Dumisani S. Kumalo, a South African, has been selected as national coordinator for the Campaign to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa (COBLSA). The bank campaign, initiated and sponsored by the American Committee on Africa and Clergy and Laity Concerned since 1977, has affiliates active in over a dozen regions of the United States working for the withdrawal of funds from banks making loans to racist South Africa.

Mr. Kumalo was a founder of the Union of Black Journalists in South Africa, an organization active in the Black Consciousness Movement which was outlawed by the white minority government in 1977. He fled South Africa following repeated police harassment that same year. He was formerly chief reporter for the black edition of the Johannesburg Sunday Times. Despite government press restrictions, Kumalo was instrumental in exposing injustices of apartheid such as the use of child labor on farms, conditions of black migrant workers in the mines and abuses of police power including deaths of political detainees. He recently completed a ten week speaking tour of over two dozen universities in the United States, on the east and west coasts and to black colleges in the South.

The campaign has received support from many organizations. Among these are the National Council of Churches, the United Auto Workers, and hundreds of regional church, trade union, campus and community organizations. Efforts have been coordinated internationally with bank campaigns active in Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. Recently, the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid held a session focusing on international bank loans to South Africa.

A wide variety of tactics have been employed in the bank campaign to draw attention to the estimated $2 billion in U.S. bank loans to South Africa. These
have ranged from simultaneous leafleting of literally hundreds of branches of the Bank of America in California, to a jogger's "run on the bank" in Minneapolis, to the placement of facsimile deposit slips pointing out bank connections to South Africa at branches of the Chemical Bank in New York. Coalitions have been formed with community groups opposed to discriminatory bank practices in the U.S., such as "redlining" of inner city neighborhoods.

The campaign has received endorsement from over 150 prominent personalities including performers Ruby Dee, Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis; political representatives Hon. Charles Rangel, Hon. Julian Bond, Tom Hayden; labor leaders Victor Reuther, Lillian Roberts, Mia Adhia; religious leaders Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker.

Bank campaign affiliates are active in the following areas: Boston, California, Chicago, the District of Columbia, Minneapolis, North Carolina, New York City, Oregon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester (N.Y), San Francisco, and Seattle.