

MANIFESTO FOR FREEDOM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Adopted by Seminar on American Involvement
in Apartheid Sponsored by Consultative
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On the sixth anniversary of the Sharpville Massacre of March, 1960 we see only signs of deeper bitterness and tragedy in South Africa. The policy of apartheid is established on the principle of the subservience of the black majority to the white minority. This policy is ever more completely carried out by the present government under Prime Minister Verwoerd. All non-white opposition has long since been forced completely underground by the banning of African political organizations, the legislation against collective bargaining by Africans, the stringent enforcement of the pass laws, and the cynical creation of Bantustans as supposed "homelands" of the Africans but in reality segregated areas whose policies are dominated by the Republic's white government

Our concern for our fellowmen in South Africa is motivated by a desire to ensure and increase human rights. We see violence and bloodshed ahead as the white minority attempts to extend its racist control, and the black majority deepens its resolve to resist. This will be no limited conflict. The whole of independent Africa will support the black majority in South Africa. The struggle against apartheid is international in scope. All peoples and nations will be engulfed in this struggle -- unless measures are adopted to eliminate apartheid and to ensure full participation by all South Africans in government.

We as Americans see our own responsibility as a major one. At present our Government, although making more vigorous pronouncements against apartheid, is cooperating in very limited programs in opposition to South African racism. Furthermore, Americans, through private channels, are economically and psychologically strengthening the architects of apartheid.

We are joined in our belief that Americans must work with those throughout the world committed to the destruction of apartheid. We believe Americans must disengage themselves from any contact with South Africa which in any way strengthens the forces of apartheid or extends its power. Therefore, we call upon our Government to initiate the following policies as a bare minimum, to make clear American intentions to oppose apartheid:

1. DISENGAGE FROM ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

How is it possible for the United States to claim to be an opponent of apartheid? To benefit from apartheid is to have a stake in apartheid.

Our banks are lending money to South Africa and many of our large corporations are expanding operations there; furthermore, there has recently been an increase in trade between the countries.

We regret to note that in the absence of a clearly indicated national policy, American business enterprises have become enmeshed in a structure where black labor is systematically exploited. We cannot expect private American investors to formulate a political policy in the absence of a clear lead from the State Department.

We believe that the United States should, as a matter of policy, end this business involvement. At the very least, our Commerce and State Departments must discourage future investments and trade, on the ground that there is a long term risk not only for American business and for United States relations with independent Africa, but because such involvement is a national humiliation.

2. END IMMEDIATELY THE SUGAR QUOTA GIVEN TO SOUTH AFRICA.

The United States has agreed to import 48,000 tons of sugar from South Africa at a price considerably above the current world market price. This agreement represents a subsidy by the American taxpayer to South Africa, a subsidy which is neither needed nor merited. It is especially unnecessary when the former High Commission Territories and many developing countries are desperately in need of selling sugar to the United States.

3. GRANT AID TO THE VICTIMS OF APARTHEID THROUGH THE U.N. TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

In the 20th General Assembly a resolution was passed recommending that governments make contributions to the Trust Fund for South Africa helping to support the families of imprisoned South African opponents of apartheid. In the Port Elizabeth area alone, there are over 2,000 "political orphans" who are completely dependent on outside support for food, clothing, education etc. Although a number of governments have contributed through the International Defense and Aid Fund to help meet this need, the United States Government has taken the view that contributions could not be made to a non-governmental agency. This need is so monumental that aid from governments is needed to care adequately for families whose breadwinner is removed, in some cases for an indefinite period of time.

4. GRANT POLITICAL ASYLUM AND AID TO REFUGEES FROM APARTHEID.

There are Africans in the United States who, because of their opposition to apartheid, would be in physical jeopardy if they returned to South Africa. Among them are growing numbers of students from South Africa doing graduate and undergraduate work in the United States who will be faced with the dilemma of having nowhere to go,

once they have completed their courses of study. If the United States had a declared policy of offering asylum and material aid to opponents of apartheid, such a decision would be both a clear warning to the South African Government and an encouragement to opponents of apartheid within South Africa.

5. ADOPT A POLICY OF INTEGRATING PERSONNEL AT U.S. GOVERNMENT POSTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The South African Prime Minister in a public speech made in June 1965 said that American personnel in the United States Tracking Station installations must be "white only". Although our government has suggested that its policies would not be dictated by the South African Government in this matter, no effort has been made to uphold the principle of integration in the assignment of American personnel in the Tracking Stations, the Embassy, Consulates, USIS offices, and other official American delegations.

6. IMPLEMENT POLICY OF GRANTING SUBSTANTIAL AID TO HIGH COMMISSION TERRITORIES.

The former High Commission Territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Swaziland are all scheduled to become independent within the next two years. Substantial aid must be forthcoming or they will be at the complete economic mercy of South Africa.

7. SUPPORT MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, SOUTHWEST AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA.

Recognizing that the progress to freedom of these countries is important in itself and that their freedom is a key to hasten change in South Africa, we urge our Government

- to give all support and assistance to the enforcement of sanctions against Rhodesia initiated by the United Kingdom and the United Nations.
- to end military aid to Portugal until there is majority rule in its African colonies.
- to initiate effort to guarantee Southwest Africa's autonomy.

We recognize our responsibility does not end with governmental action. As individuals and members of private organizations -- whether churches, trade unions, student groups, civil rights organizations -- we must take independent action.

We call upon all Americans to join us in the following course of action.

- Support private Defense and Aid Funds to help the victims of apartheid.
- Cease investment in companies doing extensive business in South Africa.
- Avoid purchasing South African goods.
- Discourage ordinary tourism to South Africa.
- Oppose any exchange program with South Africa not conducted inter-
racially.
- Cooperate with groups attempting to organize power to negotiate with
the United States Government on these issues regarding Southern Africa.

A serious extension of these policies by the United States Govern-
ment and among the American people can be a beginning in the process of
eliminating apartheid, and can pave the way for interracial harmony in
Southern Africa.

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