STUDENT MOVEENT HITS DOMESTIC RACISM AND U.S. CORPORATIONS

This semester student anti-apartheid organizers have broadened their agendas beyond South Africa related divestment and are increasingly targeting domestic racism. In part this has been in response to the rise of racist attacks on college campuses and in communities such as Howard Beach (NY) and Forsyth (GA) which has heightened long-term awareness that racism needs to be more directly addressed by the anti-apartheid movement. With Black students in the forefront, the movements at schools such as Columbia University, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina and University of California have been challenging overt and institutionalized racism while continuing to organize around southern Africa.

This Spring student activists have also more directly pressured U.S. corporations that maintain ties to South Africa. Protests have targeted banks such as Citibank, Sovran Bank, and Carnegie Mellon as well as Johnson and Johnson and Coca-Cola. In these efforts students have increasingly worked with community groups who also recognize that the pressure that resulted in limited sanctions and widespread stock divestment must be maintained to break corporate ties to South Africa.

This year's Spring Weeks of National Anti-Apartheid Action (March 21-April 6), initiated by the American Committee on Africa, were marked in 25 states by direct organizing against corporations and by protests that made the link to domestic racism. In addition, students often consciously tied Southern African and Central American solidarity efforts. These developments indicate the vibrancy and growing maturity of the student movement.

PUSH FOR COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS

Last year Congress passed legislation imposing partial sanctions against South Africa. But these measures only banned about 18% of trade between the U.S. and South Africa and did not mandate U.S. corporate withdrawal. Representative Ronald Dellums and Senator Alan Cranston have now introduced legislation for comprehensive sanctions. This legislation, House Bill 1580 and Senate Bill 556 calls for: 1) Complete U.S. corporate withdrawal from South Africa and Namibia 2) Ban on most trade with South Africa and 3) End to U.S. intelligence sharing with the South African government. Debate on the bill will intensify later this year. But members of the House and Senate must be immediately encouraged to co-sponsor the Dellums-Cranston legislation in order to build up support in the Congress. Write your Representative, House of Representatives, WASH DC 20515 and your Senator, U.S. Senate, WASH DC 20510.
DOMESTIC RACISM TARGETED

On March 22 eight Black students were beaten and chased by a group of twenty white football players at Columbia University. The school administration has portrayed the incident as a "brawl" between students unrelated to racism, despite the chants of "Niggers go home." In response Black students have led militant protests calling for the immediate expulsion and legal prosecution of the white students involved. Organizers have underlined the University's role in impeding this prosecution and made demands against institutionalized racism as expressed in low third world enrollment, curriculum and eviction policies as well as the refusal of the school to divest of stock in IBM, GM, and Coke. On April 4 students organized a March Against Racist Violence of 500 people to the local precinct demanding that the attackers be immediately arrested. When this demand was not met, on April 7 a delegation of Black Columbia students went to Police Headquarters to meet with Commissioner Benjamin Ward. After he would not meet with students, 24 were arrested for disorderly conduct for refusing to vacate the main lobby.

On March 19 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor 300 people, mostly Black students, sat in at the Administration Building around 12 demands focused on institutionalized racism as well as South Africa. The sit-in forced the university to reverse its previous refusal to award an honorary degree to Nelson Mandela and made the school deal with demands on curriculum, racist incidents and low Black student enrollment. On April 4, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, 250 student and community activists marched from the campus to the neighboring Black community to stress the link between anti-apartheid struggles and domestic racism.

On March 30 eighty students at State University of New York in Albany sat-in in the President's office demanding that the Administration deal with campus racism as expressed in: the refusal to prosecute students and a school bus driver involved in racial incidents, the miniscule number of Black tenured faculty, and the lack of full status for Afro-American studies courses.

On April 3 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill 400 students joined a rally for system-wide divestment. The protest was organized by Black students from North Carolina Central, Winston Salem, and North Carolina A & T and also addressed the drop in Black student enrollment. In Portland, Oregon 400 people, including students from Reed College, Portland State University and local high schools, marched against apartheid and racism on April 4.

University of Texas students in Austin held an April 6 rally in solidarity with youth and students in southern Africa that addressed domestic racism and divestment. That same day a statewide California student rally in Sacramento called for an Ethnic Studies requirement in the State University system, and on April 11 a South Africa Solidarity Day was organized at UCLA.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA WORK LINKED

Local activists have increasingly stressed the linkages between U.S. policy in southern Africa and Central America. In Miami on March 22 several hundred people marched against U.S. aid to UNITA in Angola and the Nicaraguan contras and this was the theme of a March 29 protest at Western Michigan University.
CORPORATE TIES PROTESTED

Student and community groups directly targeted U.S. corporations for their South Africa ties as part of April 3 and 4 Days of National Divestment Protest. On April 3 a community and student coalition in New York City organized a blockade of Citibank world headquarters demanding that the bank close its branches in South Africa and end all lending to that country. Fourteen people were arrested for using cardboard structures and a 16 foot wooden shanty to block the building entrances. That day a city-wide student coalition in Baltimore built a shanty in front of the main Citibank office. Students from Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State and Towson State College then brought the shanty to the University of Maryland where students were reconstructing shanties for full divestment.

Hamilton College students hosted a talk by Maki Mandela on April 8 and built two shanties complete with chicken wire that day. This followed their April 3 picket of Citibank in downtown Syracuse. A Citibank branch near Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn was also targeted and the Chicago Anti-Apartheid Solidarity Committee and local university and high school students hit the bank on April 4. These protests followed up coordinated actions at Citibank branches March 20 in Staten Island, Manhattan, Westchester and Tucson, AZ.

The DC Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism also targeted 15 branches of Sovran Bank for picketing on April 2. The Coalition of student groups from Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, George Mason, George Washington, UDC, and American Universities opposed Sovran's correspondent banking ties to South Africa's Standard Bank and refusal to lend to U.S. Black communities.

The Shell Boycott Campaign held protests April 4 in Atlanta, Birmingham, Columbus, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington DC on April 2.

At Penn State University students have been organizing a boycott of Carnegie Mellon Bank for its South Africa ties, and have convinced a number of local businesses and the Pittsburgh local of the United Electrical workers to close their accounts. On March 27 300 students marched through the Administration building demanding full divestment, and resignation of the University president from the Carnegie Mellon board. Penn State activists have also been picketing Johnson & Johnson recruiters, and on April 4 joined a 300-strong rally at company headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ with Rutgers Univ students.

Throughout the Weeks of Action, activists in Kansas City (KS) maintained a shanty downtown and rallied opposite a Coca-Cola bottling plant on April 3. The Coke Campaign has announced the start of a full-scale boycott of Coca-Cola for its continued licensing of company sales in South Africa which account for 69% of the soft-drink market. For more information, shirts, and stickers: Tandi Gcabahe c/o AFSC 92 Piedmont Av Atl GA 30303 #404-586-0460

[图片] Young people at demonstration in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
On April 3 at Drew University in New Jersey, students built a shanty and held a candlelight ceremony that night. Yale University students marked the first anniversary of their shantytown with a rededication rally and then protested at President Benno Schmidt's house when he hosted the Yale Corporation on April 10. At Reed College ten students were arrested and suspended (without a proper hearing) for an occupation March 25, and at the University of Missouri shanties remain standing despite 40 arrests and frequent right-wing attacks.

**ACT IN SOLIDARITY WITH YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Under the latest State of Emergency in South Africa some 30,000 people have been detained. 40% of these detainees have been under 19 years old. These detentions are part of the white minority regime’s crackdown against the vibrant youth and student movement which has been at the cutting edge of the intensified challenge to apartheid. South African troops now occupy Black primary and secondary schools throughout the country and many universities. All students are required to carry IDs and hundreds of activists have been expelled. In the face of this savage repression Black youth, students and allied parent and teacher organizations have fought back through boycotts and the propagation of People’s Education to challenge undemocratic educational structures and inferior, racist curriculum. In March a nationwide South Africa Youth Congress was founded with 500,000 signed up members. It is vital to write for the release of all detained youth and student leaders including: Lulu Johnson (former president of the Congress of South African Students), Vusi Khanyile (National Education Crisis Committee, NECC, the national coalition of student, parent, and teacher groups), Zwelakhe Sisulu (NECC), Bill Jardine (NECC), Joyce Mabhudafasi (NECC), Rev Molefe Tsela (NECC)

Address letters/petitions to PW Botha, Union Buildings, Pretoria, SA

**BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICA NOT NICARAGUA TOUR**

The American Committee on Africa and the Nicaragua Network co-sponsored a tour to emphasize the links and parallels between U.S. foreign policy in southern Africa and Central America. The tour featured Kevin Qhoboshi of the ANC Youth Section and Roberto Fernandez of the Nicaragua Medical Students Assoc and traveled to over 30 East Coast schools as part of the build up to the April 25-27 national mobilization in Washington DC.

**NEW RESOURCES**

The Africa Fund has new publications at the listed prices plus 15% postage: 1) Organizing Guide on University Repression of U.S. activists ($ .35)
2) Updated Fact Sheet on South Africa ($ .30) 3) Updated Questions and Answers on Divestment ($ .35) 4) List of U.S. Companies with investments in Namibia.

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