OPERATION NAMIBIA
4811 Springfield Ave., Phila., Pa. 19143
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AUGUST 31st

...is the date set by the United Nations for South African withdrawal from Namibia.

Will South Africa comply or flaunt the U.N. once again?
Would a South Africa-engineered independence for Namibia be real or a facade to appease the U.N.?
Will the United States and other Western nations ease the pressure on South Africa over Namibia in exchange for a settlement in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)?
Will armed conflict over Namibia increase to more dangerous proportions? Will the superpowers become directly involved?

Whatever happens in the next few months, Operation Namibia is convinced that the struggle for Namibian freedom is far from over.

In this ON Bulletin we shall explore in some detail the political developments in Southern Africa and Namibia, but first we'll share the latest news of the "BOOKS FOR A FREE NAMIBIA" PROJECT

*** THE INTERNATIONAL CREW, gathered in England and working on the boat or in the London office, now includes folks from New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Holland, Ireland, England, and the U.S. Together, the crew has a wide range of skills in both sailing and nonviolent action. We are especially excited to have as our skipper Roy Purvis who has sailed on the peace ship, the Fri. In addition to the boat crew itself, there will be a support team traveling by land and paralleling the boat's voyage. This land team will make arrangements in advance of the boat and encourage publicity in the many African ports the boat will visit enroute to Namibia. The boat crew and land team are having training sessions together in nonviolence, group process, and direct action.

*** Operation Namibia is now acquiring a LARGER BOAT than the Namib. As our work continued, it became apparent that a larger boat would facilitate our efforts. The new boat is 50 feet and this allows us to take all the books we have collected in one shipment as well as making the sailing a lot less difficult. We are pleased to find a boat which suits our efforts so much better. Due to the excellent work put into the 38 foot Namib, the selling price will be greater than the purchase price and thus further our efforts financially as well.

*** The NAMIBIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, a coalition of liberation parties in Namibia, has asked us to publicly name it as the group which requested BOOKS from us and WILL RECEIVE THEM. Furthermore, NNC would like for individuals to attempt to get books to them now by INSURED MAIL. Insuring the books makes a record of the mailing and allows the sender to apply pressure if the books are not delivered. Requesting a return receipt would facilitate this as well. If any of you are interested in contributing books to Namibia in this way, send them to:

NNC LIBRARY
P.O. Box 5282
Windhoek 9111 NAMIBIA
With Operation Namibia work happening all around the world, PNAG has put special time and energy into some specific areas. After an active search for crew members, in early June we sent Karla Jones, an American librarian, to join the other ON volunteers in England.

We have done the extensive planning and preparation for the TRAINING SESSIONS FOR THE CREW. And, one PNAG member, P.J. Hoffman, has flown to England to meet Antje Mattheus from Germany and Jo Somerset from England to do the training. The three of them will facilitate two weekend training sessions for the boat and land crews; they'll spend the interim working on the project in other ways.

While maintaining contact with United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Sean MacBride, and representatives of SWAPO and SWANU, we have initiated discussion with U.S. Congresspeople, and have written to major African writers asking them to endorse the project and donate copies of their books. We have also asked the Namibia Support Group, which is raising funds to aid Namibian refugees, to join us in producing a benefit which would feature African celebrities. Ezekiel Mphahlele, a South African writer and Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, has offered to do a reading for the occasion and has written to other South African writers and African musicians asking them to participate as well.

Our focus is now turning toward AUGUST 31st, for we want to publicize this latest U.N. deadline for South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia. We encourage any of you who can to organize local events or demonstrations to call attention to the day. Or come and join us in our actions!

UPDATE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

The stability of minority-ruled Southern Africa--erected upon institutionalized injustice and repression--which the American Secretary of State expected to endure for the foreseeable future, is already crumbling.

1) Since the end of June, large-scale demonstrations and arson attacks on government buildings by black Africans in South Africa have kept Soweto schools closed and caused white government officials to consult with black leaders for the first time in decades. As a result of these negotiations, it will no longer be compulsory for blacks to learn and use the Africaans language in school. Blacks are not allowed to own arms, but over 200 of them have been killed by South African police and hundreds more have been wounded. As the death toll continues to mount each day, black leaders insist that the toll is much higher than the government is admitting to the press.

2) Despite official pressure for majority rule from both the United States and South Africa, and increasing guerrilla activity by Zimbabwe liberation forces, Rhodesia's white minority government still clings to power and has recently created new laws to hamper white emigration so that whites will have to stay and fight against majority rule.

3) Since the liberation of Angola and Mozambique, U.S. policy in Africa has officially abandoned the notorious NSSM 39 position of cooperation with "stable" white minority rule in Southern Africa. However, Kissinger's Lusaka speech, while supporting liberation for Zimbabwe and Namibia, stops short of insisting on U.N. control of elections in Namibia
as called for in resolutions voted for by the U.S., and offers only a bland "expectation" of improvements of conditions in South Africa itself. Talks held in West Germany between Kissinger and South Africa's Vorster seemed designed more to show the "reasonableness" of South Africa than to effect substantial change. Coming immediately after the Soweto uprising, they could hardly enhance U.S. prestige in Africa.

4) South Africa's "final solution" to race is to be displayed by its granting independence to the Zulu bantustan of the Transkei. However, the Transkei is completely surrounded by South Africa, economically dependent upon it, and will have to continue supplying cheap labor for South African industry. Independent bantustans will justify South African treatment of black Africans who live and work in the white areas as foreigners with no legal rights.

5) Already having the most repressive legal structure in Africa, South Africa has now bolstered those laws with legislation which would apply anti-subversive laws to Namibia and give South Africa the "right" to intervene militarily anywhere below the Equator in Africa, in the interest of South African security.

6) After denials by both sides that such a meeting was upcoming, Vorster and Israel's Rabin met in Israel to conclude a trade agreement which included the sale of Israeli Kfir jet fighters to South Africa. According to the New York Times of April 18th, 1976, Israel also regularly imports South African products which it then stamps "Made in Israel" for export to other African nations.

In Namibia, South Africa continues to ignore the U.N. deadline of August 31, 1976 for its withdrawal from that territory, while trying to appease world opinion with the assurance that it intends to grant independence soon.

1) The Turnhalle conference of delegates handpicked by the South African government from among Namibia's "ethnic groups" continues to attempt to formulate a constitution for the area. This constitution would give the semblance of independence while maintaining South Africa's political and economic control of the area through bantustanization of the country into a number of ineffectual "tribal homelands" under puppet leadership, leaving the wealth of the country in white hands.

2) SWAPO, which was excluded from the Turnhalle conference, has stepped up guerrilla activity from its bases across the Angolan border.

3) To strengthen its military hold, South Africa has increased the size of its armed forces in Namibia, created a "no-person's-land" 1,000 miles long and half a mile deep along the Angolan border, forcibly removing all inhabitants, and has given the South African Army extraordinary police powers of arrest, search and seizure.

4) In recent months, two Namibians have been sentenced to death and several others have been given long prison terms under the new Terrorism Act for allegedly giving aid to SWAPO fugitives still at large. At the same time, there has been an assassination of at least one pro-SWAPO Namibian leader and others have been jailed or forced to flee the country.

These events create an especially opportune environment for ON. We clearly apply more pressure for change by dramatically and publicly pointing to another area of South African repression. And as school students protest repression themselves, we bring the books so desperately needed.