Dear Friends,

This school year has been marked by intense protest activity against U.S. investments linked to South Africa. Along with sit-ins, shanties, and blockades for divestment there have also been systematic efforts to link anti-apartheid organizing to struggles against racism in this country. The campus-based movement has not slackened since the Spring 1985 upsurge and has helped keep U.S. complicity with South Africa in the forefront of public consciousness, despite the cut-off of media coverage of protest in South Africa.

One of the keys to the maintenance of momentum into this year was conscious planning for coordinated activities. A May 1985 meeting launched the successful October 11 Protest Day, marked on over 100 campuses, and this spring’s Weeks of Action were mobilized through a fall National Conference and regional meetings.

After talking with many student organizers, the American Committee on Africa is initiating a National Anti-Apartheid Strategy Meeting on Saturday June 28 in part to help maintain momentum into the fall semester. One element of such planning would involve building for an October 11 Protest Day. October 11 coincides with the International Day for Southern African Political Prisoners and like last year can give student organizers an early rallying point for action. The June 28th meeting will also provide student organizers with the chance to continue dialogue around the central political concerns of the campus movement.

Foremost among those concerns is racism and the anti-apartheid movement. It is important to share ways in which campus groups have developed campaigns dealing with racism on campus, and to examine the process of broadening coalitions in which Third World campus organizations play a prominent role.

Another critical concern to address is the widespread incorporation of direct action into campus organizing strategies. These tactics have included the blockade and occupation of buildings, as well as the construction and defense of shantytowns. Such tactics have helped to spread and intensify the impact of campus organizing. It is important to analyze both the difficulties and effectiveness of these tactics and the many issues that arise as campaigns escalate. Some of the questions that will be on the agenda include: 1) How to integrate educational work and direct actions; 2) Dealing with university repression and cooptation; 3) Timing and length of actions; 4) Division of labor in direct actions; 5) Role of the media.

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Divestment has provided a cutting edge for campus organizing, but there is now a pressing need to expand our work on southern Africa. A U.S. policy which supports South Africa through funding UNITA in Angola is the back-door route for U.S. military intervention in support of the white minority regime. While addressing U.S. policy more broadly it is also critical to build material and political support for the liberation movements.

Other planning discussions need to consider speaking tours and conferences. The strategy meeting will run all day, and participants will probably work in one continuing session, rather than breaking into workshops, as this is not a full-scale conference. Outlined below is a draft agenda. We encourage you to call or write in your suggestions for additions and modifications:

10:30-11:00am Introduction: General overview of past year, purposes of meeting

11am-12:30pm Racism and the Anti-Apartheid Movement
- How is linkage of issues progressing
- Progress, problems, and suggestions in coalition building
- Role of Black student leadership

12:30-1:00 LUNCH (Bring your own sandwiches)

1:00-2:15pm Direct Action
- Political importance of such actions
- Specific tactical approaches (shanties, blockades, occupations)
- Dealing with repression and cooptation
- Combining direct action and education

2:20-3:30pm Planning for fall coordinated action and beyond
- Importance of coordination
- October 11 Protest Day
- Improving coordination and communication

3:30-4:30pm Broadening our work beyond divestment
- Other economic action: boycotts, actions at corporations
- Dealing with U.S. regional policy
- Building support for the liberation movements

The aim of this strategy session is to help coordination and stimulate discussion about the campus anti-apartheid movement. We ask that you send no more than two representatives to the meeting. We hope that those who participate will take back the ideas discussed at the meeting to their local areas and work toward developing the type of coordinated action that is currently having such an impact.

In friendship and solidarity

Joshua Nessen, ACOA Student Coordinator

**NOTE:** Return form in prepaid envelope if you plan to attend June 28th meeting. Please call as well: 212-962-1210