American Committee on Africa

NATIONAL STUDENT ANTI-APARTHEID STRATEGY CONFERENCE, Hunter College Oct 3-4, 1981
Organized with the support of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

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Statement of Purpose:

1) With South African aggression increasing internally and in the region at the same time that the Reagan Administration is moving closer to Pretoria, there is a heightened need for strategic coordination in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the campus-based sector of the movement which is strong locally but has not hooked up sufficiently on a regional or national level.

2) This conference, organized by ACOA in conjunction with the Hunter College student government, aims to increase coordination and strategic planning in the campus-based sector of the U.S. anti-apartheid movement. Part of this strategic planning must involve linking up to anti-apartheid activity in the community, so community based groups will also be involved.

3) In many ways the key strategic question before us is: How can the basically decentralized campus movement begin to have a greater direct effect on an increasingly dangerous U.S. foreign policy in southern Africa? Related to this is the question of how (along with calling for divestment) we can build the kind of direct political support for the liberation movements (and their front-line state allies, notably Angola) needed to counteract U.S. policy.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday October 3

9am-10am  Registration (Hunter Playhouse, 68str Park-Lex Ave)

10am-10:25  Greetings:
Judge William Booth, President of Am Comm on Africa
UN Special Committee Against Apartheid
Hunter Student Government (Duma Ndlovu, pres)
Pan Africanist Congress

10:30-12:30  Panel Discussion
1) Situation in Southern Africa and UN Sanctions
   -Mr. Theo Ben Gurirab, UN Representative of SWAPO
2) U.S. Foreign Policy in Southern Africa
   -Mr. Kenneth Zinn, Washington Office on Africa
3) Divestment and Liberation Support Work on Campus
   -Mr. Dumisani Kumalo, field rep of Am Comm on Africa
4) Linking Anti-Apartheid Work to other struggles
   -Mr. Howard Hawkins, rep of the Upper Valley Committee
   for the Liberation of Southern Africa
   -Moderator: Joshua Nessen, Student Coordinator ACOA

12:30-1:45  LUNCH (Sandwiches, fruit, hot drinks for $2 Please Eat here)

WORKSHOPS
(All will be held on Third Floor, Main Bldg)

Session I (2:00-3:30) Following workshops held each session
Session II (3:45-5:30)

(Basic Organizing Workshop) 1) Divestment & Campus Liberation Support Work
   -Initiating Campaigns, Divestment viewed Strategically, Lib Support
Room 300A (Moderators: Western Michigan University)
Room 300B (Moderators: Berea College(KY) & ACOA)
(300C backup)

2) Relating Campus Organizing to U.S. Foreign Policy
   Moderators: Kenneth Zinn, Wash Off on Africa
   Chris Root, Grad Student American Univ
   William Johnston, Episcopal Churchmen for S. Africa

3) Linking Anti-Apartheid Work to other Struggles
   (Racism, Anti-Draft, Sexism, Anti-nukes, El Salvador etc)
Room 306A
Room 306B
   Moderators: Williams College
   Moderators: Dartmouth College

4) Community Anti-Apartheid Organizing
   Moderators: Black United Front
   Carol Collins, Natl Camp Against Bank Loans to SA
   Alan Zaslavski, Boston Comm for the Liberation of Southern Africa

5:45-6:00  LOGISTICAL BRIEFING (Hunter Playhouse---Please attend)
6:00-7:45  DINNER BREAK (We will not provide dinner)
8:00-10:00  CULTURAL EVENT (Hunter Playhouse)

Sunday October 4

10-12, lunch, 1-4  PLENARY SESSION: Solidarity message, African National Congress
   Hunter Auditorium
   (enter at 69Str Btw Park-Lex Ave)
   Reports on Workshops
   Consideration of Proposals
   (To attend Plenary must register Saturday)
LOGISTICS

Housing Information

- Free housing has been arranged at the International House, 500 Riverside Dr. (about 123 Street and Riverside drive)
  The housing consists of a large heated room to be shared by a maximum of 100 conference participants. Sleeping Bags are necessary. No Beds

- All who wish to use this housing must have the Temporary ID card we are issuing at the housing table. We have exactly 100 of these cards which are necessary to enter the International House.

- To get to International House from Hunter College:
  Walk to Madison Avenue (2 Blocks west) and take the #4 bus only. Tell the driver where you are going and ask to be let off one stop after Riverside Church. This will be approximately 123 Str and Riverside Drive very close to the International House.

- When you arrive at International House tell the receptionist that you are staying in the WEST ROOM and show your ID Slip. West Room is on Level C one flight below Reception Desk. There are toilet facilities, but no showers for both women and men near the WEST ROOM.

- Since the Sunday Plenary Session begins at 10am you should leave the International House for Hunter College at the latest by 8:30.
  To get back to Hunter College: Cross the Park, containing Grant's Tomb, directly in front of International House. Take the #4 Bus only Downtown. Get off at 70th Street and Fifth Avenue. From there walk east 3 blocks and enter Hunter College at the 69th Street entrance between Park and Lexington Avenues. This gives direct access to the HUNTER AUDITORIUM.

- If we run out of the 100 ID slips for International House, we will request that all New York City participants at the conference offer housing to out-of-town comrades. The 100 places at Intl House should suffice though.

Food Information

- For $2 total fee (payable at registration only) lunch will be provided on both Saturday (12:30-1:45) and Sunday (12-1). There will be sandwiches which you make yourself, fruit, tea and coffee. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings before 10am there will be coffee/tea/danish available free of charge.

- All food will be served at the Hunter College Student Government Office in Room 121 which is on the same floor as both the Hunter Playhouse and Auditorium. Look for signs to office.

- You must present the meal card both days to receive lunch. It will be issued at Registration.

Cultural Event

- The Cost for the event is $3 payable at registration. The singing group Serious Business as well as poetry readings will be featured.
ORGANIZATION OF PLENARY SESSION (10-4, Sun Oct 4)

1) Only those people who have registered on Sat Oct 3 will be allowed into the Plenary Session (Please hang onto the registration labels) which will be at the Hunter Auditorium.

2) Decision Making

   a) Proposals must be submitted in writing to Plenary Chair (Joshua Nessen, Student Coord ACOA) by 9:45am on Sunday (though exception will of course be made to those lost or delayed on the NYC transit system).

   b) Once a proposal has been introduced there will be a 20 minute period allowed for discussion, with a time limit of 2 minutes per speaker.

   c) Hopefully by the end of 20 minutes we can achieve immediate consensus. If there are objections we will decide by simple majority vote.

   d) To ensure equitable voice for schools outside the Northeast voting will be on a 1-vote per school basis. If representatives from a school cannot agree among themselves (after a 5-minute consultation period) their vote will count as an abstention.

   e) Votes will be conducted by roll-call based on the schools that have registered for the conference on Saturday.

   f) Non-student groups can participate but cannot vote at the Plenary.

3) Order of Plenary

   - Before we move to consideration of proposals there will be a solidarity message from the African National Congress as well as reports from the workshops (where the bulk of proposals should be generated).

   - Hopefully we can consider some proposals before the lunch break from noon-lpm. Realizing that people might have to leave early we will try to move as quickly as possible.

   - All proposals decided upon will be sent to all conference participants along with a full report on the conference.

From March 21 (anniversary of Sharpeville Massacre) To April 4, 1982 (Anniversary of Martin Luther King's Death)

1) With South African aggression increasing internally and in the region at the same time that the Reagan Administration is moving closer to Pretoria, there is a heightened need for strategic coordination in the student anti-apartheid movement.

2) A useful way of increasing the overall effect of inherently decentralized campus activity is to have activists from different campuses plan their major events within a limited time-span, and well in advance. In Spring 1979 a national week of action in support of the liberation movements was quite successful in drawing attention to the anti-apartheid movement. Like that week, the two-weeks of National Action will be most effective if student groups are able to coordinate activities with non-student groups as well.

3) Though the particular nature of activity will necessarily vary for each campus and region, to give the TWO WEEKS OF ACTION national cohesion we propose the following four point political focus:

1) Support for the Liberation Movements of Southern Africa, in particular a call for the immediate independence of Namibia. Linked to this support for the Front-line states which are bearing the brunt of South African aggression—particularly Angola.

   Summary Demands: VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS!
   INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA NOW: SUPPORT SWAPO!
   END ALL SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS AGAINST ANGOLA AND OTHER INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES!

2) Demand the immediate withdrawal of U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia and an end to all bank loans. Linked to this call for immediate divestment of all university stocks and bank deposits linked to South Africa.

   Summary Demands: U.S. OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA!
   DIVEST ALL STOCKS NOW!
   REDLINE SOUTH AFRICA NOT (NYC, CHICAGO, LA, etc)!

3) Opposition to the Reagan Administration's increasing collaboration with South Africa, and the current effort to repeal the Clark Amendment (banning U.S. covert operations in Angola). Groups should also make the link between U.S. foreign policy in southern Africa and the Reagan Administration's general support of dictatorships and opposition to liberation everywhere in the Third World, notably El Salvador.

   Summary Demands: END ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT TIES TO SOUTH AFRICA!
   BREAK THE US/SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR AXIS!
   U.S. HANDS OFF ANGOLA: DEFEND THE CLARK AMENDMENT!

4) a) Stress the link between U.S. support of racism in South Africa and racism in this country—both its long-term institutional forms and the particular racist programs of the Reagan Administration and other reactionary forces (KKK, Nazis, Ed Kochs, etc)

   Summary Demands: END RACISM AT HOME and Abroad!
   US/South Africa: Same Enemy
   Same Struggle!

b) Also stress the positive connection between the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa and the struggle against racism in this country.

c) Since the Week of Action runs thru April 4 groups should plan events that link commemoration of Dr. King with support for African liberation.
4) Coordination and Planning

Though the strength of individual campus movements will determine the success of the TWO-WEEKS OF NATIONAL ACTION, coordination will heighten its impact. We propose the following coordination measures:

a) The American Committee on Africa will take responsibility for preparation and distribution of a National Press Release before March 21, 1982. Such a release will contain: 1) Political focus of the TWO WEEK period of action and 2) As complete a listing as possible of events being planned individually and jointly by campus groups.

Following the TWO WEEKS OF NATIONAL ACTION a similar press release, detailing major actions, would also be distributed by the American Committee on Africa.

b) To ensure the broadest effect of the TWO WEEKS OF ACTION (as well as future projects) there needs to be greater coordination on a regional level in the campus movement. Several years ago there were several regional coalitions which did play a useful function.

We propose (without the setting up of formal organizations at this point) that there take place regional student meetings approximately every 6-7 weeks with at least one meeting per region by December 1.

1) These meetings would help coordinate activities for the TWO WEEKS OF ACTION--regional press releases, speaking tours, joint actions etc. and

2) Just as importantly act as forums where students can exchange pamphlets, strategy ideas and other useful information.

- The American Committee on Africa (in addition to organizing a Northeast meeting) will assist student groups willing to coordinate such regional meetings. Regions can be broadly defined as the Northeast, Midwest, West and South. Though obviously further breakdown by state or city will naturally occur. Hopefully, initial large regional meetings this fall can help foster more localized coordination—the reverse process is of course possible.

c) In conjunction with the TWO WEEKS OF ACTION Dumisani Kumalo (field rep of ACOA) will be available to go on an extensive national speaking tour of campuses. An additional tour involving SWAPO is a possibility for this fall and spring.

d) ACOA will make available to interested groups a poster for the TWO WEEKS OF ACTION incorporating its major political focuses. Regional groupings should of course prepare their own more specifically focused material as will individual campuses.