HEALING VICTIMS OF APARTHEID TORTURE

Through the generous contributions of concerned Americans, The Africa Fund is helping to heal the physical and emotional wounds of the victims of apartheid torture. The Africa Fund is providing financial support for The Trauma Center for Victims of Violence and Torture, a one-of-a-kind rehabilitation facility in Cape Town.

The Center offers counseling, medical treatment and social services to individuals and their families who have been the victims of torture, political imprisonment and violence at the hands of the apartheid security forces. Center director Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest, is himself a victim of apartheid terror. In 1990, while serving as a chaplain to South African exiles in Zimbabwe, Father Lapsley lost both hands and one eye to a bomb hidden in a religious magazine.

Treatment options range from psychotherapy and crisis intervention to pastoral counseling and family therapy. The Center offers training to medical and community based practitioners in how to help others cope with the trauma of political violence. Last year Center staff testified before a government judicial commission about the human consequences of political violence in the vast Crossroads squatter camp—one of the country's poorest and most dangerous communities.

For Father Lapsley both the suffering and the healing have a greater meaning: "As I am today," he said, "a priest from southern Africa with no hands, I am a sign of what apartheid has done to all of us—black and white." By helping the victims of brutality take back their lives from apartheid's torturers, the Trauma Center has also become a sign—a sign of hope.

AFRICA FUND RUSHES FOOD TO STARVING RWANDANS

When the American Fair Credit Association in Framingham Massachusetts donated 3000 pounds of rice for starving Rwandan refugees last July, they suddenly discovered they could not afford the high cost of air transportation to get the food to the refugees in time. They turned to The Africa Fund, which provided the association with a grant to help meet the cost of emergency shipping.

"When lives are at stake you do everything you can to help," said Africa Fund Executive Director Jennifer Davis. "Particularly when its a people-to-people initiative. Fortunately, because of our donors, we were able to respond positively to this urgent request."

ACTION FOR DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

Just two months after the world celebrated the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa, The Africa Fund was supporting another historic struggle for democracy—this time in oil rich Nigeria.

On the 4th of July thousands of Nigerian petroleum workers walked off the job to demand that the corrupt military dictatorship surrender power to the winner of last year's Presidential elections, Moshood Abiola, and return Africa's most populous nation to democratic, civilian government. With President-elect Abiola imprisoned and charged with treason, the resistance spread to students, municipal and transport workers, and embattled human rights and democracy organizations.

On July 18 troops attacked a pro-democracy rally, killing nearly three dozen people. More troops were sent to arrest oil union President Frank Kokori and force strikers back to work at bayonet point. By this time The Africa Fund had already begun its response—consulting with Nigerian democracy activists, and alerting Congressional, civil rights and trade union leaders to the mounting repression and violence.

On July 22 The Africa Fund's associate, the American Committee On Africa, released a national appeal for grassroots support for Congressional Resolution 151,
MANDELA'S CHALLENGE

What a difference four years can make. When Nelson Mandela came to the United States in 1990 he was only weeks out of prison, a man without rights, without a vote, the leader of a people still brutally disarmed by apartheid.

But in New York this October it was President Nelson Mandela that addressed the elected leader of a free South Africa and the head of state of the world's newest, and youngest, and poorest, and independent nation. It was easy to forget your former friends when you are raised in a position of power, glory, and authority.

Thus, he promised, South Africa would never again be a place where black and white sit at tables with whom we were at war; all will ever remain our friends, our allies," he said.

A few days later, addressing a joint session of Congress, Mandela again spoke of the interconnectingness of the world's peoples. He challenged the United States to forge a special relationship with Africa, and to commit its human and material resources to a global war against tyranny and poverty.

In words that resonated with the world, the African National Congress called for a new U.S. economic and political relationship with Africa, and to commit its human and material resources to a global war against tyranny and poverty.

In the absence of a continued relationship with the African National Congress, a new relationship was forged between the United States and South Africa. In March, Mandela was invited to address U.S. labor leaders in New York City. Mandela's speech was widely acclaimed and has been translated into several languages.

BRIEF

DOCS. AID MAKE THE GRADE?

The Africa Fund and the Africa Fund for South Africa agree to cooperate in the promotion of educational programs in the African countries. The Africa Fund has been working with U.S. universities and other institutions to provide educational opportunities for African students. The Fund has also supported the development of educational programs in Africa, including the establishment of a new university in Zimbabwe.

COMMITTEE CONTINUES

The African American Labor Council, AFL-CIO, continues its work to support labor rights in South Africa. The Council has been working with labor unions in South Africa to improve working conditions and to promote democratic government. The Council has also supported the development of labor unions in Africa, including the establishment of a new labor union in Zimbabwe.

AFRICA FUND AT WHITE HOUSE MEETING

The Africa Fund Executive Director Jennifer Davis was among the experts and opinion makers on a range of specific U.S. policy goals in Africa, including human rights and development assistance, and on how to build a stronger U.S. constituency for Africa.
RETREAT SETS NEW AFRICA FUND AGENDA

Nelson Mandela's election as President of a democratic South Africa marked the end of an era for THE AFRICA FUND, which was founded in 1966 to educate Americans about the African independence struggle and aid the victims of apartheid. In June, the staff and board of THE AFRICA FUND, together with that of The American Committee On Africa, gathered in New York to decide whether the two organizations should continue, and if so, to define new objectives and programs.

Over two days of intense workshop and discussion, it was decided that ACOA and THE AFRICA FUND should continue to engage concerned Americans around African initiatives for development and political empowerment, with a strong focus on human rights and economic justice. South and southern Africa, the region where the organizations' expertise is greatest, will remain a priority, building on contacts with grassroots activists developed during the anti-apartheid movement. But as circumstances and resources permit, the organization will seek out relationships with social movements that are on the cutting edge of change in other African countries.

"In a way," said Executive Director Jennifer Davis in welcoming the results of the June retreat, "we are returning to our original mandate of support for liberty in all of Africa. Only now the freedom Africans seek is the freedom from hunger, poverty, and dictatorial government."

"Civic minded" South Africans at THE AFRICA FUND. South African National Civic Organization President Lechesa Tsenoli (left) with Jennifer Davis and Dumisani Kumalo. Tsenoli headed a delegation of South African community leaders at a meeting with AFRICA FUND staff.

THE AFRICA FUND
17 JOHN STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10038

Address Correction Requested

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- Monitoring Peace in Mozambique