on First Pennsylvania. Groups or individuals interested in the campaign should fill out the tear-off in this issue.
RESOURCES ON NAMIBIA

Films, Records and Photos

Two films from California Newsreel: *Free Namibia!* narrated by Ossie Davis, portrays exploitation and the struggle to end it. 27 minutes, 1978. $40 rental.

*Namibia: A Case Study in Colonialism* shows colonial domination and mineral exploitation. 18 minutes. $25. Both films produced by the United Nations.

*One Namibia, One Nation, SWAPO Freedom Songs* by the SWAPO Singers. Produced by Holland Southern Africa Committee. From New World Resource Center.

*Namibia in Struggle, Portable Exhibition of Photographs,* 1979. 18 sheets with photos and text. $12.25 from International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa.

Groups with Resources on Namibia

Africa Fund
198 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10038
(212) 962-1210

Amnesty International
South Africa Coordination Group
9007 Garland Ave.
Silver Spring, MD. 20901

Washington Office on Africa
110 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 546-7961

California Newsreel
630 Natoma St.
San Francisco, CA. 94103
(415) 621-6196

Commissioner for Namibia
D.C. 328
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa
853 Broadway, Room 1005
New York, N.Y. 10003
(212) 477-0066

Southern Africa Military Refugee Aid Fund
29 Seventh Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217
(212) 638-0417

Pamphlets


NOTES AND PLANS

Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress (ANC), the most widely recognized and respected Black leader in South Africa has been imprisoned on Robben Island for 16 years. On August 5, 1962, he was arrested in South Africa, convicted on two counts of inciting to strike and leaving the country without a passport. In 1963, with nine others, he was tried for sabotage at the historic Rivonia Treason Trial.

A world-wide petition campaign has been mounted to free Mandela and even in repressive South Africa, over 60,000 signatures have already been collected. In Philadelphia, the campaign is being coordinated by the Southern Africa Program of the American Friends Service Committee. We urge you to support this campaign by contacting Jerry Herman at 241-7169.

We would like to thank the Bread and Roses Community Fund for their contribution of $700 to UPCAAR. We are proud to be a part of the progressive community which the Bread and Roses Community Fund and the People's Fund supports. Congratulations on your successful year of fundraising and we hope that your work continues to grow.

The next general meeting of UPCAAR will be on Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 PM at the Friends' Center, 1501 Cherry St. The agenda will focus on the SWAPO/SAMRAF tour. We encourage our readers to attend.

JOIN US!

I (my organization) would like to join the Coalition for a SWAPO tour.

I would like to join UPCAAR (Membership dues $5/yr)

I (my organization) would like to discuss the First Pennsylvania Campaign.

I would like to work on the following committees:
   Newsletter
   Membership
   Finance

I would like to remain on the UPCAAR mailing list

Name .................................. Organization ..................................
Address .................................. Zip ....................................
Telephone No. ........................