

# EMERGENCY CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA

American Committee on Africa  
Episcopal Churchmen  
for South Africa  
International Defence  
and Aid Fund  
Lutheran World Ministries  
Phelps-Stokes Fund  
Quaker Office for the U.N.  
United Methodist Office  
for the U.N.  
World Council of Churches

April 6, 1981

Dear Friend,

The enclosed statement, summarizing the views presented at the Emergency Conference on Namibia on March 13, 1981 in New York, has been prepared by the continuing committee of the Conference.

We believe the emerging policy of the Reagan Administration towards southern Africa is both wrong and dangerous. We believe that the demands set out in this statement are essential to ensuring a sane U.S. policy.

On April 21, the United Nations Security Council will consider a resolution calling for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The continuing committee therefore urges you to do the following:

- 1- Communicate your dissatisfaction with Reagan's unfolding Africa policy to the President, to Senator Kassebaum and to Congressman Wolpe.
- 2- Organize meetings, teach-ins and lectures to help inform concerned citizens. For information, suggested speakers and resource materials contact: the American Committee on Africa, the American Friends Service Committee, the Washington Office on Africa, TransAfrica, International Defence and Aid, Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa and the SWAPO Namibia Observer Mission to the United Nations.
- 3- Send the enclosed statement to your local newspapers and radio and television stations, or, better yet, go and talk with them or write them a hand-written note.

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Emergency Conference on Namibia

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## NAMIBIA, SOUTHERN AFRICA

### AND U.S. POLICY

1. South Africa has now rejected the United Nations plan for Namibian independence. This intransigence and Pretoria's repeated aggression against neighboring States threaten the peace and stability of the whole of southern Africa. The Reagan Administration bears a significant responsibility for the dangerous situation which is developing in that region. Its emerging policy towards southern Africa gives tacit approval to South African lawlessness and aggression and raises the specter of an eventual American intervention in support of the beleaguered apartheid system.
2. The evidence of a major shift of policy under the Reagan Administration towards support for South Africa and its allies is clear:
  - a. President Reagan has described South Africa as a friendly country "that has stood behind us in every war we fought"--ignoring the fact that many Afrikaaners supported the Nazis during World War II--and suggested that the U.S. must support the present government there in a crisis;
  - b. the Reagan Administration has abandoned the emphasis on considerations of human rights in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy;
  - c. General Haig declared a war on terrorism shortly before the South African armed attack on Mozambique in January but said nothing at all about South Africa's flagrant aggression;
  - d. the United States has suspended food aid to Mozambique in the first acknowledged use of food as a weapon;

- e. the Reagan Administration has called for the repeal of the Clark amendment, which prohibits military or paramilitary assistance to any group in Angola without congressional approval;
  - f. the Administration has removed restrictions on the sale of foreign military equipment with American-made parts to South Africa;
  - g. the U.S. has allowed high-ranking South African military intelligence officers to come to this country to hold clandestine meetings with Administration officials;
  - h. the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, in violation of established U.S. policy, has held a secret meeting with the Chief of South African military intelligence to discuss southern African affairs;
  - i. Administration sources have publicly suggested that the President is prepared to extend an invitation to the Prime Minister of South Africa to come to this country on a state visit--in a reversal of long-standing U.S. practice;
  - j. a delegation from the illegal, South African-created "government" in Namibia has been allowed to come to Washington to lobby for support for a "unilateral declaration of independence".
  - k. the Administration proposal of a "Zimbabwe formula" for Namibia is an attempt to impose a constitution on the people of Namibia before free and fair elections are held.
3. Taken together these actions constitute an almost open policy of support for apartheid and for the continued illegal occupation of Namibia. What is even more serious, they encourage South African

aggression against the front-line states. There is growing evidence of a massive South African military buildup in Namibia, posing a threat of invasion to Angola. Yet, the Administration remains silent. In effect, the new policies of the Reagan Administration, confusing nationalism with "terrorism" and independent states with "surrogates," constitute an indirect declaration of war against African states which support the principle of self-determination and the rule of law. U.S. policy thus helps to create a threat to international peace and stability.

The emerging policy of the Reagan Administration towards southern Africa is both wrong and dangerous. The people of southern Africa are fighting to end apartheid. The United States can support apartheid, and allow the continued illegal occupation of Namibia, only at the risk of being drawn into war to defend an evil and dying system. The people of the United States do not want that.

4. THEREFORE:

- a. We demand that the Reagan Administration end the shift towards support for apartheid and intervention in the liberation struggle on the side of white supremacy. U.S. policy must be based upon respect for human rights and self determination.
- b. We demand that the U.S. support the 1978 United Nations plan for free and fair elections in Namibia which insures the participation of the most popular Namibian political party, the South West Africa People's Organization.
- c. We demand continued support for the Clark amendment.

- d. We demand that the U.S. support the front-line states, which are increasingly subject to armed aggression, subversion and economic pressure by South Africa.
- e. We demand that the U.S. refrain from any act in support of South Africa's apartheid policies.
- f. We demand that the U.S. support United Nations comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.