October 1982
American Committee on Africa
Joshua Nessen, Student Coordinator
198 Broadway, NYC 10038
(212-962-1210)
Dear friends,

I hope that the school year has begun well for you. Since the Two Weeks of National Action last spring much has happened in southern Africa that makes your divestment and solidarity efforts especially crucial at this time.

South Africa has escalated its aggression at home and in the region, as part of its "total strategy" to preserve apartheid. Increasing numbers of trade unionists have been imprisoned, and South Africa has expanded its military operations in Angola as part of its effort to maintain its grip over Namibia.

This summer members of the South African army were killed trying to infiltrate into Zimbabwe, and on August 17, Ruth First a member of the African National Congress and outstanding author of books on Africa, Namibia, and corporate investment in South Africa, was killed by a parcel bomb in her office at Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. In October a memorial service was held in New York for her and other murdered South African patriots that was attended by numerous representatives of the Front-line states and U.S. activists.

Despite the war that South Africa is waging throughout the region, the Reagan Administration continues to extol the virtues of its policy of constructive engagement with the apartheid regime. This policy basically involves "constructing" stronger barriers to freedom in southern Africa: the latest episode being an "administrative error" through which 2500 electrified batons were shipped to the South African police.

At a time when South Africa is waging war with the aid of GM trucks, IBM computers and Mobil Oil, corporate spokesmen also continue to claim that U.S. corporations are forces for "constructive" change in South Africa. The Sullivan Code has begun to wear thin as a cloak for corporate investment in apartheid, but University Trustees still cling to its threadbare logic that U.S. companies are forces for progress in South Africa.

We need your help in the ongoing battle to end U.S. support of apartheid, which is why campus organizing will continue to be a major priority at the American Committee on Africa this year. In order to aid you in your efforts we bring to your attention a recent divestment victory at the University of Maine (see page 2) and major projects for you to get involved in later this fall and next semester:

- December Namibia Support Meetings (p.3-4)
- Spring Tour of FOR BETTER NOT FOR WORSE (p.4)
- International Campaign to save lives of ANC activists (5)
  (Please write and send telegrams today)

In Solidarity and friendship,

Joshua Nessen, Student Coordinator
1) University of Maine Divests all of its $3.1 million in corporate holdings linked to South Africa

This July the University Trustees voted overwhelmingly to divest all the school's holdings linked to South Africa. The University of Maine thus became the 8th school to fully divest its stocks joining:

- Hampshire College
- University of Wisconsin ($10 million)
- Michigan State University ($7.2 million)
- Antioch College
- Ohio University
- Indian Central University
- University of Massachusetts

A dozen auxiliary organizations of the University of California college and university system have also totally divested and well over two dozen colleges and universities have sold part of their South Africa-linked portfolio among them:

- Amherst College ($1 million)
- Boston Univ ($5 million)
- Brandeis
- Colby College ($900,000)
- Columbia, Harvard ($52 million in bank deposits)
- Mount Holyoke (over $2 million)
- Smith ($687,728)
- Tufts
- Eastern Michigan Univ ($2.5 million)
- Univ of Michigan, Vassar,
- Williams ($700,000 plus deposits in 6 banks)
- Yale ($1.6 million)
- Swarthmore ($2.4 million)

The July 1982 victory at the University of Maine followed four years of steady organizing, led by the Maine Peace Action Committee which has successfully built a coalition including students, professors, and community activists. The American Committee on Africa was also helpful in the effort, sending Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo to meet with students and the trustees and providing specific research on the targeted corporations.

The companies divested included General Electric, Eastman Kodak, IBM, Pepsico, General Motors and Warner-Lambert. The divestiture has encouraged organizers at other schools in Maine such as Colby College which has already divested close to $1 million in South Africa connected stocks and Bowdoin College.

Following its victory the Maine Peace Action Committee has begun planning a state-wide campaign involving student, labor and church groups that will focus on the State of Maine investments. In over 20 states and cities similar campaigns are being waged and recently the City of Philadelphia passed an ordinance banning the investment of city funds in all corporations linked to South Africa and Namibia.

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NOTE: A case study of the Michigan State University divestment is available from ACOA. This study should be of help to you in your organizing since the University totally divested of $7.2 million in the largest corporations, and gained $1 million as a result of the divestiture (measuring value of stocks bought versus those divested).
2) **December Namibia Support Meetings To Be Held in Boston, Atlanta, Minneapolis and San Francisco**

As negotiations for a Namibian settlement swing back and forth between frustration and hope, Namibia remains an occupied land with South Africa's occupying army increasing its repression there and in southern Angola. The negotiations for a settlement have been dragging on for years and now is a crucial time to refocus our attention on current developments.

To help this process the American Committee on Africa in cooperation with the UN Council for Namibia and SWAPO is organizing a program in early December which will include both a seminar in Washington DC and a number of regional events. From November 29 through December 2 1982 the Washington seminar will bring together U.S. and international experts and activists to examine the role of transnational corporations in Namibia, and to discuss ways of strengthening international support for the liberation struggle.

In order to increase the impact of this seminar we are arranging for two delegations composed of international activists and representatives of SWAPO to travel to the following U.S. cities directly after the Washington DC meeting. Please try to attend meeting in your region:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOSTON</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday Dec 8</td>
<td>Program for 7:30pm at Boston University</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Northeast Region)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact: Themba Vilakazi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 Thwin St Boston MA 02119</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>#617-426-1909 (work)</td>
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<td><strong>ATLANTA</strong></td>
<td>Sat-Mon Dec 4-6</td>
<td>All day public event planned for Sat Dec 4, plus meetings Dec 6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Southern Region)</td>
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<td>Contact: Tandi Gcabrashe</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Africa Coord.</td>
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<td>Amer Friends Serv Comm</td>
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<td>92 Piedmont Ave NE</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA 30303</td>
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<td>#404-586-0460</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MINNEAPOLIS</strong></td>
<td>Wed Dec 8</td>
<td>Public event at 7:30pm at Central Lutheran Church 335 E. Grant Str</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Mid-West Region)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN 55504</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact: Margaret Ward</td>
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<td></td>
<td>#612-871-6858 (home)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-870-1501 (work)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAN FRANCISCO</strong></td>
<td>Sat-Mon Dec 4-6</td>
<td>Major meeting at San Francisco State Univ on Sat Dec 4.</td>
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<td>(West Coast)</td>
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<td>Contact: Bellvie Rooks</td>
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<td>#415- (h), 469-2702 or 1054 (work)</td>
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Namibia Support Meetings (cont.)

Since 1976 there has been considerable southern Africa solidarity work in the USA most of which has focused on South Africa--particularly on divestment. Though South Africa is the problem in Namibia, our aim through these regional meetings is to build a more focused organizing effort around the Namibian liberation struggle itself.

Campaigns targeting U.S. economic and political collaboration with South Africa in Namibia will help the Namibian people at this crucial time in their struggle. We thus encourage you to attend the meeting planned in your region, and to use the occasion to network with other student and community groups.

3) National Spring Tour of South African Play, "FOR BETTER NOT FOR WORSE"

Next semester, the American Committee on Africa will be coordinating a national tour of "FOR BETTER NOT FOR WORSE", an excellent play by South African playwright and ANC activist Selaelo Maredi (author of "HOMELAND" and actor in and producer of numerous plays, including "SURVIVAL").

Mr. Maredi's plays have been very effective in broadening concern in this country about the situation in South Africa and U.S. support of the apartheid regime. In 1979 his play "HOMELAND" won the Villager Award for Excellence and also the Audelco Black Theatre Award for Best Playwriting and Dramatic Production.

His current play is concerned with the unfolding liberation struggle in South Africa and the impact of that struggle on the lives of Black South Africans. The play is very funny as well as political and should help you to reach a broader audience on campus and in the neighboring community.

The play will be on tour from February (Black History Month) through mid-May 1983. You should contact ACOA by the end of this week to schedule it on your campus or local community, since we have already received numerous requests.

We are asking for a minimum fee of $500 per performance plus transportation, food and housing (not in hotels) for two people. If planning begins now the fee is very realistic especially if you can get the involvement of the theatre department. Attempts might also be made to tap discretionary funds of the school president which for such a human rights and cultural event could be available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING IMMEDIATELY CALL: 212-962-1210
Joshua Nessen
ACOA 198 Bway
NYC 10038

NOTE: Enclosed with this newsletter is an information packet about FOR BETTER NOT FOR WORSE, including recent reviews and biographical material on Mr. Maredi and Mr. Seth Sibanda, the other actor in the play.
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CALLS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF MOGOERANE, MOSOLOLI, AND MOTAUNG

1) In a trial which ended on August 6, 1982 the Pretoria Supreme Court condemned to death 3 members of the African National Congress, Simon Thelle Mogoerane (23), Jerry Semano Mosololi (25), and Marcus Thabo Motaung (27).

2) The trial was based on a December 1981 incident in which five armed Black men, alleged to have been members of an ANC military unit, attacked the South African police station at Wonderboom Mayville in Pretoria. One constable was killed and three others wounded.

3) During the July-August 1982 trial the main charge against all defendants was high treason under the Terrorism Act, deriving from their alleged involvement in a series of attacks against several police stations, a railway line and an electrical center.

4) All three defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges. During the trial Mosololi and Mogoerane stated that they had been tortured by security police and forced to sign confession statements. Motaung had been shot in the hip by security police when he was arrested, and stated in court that he had been denied adequate medical treatment.

5) Nevertheless Supreme Court Judge D.J. Curlewis ruled that their confessions had been made freely and the three were found guilty of high treason and 20 alternative charges. The judge, after 20 minutes of deliberation, then sentenced them to death on August 6.

6) Mogoerane, Mosololi, and Motaung have not appealed to the highest court against the sentences, but instead have directly petitioned the South African State President for clemency. They are presently sitting in death row awaiting his decision.

7) The African National Congress is gravely concerned that unless the international community exerts immediate pressure the sentences will be confirmed and the regime will proceed with their immediate execution. This can be at any time.

8) The fundamental political and legal point to make in your cables and general solidarity work is that the defendants in this trial should have been accorded Prisoner of War status under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which in 1977 were extended to cover:

"armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist regimes in the exercise of their right to self-determination"

9) Prisoners of War are immune from criminal prosecution and hence execution for acts of combat which might otherwise be common crimes under municipal law.

SUGGESTED ACTION

International pressure has been quite effective in saving condemned activists' lives. In June 1982 the regime commuted the death sentences of 3 ANC members after intense campaigning.

a) Send cables calling for clemency for Simon Thelle Mogoerane, Jerry Semano Mosololi, and Marcus Thabo Motaung to:

HIS EXCELLENCY MARAIS VILJOEN, STATE PRESIDENT
"PRESIDENSIA", BRYNTIRION, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

b) Send mailgrams to President Reagan calling on him to intervene to save the three men's lives. Immediately contact your school president to send a support cable and get the faculty to send one as well.