The suffering of the Namibian people has been intense for more than 100 years, first under German colonial rule and now under the illegal occupation of South Africa. April 1, 1989 marked the launching of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

While we rejoice and are hopeful with our Namibian sisters and brothers, we also share their caution. Will this road lead to a just independence? Law and order, civil government, voter registration, and even the casting and counting of votes all remain firmly in South African hands. Free and fair elections are not a foregone conclusion. November 1, 1989 has been set for the election of an assembly which will write a new constitution. No date is set as yet for election of a new government and actual independence.

This is no easy road to freedom. One of every twenty Namibians are presently living in exile. Plans need to be developed and funds raised for the repatriation of over 75,000 Namibian exiles. The task of monitoring voter registration, the campaign and election, and "law and order" is a life and death matter.

Christians in Namibia continue to plan a courageous role in the struggle for freedom. Faithfulness to the Gospel calls us to find ways to join with them during this crucial year as the shape of their independence is being decided.

Begin where you are able—begin!

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**Action #1: PRAYER**

Even during the election process, South Africa remains in control of Namibia. Namibians continue to live under threat, intimidation and terror. Their source of hope in this seemingly hopeless situation is the biblical witness of our God who promises and brings life from death, freedom from slavery, light from darkness and hope from despair. Claiming God's promises, let us join with them in prayer for:

- justice, peace and freedom for Namibia
- safe return of the exiles and release of political prisoners
- freedom from the bondage of apartheid, both for the oppressors and the oppressed
- continued hope and courage for the Namibian Church
- strength and vision for the tasks of nation building
- forgiveness for the ways in which we profit from and perpetuate racial oppression in southern Africa, in the United States and elsewhere.

**Suggestions:**
1. Plan to include these concerns regularly in your individual and family prayer, and in the Sunday prayers of the congregation.
2. Plan a special worship service around commemorative dates, for example:
   
   **Kassinga Massacre** May 4 (1978)
   **Namibia Day** August 26
   **Namibia Women's Day** December 10

3. Plan to follow through on your prayer with concrete actions that allow you to become a part of God's bringing life and freedom to people in Namibia.

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**Action #2: EDUCATION**

As Jacob wrestled with God in the night, we are called to wrestle with what it means to be God's faithful people in our world today. Advocacy involves commitment to ongoing study of our faith story and of the story of the struggles in southern Africa. It also means sharing those stories with others.

A. The ministry which Jesus affirmed—see Luke 4, John 13—was the biblical call to love mercy and seek justice (Micah 6, Amos 5). In light of this we need to ask difficult questions of ourselves and of each other: What is the church and its mission (1 Cor. 12, Gal. 3:28)? How may we join with God in a biblical ministry of advocacy on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the powerless?
B. We need to keep informed and to study the political, social and economic developments both in the U.S. and in southern Africa: monitor progress toward Namibian independence, South Africa's action in the region, SWAPO's role, U.S. policy (i.e., sanctions, support for UNITA, etc.), United Nations involvement, the Namibian church, U.S. church statements and actions.

1. Obtain reliable information about southern Africa. Get on the mailing list of information sources, i.e., Namibia Newsletter (NNC, 915 E. 9th Ave., Denver, CO 80218), Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa, ECSA, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012), Africa News (P.O. Box 3851, Durham, NC 27702), Namibia Communications Centre (P.O. Box 286, London WC1X OEL, U.K.), Namibia Information Service (P.O. Box 43208, Washington, D.C. 20010).

2. Begin a study group, adult class, resource center or task force in your parish, school or area. Share information, invite speakers, schedule films, organize a letter writing campaign, read and discuss books, raise money.

3. Organize an educational event. Invite Namibians to tell their story. Plan and encourage workshops at church conventions, retreats and in curriculum of schools and colleges.

4. Follow the coverage of southern Africa in the public and church news media. Write letters or call TV/radio/newspaper editors and newscasters, praising well done stories and protesting incorrect or biased coverage. Encourage more in-depth reporting. Offer resources. Suggest specials around significant events or anniversary dates. Urge local public or cable TV stations to carry the new weekly TV news magazine “South Africa Now” which will focus on Namibia in 1989. (Globalvision, 361 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013)

5. Contact the following for assistance and resources: National Namibia Concerns, 915 E. 9th Ave., Denver, CO 80218; Washington Office on Africa, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; Southern Africa Support Projects, P.O. Box 50103, Washington, D.C. 20004.

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**Action #3: SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIA**

A. Solidarity

Letters of encouragement to our Namibian sisters and brothers are a tremendous source of hope. Write directly to church leaders, assuring them:

- that you know of their struggle and are concerned;
- that you are praying for their safety and freedom;
- that you are spreading the word here in the U.S.;
- that you and others are monitoring the election/constitution process.

Our letters are translated and read in many congregations, becoming a part of God's gift of hope to this people. Your letters will also be read by the South African security police. Such outside support serves to let South Africa know we are concerned and are not unaware of what is going on. These letters may decrease the chance that church leaders will be killed or imprisoned.

Church leaders' names and addresses:

- Bishop Kleopas Dumeni
  Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN)
  Oniipa, Private Bag 2018
  Ondangwa 9000
  NAMIBIA

- Bishop Hendrik Frederik
  Evangelical Lutheran Church in SWA
  P.O. Box 5069, Windhoek 9000
  NAMIBIA

- Dr. Abisai Shejavali, General Secretary
  Council of Churches in Namibia
  P.O. Box 41
  Windhoek 9000
  NAMIBIA

- Deputy Bishop Zephania Kameeta
  Evangelical Lutheran Church in SWA
  P.O. Box 5069, Windhoek 9000
  NAMIBIA

B. Material Aid

1. Over 75,000 Namibians living in exile will be repatriated in the coming months. There will be a multitude of medical, educational and other needs for the returning refugees.

2. College and vocational training will continue to be a critical need. Raise money to support training programs within Namibia and for college study programs abroad. Work through colleges or seminaries in your own areas to coordinate or initiate efforts.

3. Daily warfare continues to cause loss of life, damage to property, and widespread suffering. The ELCIN maintains a “Humanitarian Aid Fund.”

4. Medical clinics, training of evangelists, nurses and pastors, “homeless” projects, legal aid, libraries, elementary and high school alternatives to “apartheid schools” are just a few of the existing church sponsored projects within Namibia.

5. Watch for a variety of important “nation building” projects to develop in the near future.

For information on these and similar projects, contact National Namibia Concerns (915 East 9th Ave., Denver, CO 80218) and Namibia Support Fund, Inc. (190 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06032-1713).
Careful monitoring of Namibia's election/constitution process is of critical importance during 1989. Organize a rapid response network in your area, organization or parish. If the U.S. chooses, it can bring pressure upon the South African government. Letters, phone calls, telegrams and personal visits to U.S. government officials will affect the shape of Namibia's independence.

A. Issues to be addressed:

1. Urge the U.S. to give full support to the United Nations' plan for Namibian independence and for the repatriation of Namibian exiles.

2. Urge careful monitoring of the election process and vigilance against all South African attempts to maintain control inside Namibia and to destabilize the region of southern Africa.

3. Lobby for Congressional hearings on Namibia leading to emergency relief and long term developmental aid packages.

4. Urge Congress to end U.S. support for UNITA in Angola.

5. Urge passage of U.S. legislation for comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa.

Suggestions:
- when addressing monitoring issues, be specific - cite abuses and reports.
- Express concern as a Christian (South Africa contends that people opposing apartheid are communist).
- Write a personal letter that is brief, courteous and specific, rather than a form letter.
- Refer to resolutions and statements of your own church body, as well as statements made by Namibian churches and church leaders.


B. People to contact in the U.S.

1. Write:

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Javier Perez d'Cuellar
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Secretary of State James Baker
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

2. Wire: 20 word public opinion telegrams are available at reasonable rates.

3. Phone: Call your congresspeople at their D.C. offices by phoning the Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121. Or call the local office of your congressperson. A staff person will relay your message to Washington, D.C.

4. Meet: Arrange a meeting with your congressperson during a recess.

5. 1989 members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa:

Democrats
Howard Wolpe, MI, Chair
George Crockett, MI
Mervyn Dymally, CA
Elliot Engel, NY
Frank McCloskey, IN
Donald Payne, NJ

Republicans
Ben Blaz, Guam
Dan Burton, IN
Donald Lukens, OH
Amo Houghton, NY

1989 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Africa:

Democrats
Paul Simon, IL, Chair
Daniel Moynihan, NY
Terry Sanford, NC

Republicans
Nancy Kassebaum, Kan.
Jesse Helms, NC

C. Communicating with the South African Government

Write to the South African government:

1. Tell them you are monitoring the U.N. independence process, and are hopeful for free and fair elections and a just independence.

2. Communicate outrage regarding specific incidents, arrests, cite specific abuses and facts from monitoring reports, etc.

3. Send copies of your letters to your U.S. Congresspersons and to the U.N. Secretary General.

President Piet W. Botha
Government Building
Pretoria 0001
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Piet Koornhof
Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
(202) 232-4100

Mr. Louis Plenkaar
Administrator General
P/B 13278
Windhoek 9000
NAMIBIA
Phone: 011-264-61-36 630
The United States is one of the largest economic supporters of the apartheid system through our trade, investment and bank loans. Money = Power. Applying economic pressure can help to break the back of the apartheid system. There are 3 major avenues for applying economic pressure.

A. Economic Sanctions

Presently the U.S. imposes only partial economic sanctions against South Africa. 1989 U.S. comprehensive economic sanction legislation has been introduced and is in process. Urge your legislators to become co-sponsors and support this legislation.

Arguments like "sanctions will only hurt those we most want to help" are smoke-screen issues. Black church and political leaders, trade unions, youth groups and women's groups in Namibia and South Africa continue to call for sanctions—even though speaking out on sanctions endangers their lives.

The U.S. continues to block U.N. efforts to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa. Contact U.S. legislators, state department and our U.N. ambassador urging implementation of immediate, mandatory sanctions.

For information and assistance on legislation contact: Washington Office on Africa (202) 546-7961, or National Namibia Concerns (303) 830-2774.

B. Divestment

There is a growing movement of universities, trade unions, cities, states and churches that are divesting from companies that do business with South Africa and from banks which loan to the South African government or to South African government related corporations.

How to get involved:
1. Examine your individual, congregational, church body investments, pension plans and relationships with banks – and act accordingly.

2. Participate in efforts to get your state or university to adopt divestment legislation. To find out if divestment legislation is pending or will be introduced in your state, and for a listing of banks who loan to South African as well as a listing of U.S. corporations who do business with South Africa, contact: American Committee on Africa (ACOA), 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038 (212/962-1210).

3. Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, Room 566, New York, NY 10015 (212/870-2928) coordinates church divestment actions, shareholders resolutions testimony before Congress, publishes a newsletter, "The Corporation Examiner."

4. For a listing of companies in your state that do business with South Africa, contact: American Friends Service Committee Southern African Program, 1502 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 241-7169.

5. Lutherans concerned about divestment contact: Pension Members for Justice, 1821 N. 16th St., Milwaukee, WI 53205 (414)/344-0616.

C. Boycotts

Withhold economic support from South African in the following ways:
1. Refrain from purchasing South African exports, i.e., gold, diamonds, food, clothing, wines, and products from U.S. companies that do business with South Africa.

2. Choose not to attend South Africa entertainment and sports groups or U.S. groups who perform or compete in South Africa.

3. Among the current specific boycott targets are: Shell Oil, Kellogg, Coke.

For more information and assistance in organizing and applying economic pressure contact: American Friends Service Committee, Southern Africa Program, (215) 241-7169.

National Namibia Concerns (NNC) is an education/advocacy network working with the Namibian churches for a just independence for the people of Namibia. NNC serves as a media/people resource center, providing information packets, films/videos, action alerts, speakers, assistance in planning events and action, financial support to various projects in Namibia. Our quarterly publication, the Namibia Newsletter, is sent to 10,000 individuals, organizations and congregations.

While the main strength of our network lies among members of the Lutheran church, NNC works cooperatively with national anti-apartheid organizations and ecumenical groups throughout the country.

We believe that, as Christians, we are called to continue in Christ's ministry to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

We invite you to join us in this ministry of advocacy.

For more information, please contact:

National Namibia Concerns
915 East 9th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 830-2774

Namibia Concerns – Wartburg Seminary
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52001
(319) 589-0326

To order extra copies of Namibia: Action, please send check or money order to NNC. Price: $10 per hundred copies.