FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A spokeswoman for the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) announced today that due to increased concern with South African government policy in regard to Namibia, Mr. Andimba Toivo Ja Toivo, Secretary General of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), will attend the upcoming United Nations conference on that country.

The conference is sponsored by the United Nations Council on Namibia, the American Committee on Africa and the Chicago Planning Committee. The goal of the conference is to focus attention on the growing atrocities perpetrated by the South African government against the people of Namibia.

Toivo was imprisoned for 18 years by the South African government. While on Robbens Island he became a close personal friend and ally of Nelson Mandela who is still in prison in South Africa.

"The visit of the Namibian leader," a spokeswoman said, "is an indication of SWAPO's hope that the conference will launch a major reconsideration of U.S. policy towards Namibia."

Toivo will visit Chicago July 23-25 and is expected to give a major address at the National Conference on Namibia and U.S. Policy. Labor, clergy, and other leaders from abroad and across the country will be in attendance. During his stay, Toivo is also expected to meet with city officials, church leaders and concerned citizen organizations to try to build a bridge of solidarity with the Namibian people and their struggle for independence.