The people of Southern Africa can count on much in the way of words, but little in the way of concrete action and physical support from the U.S. government in the growing struggle there. Such is the impression gleaned from a panel discussion on national policy toward southern Africa chaired by Congressman Bob Carr, May 22nd in the Union.

The panel featured seven articulate and knowledgeable persons from a wide variety of backgrounds. Carr saw the discussion as a means of developing an awareness in this community and himself both as a person and as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. He noted that "less than well-informed" public opinion helps determine U.S. reactions to world situations, and hoped the ensuing discussion would awaken the public to the worsening situation there.

Of the five countries discussed, only Angola (which the U.S. refuses to recognize) and Mozambique have been liberated from colonialist or minority rule. Zimbabwe (known more widely as Rhodesia) ruled by the white five percent of its population faces growing pressure from a unified front of liberation forces. South Africa continues to occupy and administer Namibia despite a 1971 World Court ruling that declared South Africa's presence illegal. South Africa's white minority government continues to treat the African 70% of the population as aliens, denied political, economic and social rights on a barren 13% of the land. U.S. investments to the tune of $1.5 billion makes this possible.

To Roy Haverkamp, Director of the Office of Southern African Affairs, U.S. State Dept., fell the thankless task of apologist for U.S. /Kissinger policy there. While declaring support for majority rule and freedom, an end to
South African rule of Namibia, an end to apartheid in South Africa, even announcing the U.S. would do everything short of supplying arms to liberation movements to institute majority rule and oust illegal governments, his speech lacked any details of tactics that would do this. He summed up his talk by saying the U.S. wants to be on "the right side when the change takes place."

The next six speakers questioned, countered, and clarified his description of U.S. commitments to the resource rich rim of countries precisely on the basis of actions from the government and business sectors of the U.S. "Statements do not liberate a country," reminded Eddison Zvobgo, General Secretary for Zimbabwe African National Union. "We do not need pious statements from the U.S.," but asked for small but vital supplies (medical supplies, clothing etc.)

While Haberkamp declared that the U.S. has always opposed the Ian Smith regime in Zimbabwe (where the white 5% of the population rules) Zvobgo stated the contrary. The U.S. has aided and abetted the Smith regime. "The U.S., to this very minute, is the only U.N. member who has not observed sanctions against Rhodesia completely," he said.

Zvobgo called for actions to back up State Dept. platitudes. These included making it impossible for Smith to recruit mercenaries in the U.S., honoring a shopping list of needed supplies, forming closer ties between the liberation movements and the U.S., and

Thompson added that the problem facing people here in the U.S. are the same as those facing Southern Africans, and that our interests coincide.

Paula Whatley of WKAR-TV echoed those feelings and called for Black Unity.

The CIA is splitting blacks she claimed, by recruiting African-Americans to fight against the liberation forces. The CIA can take advantage of a 40% unemployment rate among black youth, and a 26% unemployment among black adults to entice them with mercenary jobs. Whatley reminded the audience that America is still a racist country. America, with its strong African roots must demonstrate its support of black liberation (as Cuba, with its strong African roots, has demonstrated its support).

Tim Smith, director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility of the National Council of Churches, which represents 80 Roman Catholic orders and 14 Protestant demonstration, outlined U.S. presence in southern Africa and explained its consequences.

"U.S. Investment is growing substantially," soon it will jump up by one-third. This only strengthens the rule of the white minorities who also control the economy. They will not relinquish control. General Motors, for example, is in South Africa as guests of the South African government and must follow South African employment practices.

No African may supervise a white.

Africans cannot form unions or strikes. African wages remain less than one-tenth of white wages.

WHAT'S A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COMPANY DOING IN SOUTH AFRICA?

An article discussing the role of community newspapers in South Africa.
WHAT'S A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COMPANY DOING IN SOUTH AFRICA?

With its beginning just over a decade ago, the Panax Corporation has come a long way. An operation in the Republic of South Africa has placed Panax in the international arena. XANAP (PTY.) LTD. in Pretoria, South Africa, is primarily owned and operated by a Panax subsidiary. The commercial printing venture trains Blacks in the use of press equipment and publishes about 50 Black periodicals, from comic books to women's magazines. It didn't happen in darkest Africa, but in the same streamlined and progressive country that fostered Christian Barnard's heart transplant operation and Gary Player's golf game.

From a start in community newspapers, then growing into suburban areas, Panax publishes over 40 newspapers and operates major plants in Detroit, Chicago and Miami. It is involved in the typesetting and composing business, printing machinery and supply sales and other aspects of the communication business, from Cape Town to hometown. Panax is an opportunity in international communications.

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closing down Ian Smith's offices in Washington which he uses as a lobbying base to affect government policy.

Carol Thompson, a Graduate Assistant in Political Science at MSU and a member of the Southern African Liberation Committee with the East Lansing Peace Center broadened the list of necessary action needed from the U.S. government. Besides material support for ZANU, our government must condemn the Transkei puppet state to be set up this fall by the South Africa government to appease the growing discontent of the African population there. The U.S. must also oppose the constitution South Africa is drawing up for Namibia, which it illegally occupies. The U.S. must recognize the MPLA government of Angola, tabled in the United Nations by the U.S. Forgetting the thousands of American troops stationed on foreign soil, Haverkamp cited the presence of Cuban troops in Angola (invited by the Angolans) as a reason for this action.

U.S. corporations provide investments in strategic quarters. They supply badly needed technical skills to the white governments. The U.S. supplies badly needed foreign capital. They support racist employment practices. Though ostensibly supporting the government's embargo on military equipment, Bell helicopters, GM trucks and Lockheed aircraft make their way there and can be turned into military equipment. U.S. corporations also perform a vital function for white governments by supplying and supporting their propaganda in the U.S. 'Things are getting better' they say.

Smith suggested that the U.S. government actively declare a moratorium on South African investments, or at least actively discourage investments.

Returning to Roy Haverkamp's words, Ruth Hamilton, MSU Urban Affairs and African Studies professor declared "we must understand what the 'right side' is... How can we talk about humanitarian interests when 'we' have a priority to protect investments?"

"The U.S. needs to win the support of Africa!", said the remaining panelist Leslie Yates of the House Subcommittee on International Resources. Our oral support must be backed by material support, she, too, reiterated, and not contradicted by actions. "Are we on the right side?" she queried. "Are we prepared to be?"

Carr deserves some applause for this enlightening discussion, and although he himself did not add much to the panel, hopefully he will take the clarified issues and suggested actions to heart. You are reminded to demonstrate your support of the liberation of Africa by writing him: Hon. M. Robert Carr, 1608 Longsworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC, 20515, or contact the Southern African Liberation Committee at the East Lansing Peace Center, 332-0861.

James I. Davis