NATIONAL STUDENT ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE SETS DATES FOR COORDINATED SPRING PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. COLLABORATION WITH RACIST SOUTH AFRICA

New York, N.Y. October 10....From October 7-9 three hundred students from every region of the United States met at New York University to map out a year-long program of coordinated action against U.S. collaboration with the white minority regime of South Africa.

The national conference was organized by the American Committee on Africa with the co-sponsorship of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid and the UN Council for Namibia. Delegations from the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia—the ANC, PAC and SWAPO—addressed the conference including leaders of their youth sections who traveled directly from Africa to attend the conference.

The conference called for Spring 1984 Weeks of National Action against U.S. collaboration with apartheid which will run from March 21 (Anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa) to April 4 (Anniversary of Martin Luther King's death). During those weeks student groups will organize protests against their schools' investments in corporations and banks with ties to South Africa and also oppose the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa—a policy which has been rejected by the Organization of African Unity, the UN General Assembly and the six announced Democratic Party candidates for President.

Students have continued to play a leading role in opposing U.S. ties to South Africa and protests have led to the sale by thirty colleges of over $140 million invested in U.S. companies and banks involved in South Africa. During the conference it was also stressed that student activity has helped lead to the passage of state and municipal legislation in 1982 that will divest $300 million in public monies linked to South Africa through U.S. investors.

The conference which brought together students from over 20 states and Canada also passed resolutions to directly support the liberation struggle in southern Africa and established regional coalitions that include students also working against U.S. intervention in Central America, for a Nuclear Freeze, and against racism in the United States. Students from the following states were in attendance: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington DC.

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