



ACOA ACTION NEWS

Breaking Economic Links With South Africa

"We are not going to do any business with South Africa."

Kentucky Governor John Brown

The campaign against investment in South Africa has achieved major victories at a time when victories seem unlikely. The Reagan Administration, pursuing a policy of "constructive engagement," has recently allowed South Africa to open several new trade consulates around the US, and the South African Government has hired Reagan's former campaign manager, John Sears, for \$500,000 a year as a paid propagandist.

At the state level, Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown, one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party, sent a trade mission to South Africa in the late spring to "initiate economic ties."

But all has not gone South Africa's way. ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis flew to Kentucky in August to join in a meeting with Governor Brown organized by the NAACP and Kentucky's black state legislators. Representatives from the African National Congress of South Africa and the American Friends Service Committee were also involved. Following this meeting, Governor Brown reversed himself saying, "We are not going to do business with companies that believe in segregation. . . We are not going to do any business with South Africa."

Another very significant victory was achieved in June when Philadelphia became the first major US city to prohibit the investment of public pension funds in corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia. This bill was passed after hearings in the city council in which ACOA and a number of other organizations participated. More than \$70 million of the \$748 million pension fund is affected.

In Connecticut, Governor William O'Neill signed a bill which requires the removal of state pension funds from companies that make sales to the South African police and military. Governor O'Neill had previously vetoed a bill that required divestment from all companies that do business in South Africa.

Things are also moving in Texas, where Dumisani Kumalo, ACOA projects director, joined a delegation organized by Jerry Herman of the AFSC this spring. The delegation strengthened work being done in Houston, Austin, San Antonio and Dallas. As a result of the tour a divestment bill was introduced in the Dallas City Council for the first time.

In Atlanta, Georgia, and in the State

of Kansas, strongly worded resolutions calling for divestment were passed unanimously, and each is seen as a first step towards binding legislation.

In both Michigan and Massachusetts divestment bills have a strong chance of becoming law before the end of the year. Under Representative Randy Staten's leadership Minnesota passed a divestment bill which was then vetoed by Governor Albert H. Quie. Its supporters plan a new fight for 1983.

We are receiving more and more requests for our newsletter on Public Investment and South Africa, a sign of the growing interest in state and city action. This fall Dumisani Kumalo will put major energy into travelling the country to help build the campaign.



The delegation that met to persuade Kentucky Governor Brown not to trade with South Africa: Jerry Herman of AFSC, Mokabung Nkomo of the ANC, Jennifer Davis of ACOA, and John Johnson of the NAACP.

ACOA Protests US Harassment of SWAPO

Despite long and intense negotiations involving SWAPO, South Africa, the United Nations, the Western Contact Group and the African Front Line States, prospects for a Namibian settlement appear to be diminishing, because of continued South African intransigence. At the same time the US Government has increased its harassment of SWAPO, the Namibian liberation movement.

There have been several startling examples of hostility to SWAPO. In June the movement's permanent observer to the UN, Theo-Ben Gurirab, attended an official UN meeting in Tanzania. When he tried to return to the United States, he was denied a visa and was stranded in East Africa for a week. Mr. Gurirab has been based in New York for years and has regularly travelled out of the country on missions. He is a key figure in the Namibia negotiations and had notified the US Government of his travel plans, as regulations require.

Responding to SWAPO's request for help, ACOA investigated the matter, protesting the interference with SWAPO's work to both the US Mission to the UN and the State Department.

This was not an isolated incident. The US recently denied visas to Pendukeni Iyare Gengob, a member of the SWAPO Central Committee and Ester Maleka of the African National Congress of South Africa, who were officially invited to address the UN on the women of Namibia and South Africa.

US Unsympathetic

ACOA protested to Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Chester Crocker, saying, "This action of the US Government makes the US appear in the public forum of the international community as petty, unsympathetic and hostile to the struggles of the people of southern Africa, particularly women."

The list of SWAPO members having trouble obtaining visas to come to UN sponsored meetings in New York continues to grow. It now includes the director of the UN Institute for Namibia Hage Geingob, SWAPO Secretary for Economic Development Ben Amathila and SWAPO Secretary for Education Nahas Angula.

Reflecting a similar unfriendly attitude, the US Department of Justice has instigated an investigation of SWAPO under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. "The review will in-

clude, but not be limited to, an inspection of all correspondence, memoranda, cables, telegrams and teletype messages as well as an audit of all book-keeping and other financial records," said a July letter from the Department of Justice to the New York office of SWAPO.

William Booth, ACOA president, cabled Secretary of State George Schultz protesting the inspection in the strongest terms, noting that the investigation violated the confidentiality necessary for negotiations. "Such an action by a US agency casts the most serious doubts on the good faith of the US as a participant in the attempt to reach a just settlement," said Booth.

The investigation of SWAPO must please the South African government. It follows a civil action filed in early May in the US District Court in Washington against SWAPO by a "Committee for a Free Namibia." The suit charges SWAPO with falsifying its registration statement with the US Department of Justice as required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The lawyers in the suit are Carl Shipley and Marion Smoak, registered agents of the South African government's "Administrator General of the Territory of South West Africa/Namibia."

South Africa Stalls

Negotiations on Namibian independence continue to be stalled because of South African intransigence. The Reagan Administration has made it clear that it has no intention of moving towards sanctions or pressuring

South Africa in any way.

On the contrary, the United States is insisting on the withdrawal of Cuban soldiers from Angola as a condition for a Namibia settlement. This demand, which Pretoria is more than happy to exploit, moves the negotiations away from the fundamental issue: South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia. The fact that South Africa maintains an army of 80,000 in Namibia and a permanent occupying force in southern Angola is virtually ignored.

Under these conditions, with no pressure from the US, there is little hope that South Africa will agree to a settlement that includes free and fair elections, because all parties agree that such elections would inevitably lead to a SWAPO victory.

Regional Meetings on Namibia Planned

ACOA will be organizing a series of seminars on Namibia in early December. Tentative plans call for meetings to be held in Atlanta, Boston, Minneapolis and San Francisco, in cooperation with local sponsors.

SWAPO representatives and experts from Europe will be featured on programs aimed to inform activists on US policy and corporate involvement and to mobilize support for SWAPO.

Study of Namibia Exposes US Corporate Involvement

Namibia: North American Economic Involvement by James Cason and Gail Hovey, a major study by ACOA's associate The Africa Fund, examines the involvement of North American corporations in the devastation of Namibia's wealth. Among these are Newmont Mining and AMAX, owners of the largest base metal mine, Tsumeb; Texaco and Standard Oil of California which together make up CALTEX, a major supplier of oil and gas to Namibia; and Canada's Hudson's

Bay Co. which has played a major role in the marketing of Namibia's karakul furs.

Information on specific corporations is placed in the context of the history of development where outsiders have reaped vast fortunes while the workers remain among the poorest in the world. An analysis of US policy vis-a-vis Namibia demonstrates the complicity of the US government as well as the corporations in the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa.

ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO OPPOSED

As the issue of Western Sahara pre-occupied the August meetings of the Organization of African Unity, a group of Americans issued a statement calling on the United States to halt any further military sales to Morocco. The statement was initiated by the American Committee on Africa and TransAfrica. It was signed by leaders of civil rights organizations, churches, trade unions, and universities and sent to President Reagan.

The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, under the leadership of Polisario, is recognized by 26 African states as the government of Western Sahara and was admitted to the OAU this spring. Morocco, which claims Western Sahara as part of its territory, challenged the admission and won sufficient support to force abandonment of the annual OAU summit because of SADR participation.

The US has been giving increasing support to Morocco's military occupation of Western Sahara. Recently the US formed a joint military commission with Morocco, announced plans to train Moroccan counter-insurgency units and reportedly sold cluster bombs to Morocco.

The Reagan Administration has proposed to more than triple military aid to Morocco, from \$30 million to \$100 million. The statement charges that the increase would "unmistakably belie the official State Department position that

the United States is neutral in the conflict between Polisario guerrillas and Morocco... Arms to Morocco will hinder, rather than help the process leading to a ceasefire and peaceful solution to the conflict."



In May ACOA sponsored the first public showing of the film "Blood & Sand: War in the Sahara" produced by Sharon Sopher. The Africa Fund provided financial assistance toward the completion of the film. Madjid Abdullah, the Polisario representative and Jennifer Davis spoke at the showing.

For Better Not For Worse, a political satire by exiled South African playwright Selaelo Maredi, will be touring the United States from January through the spring. If interested in arranging a showing contact Joshua Nessen at the ACOA office. (212) 962-1210.

ACOA Hosts Mozambique Information Minister

South Africa is attempting to create what *Newsweek* recently headlined a "zone of instability" among newly independent, surrounding states. The tactics include arming and financing former colonial collaborators in Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, assassinating liberation movement leaders and threatening neighboring states with economic disruption.

Mozambique's Minister of Information Jose Luis Cabaço explained that



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South Africa, through misleading propaganda efforts has "been able to transform what is essentially a fight for independence between the forces of independent Africa and the white minority regime into an East-West confrontation." Cabaço spoke at a New York meeting in May hosted by ACOA. He was in the US to meet media leaders, business people and politicians, and to win support for Mozambican efforts to build an economy independent of South Africa.

"We should avoid allowing the enemy to divide southern Africa into pieces," he continued. "There is no Mozambican problem. There is no Namibian problem. There is a southern African problem which cannot be resolved until we solve the problem of South Africa."

Freeman Southern Africa

Action Notes

► The University of Maine announced in July action by the trustees to divest several million dollars worth of investments from US corporations active in South Africa. Professor Douglas Allen from the university's Orono campus called ACOA to thank us for assistance in the campaign. Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo addressed students and trustees last December on the need for divestment and ACOA provided specific research on the corporations in the University portfolio.

► "South Africa's Threatened Press" by Dumisani Kumalo appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* on August 17th. Kumalo, himself an exiled South African journalist, exposed the new attacks on the press from the apartheid government.

► South Africa has commuted the death sentences of three African National Congress members tried for murder in an attack where no one died. ACOA joined human rights and anti-apartheid groups in the successful international campaign to save their lives, mobilizing supporters to protest to the US and South African Governments.

► The Lutheran Church in America voted for a resolution supporting divestment as an option at its convention in Louisville, Kentucky in September. And the American Lutheran Church, meeting in San Diego, California, voted to reaffirm its 1980 stand for divestment. Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo, in Louisville at the invitation of the Lutheran Coalition on Southern Africa, played a key role in getting the LCA resolution considered.

► ACOA representatives were invited to speak before United Nations meetings on South Africa and Namibia several times recently.

Executive Director Jennifer Davis presented a paper on South African military links with repressive Latin American regimes at a three-day international seminar in Vienna on South African militarization of Namibia.

Research Director Gail Hovey presented evidence of US military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa at a special meeting of the UN Committee Against Apartheid orga-

nized the week after the massive June 12 disarmament rally.

Director Emeritus George M. Houser spoke before a session commemorating the 30th anniversary of the launching of the Defiance Campaign by the African National Congress of South Africa. His paper, *The International Impact of the South African Liberation Struggle*, has been published by the UN.

Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo addressed the Decolonization Committee, presenting evidence of South African propaganda efforts in the US against Namibian independence.

► South Africa continues to lure performers into the land of apartheid under the guise of performing in "independent" Bophuthatswana. But quick protest by groups including ACOA stopped perhaps their most prized catch to date. The Harlem Globetrotters announced enroute they would cancel their engagement at the Sun City resort near Johannesburg. Another recent performer to turn down a lucrative contract in South Africa was singer Stephanie Mills.

► ACOA has joined a legal action to intervene in Nuclear Regulatory Commission proceedings. The case, involving processing in the US of uranium ore from South Africa, is being handled by Gay McDougall of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, who is an ACOA board member.

► ACOA is a plaintiff in a case to overturn new executive orders issued by the Reagan Administration allowing the CIA for the first time to spy on US organizations inside the United States. The case is being handled by the Center for Constitutional Rights.

► When Minnesota legislators moved to take action, state senators became the target of South African inspired anti-divestment lobbying. Each received an appeal from the puppet Council of Ministers of the Government of South West Africa/Namibia, urging that Namibia not be included in divestment legislation. The appeal claimed the existence of a black ma-

South Africa Assassinate Opponents

On June 4 the African National Congress representative in Swaziland Petros Nyawose and his wife Jabu were killed by a car bomb. On August 17 Ruth First, a respected author, activist and member of the ANC was killed by a letter bomb in Mozambique. These killings show the lengths to which the South African Government will go to attack those fighting for freedom in South Africa.

ACOA President William Booth sent messages of sympathy and support to Ms. First's husband Joe Slovo and to ANC President Oliver Tambo. Responding, Tambo stressed the need for greater international action against apartheid:

"This vile act of terror emphasizes the urgent necessity for all forces that are opposed to this racist regime to close ranks and together intensify our common offensive to secure victory sooner rather than later. We are convinced that ACOA and you personally, dear brother, will spare no efforts to realize these goals."

majority government in Namibia and declared that apartheid is a criminal offense there. With information supplied by Gail Hovey, ACOA research director, Senator Allan H. Spear exposed these distortions, explaining the real situation in Namibia to his colleagues. He demonstrated that the Council of Ministers is itself an apartheid institution.

► In Texas, a decision to grant South African Airways landing rights in Houston was delayed for six months because of protests that came mainly from Houston's Task Force on Southern Africa. ACOA President William Booth was a keynote speaker at a Task Force forum in June. Landing rights were granted but protests will continue in the courts.

New Publications from The Africa Fund

— NAMIBIA: NORTH AMERICAN CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT by Gail Hovey. The Africa Fund, November 1982, 60pp., \$2.50

— AUTOMATING APARTHEID: US COMPUTER EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ARMS EMBARGO, NARMIC 1982, 110pp., \$3.50

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