Dear Friend:

We are writing to you for your support in the continuing struggle to liberate southern Africa. From Sunday, September 21 thru Wednesday, September 24, representatives of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF) will be in Philadelphia as a part of a nationwide tour. SWAPO is the national liberation movement of Namibia, while SAMRAF is a group of white South African ex-servicemen, draft/war resisters, and their U.S. supporters working to support the liberation movements.

The situation in southern Africa has reached a critical stage. In March, the liberation forces in Zimbabwe gained control of the government. In addition, the Black student and worker actions against South Africa's racist apartheid regime have become increasingly militant, including the attacks on the Sasol oil refineries by the African National Congress (ANC). In response to the loss of its Rhodesian allies and to internal blows against the system, South Africa has increased its repression and military actions against the liberation forces. Despite worldwide condemnation, including resolutions by the United Nations, South Africa continues to occupy Namibia. It presently has a force of 70,000 troops inside Namibia fighting a war against SWAPO. In an attempt to crush SWAPO, the South African Defense force invaded Angola on June 7th with at least eight infantry battalions causing the deaths of over 300 Namibian refugees and Angolan civilians. South Africa's war on Namibia has been referred to as "South Africa's Vietnam," thus parallels for people in the U.S. are enormous. For the rulers of this country the similarities are not difficult to see, either, as we can see by their actions. The U.S. recently refused to condemn the South African invasion of Angola by abstaining in a Security Council vote. Philadelphia's own First Pennsylvania Bank has a controlling interest in the Space Research Corporation which has sold arms to the apartheid regime against international law. These very arms are being used to fight the Namibian people.

As we have come to expect, the U.S. press has not given us a clear picture of the situation in Namibia. Given the importance of this mineral rich country to South Africa (Namibia supplies much of the world's uranium), it will clearly be the focal point in the struggle to liberate southern Africa over the coming months.
In an attempt to educate and to build political and material support for the freedom fighters, SWAPO and SAMRAF have initiated a national tour. At this point the tour will include at least one speaker from SWAPO, a South African war resister, and possibly a fine new film on the history of Black resistance to the apartheid regime 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. The SAMRAF representative will discuss their efforts to build a white resistance movement within the South African military.

The United People's Campaign Against Apartheid and Racism (UPCAAR) has been asked to coordinate the Philadelphia area part of the tour. We would like to organize at least one big public event, possibly others, and a couple of speaking engagements at local colleges. Needless to say, making all of this happen in a short amount of time will be a tremendous undertaking— which is the reason for this letter. We would like to form a broad ad-hoc coalition of groups from the Black and Puerto Rican communities, anti-racist forces, liberation support groups, clergy, peace/anti-draft groups, anti-nuclear groups, trade unions, progressive health organizations, women's groups, gay groups-- in short all organizations and individuals who can unite around the slogans: OPPOSE RACIST SOUTH AFRICA AND RACISM IN THE U.S.! SUPPORT SWAPO AND THE LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA! OPPOSE THE DRAFT AND SUPPORT DRAFT/WAR RESISTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE U.S.!

We sincerely hope that you and your organization can actively support this campaign by attending a meeting which will further map out strategy for the SWAPO-SAMRAF tour. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12 at 7:30PM at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St. A representative from UPCAAR will contact you for your response. You can contact me, Cornelius Moore, for more information (home: 726-5113 or work: 387-5125, extension 222 or 224).

Please remember that your support at this time is vital.

In struggle,

Cornelius Moore
for UPCAAR