Thirty-three million people live in South Africa today. Only the 4.8 million whites have full rights of citizenship. Because of the color of their skin 28 million Black people have no political power and are subjected to controls which restrict where they can live, work, go to school, be born and be buried. This is the apartheid system.

But that system is under growing pressure to change. By the mid-1980s opposition to apartheid inside South Africa had reached a new level, with boycotts, strikes, massive demonstrations and stayaways sweeping the country. Internationally, pressure on the white minority government was also growing.

In response to growing domestic and international opposition, the government has modified a few existing apartheid laws without eliminating the basic structure of apartheid. This so-called reform program has done nothing to satisfy Black South Africans’ demands for majority rule in a united, democratic and nonracial South Africa.

Struggling to reassert total control, the government declared two successive states of emergency in the mid-1980s and unleashed intensive repression seeking to conceal its actions by a media blackout, press censorship and continuing propaganda about change.

This fact sheet is designed to present an accurate picture of the continuing impact apartheid has on the lives of Black people in South Africa.

**Population v. Land Distribution, 1985**

Under the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, 87% of the country's territory has been reserved for whites, 13% for Africans. Africans can own land only in the bantustans (see below) and in certain designated African townships. Asians and Coloureds must live in segregated areas in the territory reserved for whites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Land (1985)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africans</td>
<td>25,163,000</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>4,569,000</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloureds</td>
<td>2,833,000</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>821,000</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>33,386,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Africans 75% Africans, Whites 13.7%, Coloureds 8.5%, Asians 2.5%)

**Apartheid:** An Afrikaans word which literally translated means "separateness." A system that enables a small white minority to maintain political, social and economic control of the Black majority and consequently maintain its own wealth, power and privilege.

**The Bantustans:** Ten fragmented geographical areas designated as "homelands" serve as reservations for Africans. In 1986, 13 million Africans or 52% of the African population lived in the ten bantustans. Four of these areas—Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei—have been artificially declared "independent homelands" by the South African government, although no other country in the world has diplomatically recognized these areas. The Africans that the white government declares citizens of these areas lose their South African citizenship and become bantustan citizens, even if they are physically living in other parts of South Africa.

Because the bantustans are totally inadequate for even minimal subsistence needs, about 90% of families living there are forced to seek work in white South Africa. But under the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act of 1986 75% of the "citizens" of the independent bantustans—about 7.5 million people—were further stripped of any right to permanent residence in the white areas while only a small portion, under 2 million, may be allowed to reapply for South African citizenship. In 1986, the government was forced to cancel plans for making a fifth bantustan, KwaNdebele, independent after powerful local protests.

The racial divisions used are official South African government categories. The term "Black" includes the African, Coloured and Asian populations.
Forced Removals: Between 1960 and 1983, the South African government removed more than 3,500,000 Blacks from "white areas" to areas designated for Blacks. The government announced an end to this policy in 1985, but the removals have continued. In 1986, new removals were taking place in many areas, including Nyanga, Langa and Brits.

Distribution of Population, 1986:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Bantustans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africans</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloureds</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Government: The South Africa Act of 1909 and the Republic of South Africa Act of 1961 effectively restricted voting for and membership in the governing parliament to whites. The South African Constitution of 1984 established a three chamber parliament with one dominant chamber for whites and chambers for Coloureds and Asians. The election of Coloureds and Asians to the parliament was successfully boycotted by opposition organizations because the new constitution further entrenched the apartheid division of races, ensuring whites a continued monopoly of real power and totally excluding Africans.

Economy

Gross National Product (total value of goods and services), 1985: $51.17 billion (0.5% growth over 1984 level).

Government Budget: 1986/87 $16.9 billion (estimate). Military and Police: $3.3 billion (19%); Health: $1.3 billion (7%); Education: $2.7 billion (16%).

Value of Trade: Foreign trade accounted for between 50% and 60% of Gross Domestic Product in 1985. Exports, 1985 — $16 billion, including $7 billion in gold. Imports, 1985 — $10 billion.


Major Trading Partners, 1985: SA imports from/exports to, in billions of dollars — U.S. 1.4/1.35; West Germany 1.7/0.6; Japan 1.0/1.3; UK 1.3/0.95.

International Relations

South Africa and Its Neighbors: South Africa illegally occupies neighboring Namibia and has militarily occupied parts of southern Angola almost continually since independence in 1975. In addition, Pretoria has armed and supported the anti-government UNITA rebels in Angola and the anti-government MNR rebels in Mozambique. All told South Africa caused at least $10 billion in damage to neighboring countries through economic, military and political destabilization between 1980 and 1984.

Sanctions: The U.N. Security Council passed a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa in 1977, and OPEC nations have attempted to end oil shipments to South Africa since 1974. By 1986, sanctions of varying strength had been imposed on South Africa by the U.S., Japan and Denmark as well as the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Income and Employment

Unemployment: Between 4 and 6 million Blacks were unemployed as of mid-1986 according to some reports. The government figures, which are widely regarded as inaccurate, report that 26,848 whites, 28,569 Coloureds, and 14,846 Asians were registered as unemployed in 1985 and an estimated 513,000 Africans were unemployed.

Migrant Labor, 1985: Some 1.8 million Blacks work in South Africa as so-called migrant workers under contract, a system which forces the separation of workers from their families. Also, 371,000 foreign Blacks were employed as contract workers.

U.S. Companies Doing Business in South Africa, 1985-86: About 270 U.S. companies have direct investments in South Africa and a further 8,000 do business there. Some 65 companies ended their direct investment in South Africa in 1985 and the first half of 1986.

Major U.S. Corporations in South Africa (assets/employees or sales):
- Mobil Corp. ($400 million assets/3,182 workers);
- Calhx [Chevron Corp and Texaco Inc.] ($324 million assets/2,186 workers);
- Ford Motor Co. ($150 million assets/7,174 workers);
- USX ($102 million assets);
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. ($97 million assets/2,471);
- Burroughs Corp. ($50.8 million assets/808 workers);
- Citibank ($332 million assets/256 workers);
- General Motors* ($310 million sales);
- IBM* ($180 million sales). *No longer has direct investment.

U.S. Percentage of Total Direct Foreign Investment in South Africa: 20% (second only to Britain, the largest investor)

U.S. Investment in South Africa: The real value of U.S. direct investment declined only slightly between 1980 and 1985, although the dol-


Economic Ties

The dollar amount dropped substantially because of the fall in the rand/dollar exchange rate. U.S. direct investment in 1985 was $1.3 billion, and U.S. banks had an additional $3.2 billion in bank loans outstanding. In addition, U.S. stockholdings on the Johannesburg stock exchange were between $4 and $6 billion.

U.S. Trade with South Africa 1985: Exports to South Africa—Industrial machinery $204 m; Computers and office machinery $124 m; Chemicals $94 m; Aircraft $57 m; Rice and Corn $56 m; Electric Equipment $37 m. Imports from South Africa—Platinum $584 m; Diamonds $328 m; Iron and Steel $267 m; Uranium $139 m; Artworks and Antiques $104 m; Clothes $36 m; Shellfish $30 m.

U.S. Bank Loans: In October 1986 the U.S. government banned public and private sector lending to South Africa except trade related loans. Virtually all external lending to South Africa had already ended in September 1985 after Pretoria declared a debt repayments standstill as a result of the growing refusal of foreign banks to provide new loans. More than 25 U.S. banks have also adopted public policies of refusing to make any loans to South Africa and only one U.S. bank, Citibank, continues to operate as a commercial bank in South Africa.

The U.S. Divestment Campaign: This campaign seeks to force U.S. corporations to end their support for white minority rule by severing all ties with South Africa. By October 1986, 19 states, 60 cities and counties and 116 colleges and universities as well as substantial numbers of churches and other organizations had adopted binding measures requiring the sale of stocks and bonds in U.S. corporations involved in South Africa.

African Incomes Versus Poverty Level: The household subsistence level in September 1984 ranged from $113 to $147 a month in the major urban areas while the monthly average household income for Africans at that time was $123. The household subsistence level is the estimated necessary income per month for an African family of six to meet bare subsistence requirements, including rent and food but excluding education or health expenses. Income levels in the rural areas and especially the bantustans are much lower. About 80% of households in the bantustans receive income below the minimum living level and 13% receive no income at all.

Unionization: There were 1,650,000 members of trade unions in South Africa at the end of 1984, of whom 1,165,300 were Black. Since then two independent black trade union federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the CUSA/IACTU Federation, have been formed.

Strikes: More workers were involved in strikes in 1985 than ever before: 239,816 workers were involved in 389 strikes, not including political strikes and stayaways. The largest general strike in South African history took place on May 1, 1986 when nearly two million Black workers denounced apartheid in marking the centennial of May Day in response to the call by COSATU.

Distribution of Total Income, 1984

- 60% whites
- 29% Africans
- Coloureds and Asians 11%

(excluding agricultural and domestic service income for Blacks for which no accurate data exists)

Education

Attendance: All public education is racially segregated with racially differentiated curricula. In 1985, of 4,229,576 African students, 81% were in the primary grades and 19% were in post-primary school. Of 1,006,081 white students, 57% were in primary grades and 43% were in post-primary grades. More than one million African students, however, were not attending school at all as part of widespread student boycotts to protest inferior education, segregated schools, detentions of students and the presence of troops in the classrooms.

Teacher/Pupil Ratios, 1984 (excludes homelands): Africans, 1:41; whites, 1:19; Coloureds, 1:26; Asians, 1:23.

Per Capita Spending on Education

| Per Capita Spending on Education | Africans | $114 | Whites | $1027 | Coloureds | $641 | Asians | $615 |

Health

Mortality: Infant mortality rates per 1000 live births in 1982 were 80 for Africans, 13.4 for whites, 59 for Coloureds, and 20.7 for Asians. In some areas of the bantustans, half of all children die before reaching the age of five. In addition, 55% of all deaths among Blacks occur between the ages of one and five.

Malnutrition: Some 3 million children suffer from malnutrition. Up to 66% of all Black children suffer from protein deficiencies, although South Africa produces enough food to meet 122% of the optimum daily energy requirement of the entire population.

Doctor/Patient Ratios: Rural areas, 1:25,000; urban areas, 1:750. Ratio of people to available hospital beds: Africans, 337:1; whites, 61:1. Estimated number of African physicians: 500; 17 dentists.

Repression and Control

Twice in less than a year the South African government attempted to crush internal resistance by declaring states of emergency, in July 1985 and June 1986. Even without these emergencies, the government has a wide range of laws and policies designed for repression and control. Some of these include:

Security Legislation: The Internal Security Act of 1982 allows for indefinite detention without charge or trial and excludes the right of access by lawyers, private doctors or family. Under this law a government minister can order the preventive detention of anyone whom authorities consider a danger to state security; can outlaw any organization alleged to be a threat to public order; can prohibit the production and distribution of publications; can order random police searches; can curtail freedom of movement and restrict communications, association and participation in any event. This law makes it illegal to render assistance to any campaign, domestic or international, that protests or seeks to modify or repeal any law if such a campaign aids a banned organization. Under article 46 the government has since 1976 banned all outdoor political meetings, except bona fide religious or sporting events, as well as many indoor meetings.

Laws Controlling Movement of Black People: The government enforces racial segregation of neighborhoods and schools through the Group Areas Act and classifies people according to race under the Population Registration Act. In June 1986 the specific legislation regulating the pass laws and influx control was abolished, but the government has begun using trespassing laws and housing and work permits as a way to regulate the movement of Black people. Opposition organizations charge this action effectively continues the pass laws under a new guise.
Legislation Regulating U.S. Companies: Under the National Key Points Act of 1980 the Minister of Defense is empowered to declare any area a Key Point requiring the proprietor to provide security under supervision from the armed forces. These provisions are applicable to U.S. corporate operations in South Africa. It is illegal to print any information about security measures or about any incident at a Key Point. According to the government there were 413 official Key Points and another 800 semi-Key Points as of March 1984.

There are 5 separate laws, including the National Supplies Procurement Act and the Price Control Act, which can be used to require U.S. firms to sell goods and services to the South African government. Under these laws, for instance, U.S. corporations can be required to sell to the military and prevented from publicly revealing such sales or other agreements with the government. Petroleum has been legally defined as a "munition of war" by the government, and oil companies are particularly restricted by South African laws.

Restrictions on the Press: There are at least five different laws that regulate the press and prevent coverage of events or individuals. Among other provisions, by December 1986 the press was forbidden to publish reports on any actions of the police or military or any "subversive statement" (including discussions of boycotts, reports of opposition to any state official or structure or statements by opposition organizations).

Declarations of States of Emergency: Under the Public Safety Act of 1953 the state president is empowered to declare a state of emergency and suspend normal judicial procedures. The first emergency was imposed following the Sharpeville massacre of 69 unarmed Black protesters in 1960, a second emergency was declared in July 1985 and a third was declared less than a year later on June 12, 1986. The emergencies were primarily declared to provide individual, low ranking members of the security forces with extensive powers of arbitrary arrest and detention without trial and to give security forces immunity from prosecution for their actions. They also enabled the government to further restrict press coverage and ban journalists from covering actions of the security forces. In the first six months of the third emergency at least 20,000 people were detained, 40% of whom were under age 18. Amendments to the Public Safety Act in 1986 effectively gave the government the same far-reaching powers it has under a state of emergency without requiring the formal declaration of an emergency.

Statistics on Government Violence

Arrests for Political Offenses: Many anti-apartheid activists are arrested and charged under existing security laws. For instance, thousands have been arrested and charged with "public violence" for actions from throwing stones at troop carriers to burning down schools. In addition, human rights organizations in South Africa report increasing numbers of people arrested for political offenses are being charged with petty crimes. These figures do not count the 1,924 charged in 1985 for offenses under the Internal Security Act or the at least 1,370 people jailed under that act in the first eight months of 1986.

Official Violence: At least 2500 Black South Africans were killed in political violence between September 1984 and December 1986.

Hangings: 136 people were hanged in 1985, 5 of them white.

Torture: Torture and deaths in detention have been a well-documented part of South African police and military practice for many years. Methods include electric shock, beatings, sleep deprivation and isolation. In the summer of 1986, for instance, there were well-documented cases of torture of workers, clergy and especially children. At least 80 people have died in police custody in the last twenty years.

Prison Population: The average daily prison population in December 1985 was 113,792—more than ten times the per capita prison population in the U.S. At that date, 258 were imprisoned for two years or longer for "offenses against the state," including 22 people serving life sentences.

Children: Black children in South Africa bear much of the brunt of the apartheid system. A Black child between ages one and four is 14 times more likely to die than a white child and has less than one in five chance of going beyond sixth grade at school. Increasingly, children are also becoming a target of government repression. In the last seven months of 1986, during the state of emergency, more than 8,000 children were detained and many of those were tortured or physically assaulted.

- All figures have been converted into dollars at the following rates for one rand: 1985 — $0.45; 1984 — $0.68; 1983 — $0.90.
- South African government statistics on the African majority are increasingly fragmented and incomplete because of the apartheid policy of bantustan "independence." Where possible the figures used here are for South Africa as a whole. However, in some cases, due to a lack of other information, government statistics which undercount certain categories of workers have been used. As a result, figures from different sections of the fact sheet may not be directly comparable.

December 1986

Compiled by David Brooks, James Cason, Lisa Crooms, Jennifer Davis and Richard Knight.

Additional copies are 30¢ each; 15¢ on orders over twenty. Please add 15% postage.

The Africa Fund (associated with The American Committee on Africa) 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038 (212) 962-1210. Write for a complete list of Africa Fund publications.