Thirty-four million people live in South Africa today, yet only 4.9 million whites have full rights of citizenship. The Black population of 28 million has no political power and is subject to strict government controls on where to live, work, attend school, be born and be buried. This is the apartheid system which produces enormous wealth for the white minority and grinding poverty for millions of Black South Africans.

Such oppression has fueled a rising challenge to white minority rule in the 1980's through strikes, boycotts, massive demonstrations and stayaways. International pressure on the white minority government has also been growing. In response, 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 control, the government has declared successive states of emergency and unleashed intensive repression, seeking to conceal its actions by a media blackout, press censorship and continuing propaganda about change.

As part of its “total strategy” to preserve white power, Pretoria has also waged war against neighboring African states in an effort to end their support for the anti-apartheid struggle and undermine regional efforts to break dependence on the apartheid economy.

This Fact Sheet is designed to get behind the white government's propaganda shield and present an accurate picture of apartheid's continuing impact on the lives of millions of Blacks in southern Africa.

### Population versus Land Distribution, 1986

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>Population</th>
<th>Land Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africans</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloureds</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Includes Population estimated for Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei)

### 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 1987, between 15 and 18 million Africans lived in the ten bantustans. Four of these areas — Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (TBVC) — have been artificially declared “independent” 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 70% of the households in these areas live below the poverty line.

Unemployment in the bantustans is at least 50% of the population. Trade union activity is banned in most of the bantustans and there are no minimum wage requirements. These labor conditions allow some companies to pay workers in the bantustans less than $2 per day. The names of the ten bantustans are: Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa, Qwa-Qwa, Transkei, Venda.

Forced Removals: Between 1960 and 1986, the South African government removed more than 3.5 million Blacks from “white areas” to areas set aside for Blacks. In February 1985 the government declared a moratorium on forced removals, but since then over 100,000 Africans have been moved from one area to another. Police have also used intimidation, harassment, and conservative vigilante groups in campaigns to force thousands of Black residents from their homes. An additional 3 million people are still threatened with forcible removal.
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 segregated 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 and totally excluded Africans.

In 1988 the government proposed a further modification of the structure that would allow Africans to sit on an advisory body known as the National Statutory Council. This proposal has been widely rejected, because it does not meet Black demands for full majority rule.

Economy

Gross National Product (total value of goods and services), 1987: $78.48 billion (at current prices).

Government Budget: 1988/89 $26.5 billion (estimate). Military and Police: $5.3 billion (20.1%); Health: $2.5 billion (9.4%); Education: $5.0 billion (18.7%); Housing: $421 million (1.6%).


Leading Suppliers of South African Imports (percentage share), 1987: West Germany (25.3%); Japan (18.7%); United Kingdom (15.5%); United States (12.7%); France (4.6%); Italy (4.5%).

Leading Markets for South African Exports (percentage share), 1987: Japan (22.3%); Italy (16.5%); United States (12.7%); West Germany (11.4%); United Kingdom (9.8%); France (5.3%).

Principal Exports and Imports: Exports—Gold, minerals, textiles, agricultural products and fertilizers. Imports—Machinery, manufactured goods, plastic materials, chemicals, and oil.

South Africa's Foreign Debt: Most of South Africa's $22.6 billion foreign debt is short-term (loans due in less than 1 year) and owed by the private sector. In September 1985 virtually all external lending to South Africa ended after Pretoria declared a debt repayments standstill as a result of the growing refusal of foreign banks to provide new loans. Since the moratorium, South Africa has reached two agreements with foreign creditors under which $1.42 billion of the $13 billion covered by the standstill would be repaid by June 1990. Foreign banks have continued to finance trade to South Africa. During 1986 $1.78 billion of guaranteed bank credit, most of it insured by European governments, was extended to companies to finance exports to South Africa.

Capital Flight (Net Capital Outflow): $4.1 billion (1985), $2.6 billion (1986), $1.6 billion (1987). Prior to 1985 there was a net inflow of capital to South Africa. These figures indicate that since 1985 South Africa has had to contend with significant capital flight as internal unrest has mounted.

International Relations

Sanctions: Most members of the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth and the nonaligned movement, as well as the Nordic States, the U.S. and Japan have imposed some type of sanctions against South Africa. The United Nations Security Council imposed an embargo on arms shipments to South Africa in 1977. Since 1974 the OPEC nations have attempted to end oil shipments to South Africa, but the government has been able to secure oil on the spot market at a reported cost of $20 billion over the price of the crude oil (for the period between January 1979 and January 1988).

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. Pretoria has also armed and supported the anti-government rebels fighting to overthrow the governments of Angola and Mozambique. Between 1980 and January 1988, South African aggression has cost the neighboring Frontline States about $27.5 billion. It is estimated that 45% of total deaths of children under five in Angola and Mozambique, or 140,000 deaths per year, are caused by South Africa-backed economic and military destabilization.

Income and Employment

Unemployment: Estimates for Black unemployment vary according to the sources ranging from 19% to 40%. These estimates stand in stark contrast to a reported white unemployment rate of less than 2%.

Migrant Labor, 1986: Some 2 million Africans work in South Africa as so-called migrants under contract. These workers are not allowed to bring their families with them and see them only one month out of the year. Of this 2 million, 378,225 are foreign migrants from neighboring countries and 1,697,118 are from the ten bantustans.

Employment and Average Monthly Wages, 1987

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Numbers Employed</th>
<th>Average Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africans</td>
<td>672,000</td>
<td>$279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>$1,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloureds</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>$394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>$575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africans</td>
<td>705,000</td>
<td>$293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>294,000</td>
<td>$1,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloureds</td>
<td>237,000</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>$419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agricultural Workers: About 890,000 Blacks worked in the formal agricultural sector in 1986, mostly on white farms. Estimates for farm worker wages range from $16 to $20 per month with additional "in kind" payments and other benefits which add up to the equivalent of between $7 and $17 per month.
Economic Ties


U.S. Trade with South Africa:
Total U.S. Imports from South Africa 1987: $1.35 billion; 1985: $2.07 billion.
Selected Exports 1987: Industrial machinery $185 million; Computers and office machinery $124 million; Aircraft $108.7 million; Chemicals $97.1 million; Electronic equipment $67.7 million.
Selected Imports 1987: Platinum $727.0 million; Diamonds $83.7 million; Iron & Steel $141.8 million; Wood & paper products $63.4 million.

The Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986: This act banned new investment and prohibited the import from South Africa of agricultural products, iron, steel, textiles, shellfish and uranium. U.S. imports from South Africa declined by 35% between 1985 and 1987 and it is estimated that U.S. sanctions cost textiles, shellfish and uranium. U.S. imports from South Africa declined by $97.1 million; Iron & Steel $141.8 million; Wood & paper products $63.4 million.

Industrial machinery $185 million; Computers and office machinery $124 million; Aircraft $108.7 million; Chemicals $97.1 million; Electronic equipment $67.7 million.

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 mid-1988, 23 states and 84 cities and counties and 180 colleges and universities as well as substantial numbers of churches and other organizations had adopted binding measures requiring the sale of stocks and bonds of companies or the ending of deposits in banks doing business with South Africa. In addition, 36 cities and counties have adopted selective purchasing measures which give preference in granting contracts to companies that do not do business in South Africa.

The U.S. Trade Ban: The U.S. trade ban on South Africa includes an embargo on all exports and imports with the exception of humanitarian goods.

Divestment: Divestment is the act of withdrawing investments from South Africa. It is one of the key tactics used by the anti-apartheid movement in the United States.

U.S. Trade with South Africa: In 1987, U.S. trade with South Africa amounted to $1.7 billion. This includes exports of $1.25 billion and imports of $1.35 billion.

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Education

Attendance and Literacy: All public education is racially segregated with racially differentiated curricula. Education is free and compulsory for white children but not for all Black children. In 1987 hundreds of thousands of Black students were affected by boycotts called to protest inferior education, detention of students and teachers and the presence of troops in the classrooms. In March 1987 an estimated 1,051,819 Africans of school-going age (7-16) were not attending school. In 1987 53% of the African population was literate as compared to 98% of the white population.

Teacher/Pupil Ratios, 1987 (excludes homelands): Africans, 1:38; Whites, 1:19; Coloureds, 1:25.

Per Capita Spending on Education, 1986/87: Africans, $205; Whites, $812.

University education: In 1986, African enrollment at the liberal English-speaking universities was 7.2% of the total student population versus 81% enrollment for their white counterparts. At Afrikaans speaking universities 1.4% of the total student population was African and 98.6% was white.

Health

Infant mortality: Infant mortality was 94-124 for Africans, 12.3 for whites, 51.9 for Coloureds and 17.9 for Asians. Most African deaths were due to factors associated with short gestation or low birthweights and infectious diseases related to the social and economic environment.

Malnutrition: A 1987 Government survey found that 25.4% of Black children under the age of five in rural areas had stunted growth (low height for age ratios) and an additional 8.4% had low weight for age ratios—both indices of chronic malnutrition. Another 1987 survey found that malnutrition among Black children in South African rural areas was higher than in neighboring independent African countries including Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with stunting rates as high as 80.4% in the Northern Cape, 73% in the Eastern Cape, and 48.5% in the Transvaal. In 1984 the average life expectancy for white females was 71 years and for white males was 61 years as opposed to 47 years for Black females and 41 years for Black males.

Total State Expenditures on Education, 1987–88

Domestic Workers: There are an estimated 1 million domestic workers employed in South Africa, the majority of which are African. The average monthly wage for domestics in 1986 was $33. Many are forced to work 6 1/2 days per week and to live apart from their families.

Black Poverty: In February 1988 the Black average monthly wage was $175, while for whites it was $1,000. As of July 1987 the monthly cost of maintaining a family of five in South Africa was $566.

Unionization: The country’s two major trade union federations are the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) with 69,000 paid-up members, and the National African Congress of Trade Unions (NACTU) with 150,000 paid-up members.

Strikes: In 1987 more than 9 million workdays were lost due to strikes, including a three-week strike by mineworkers, the longest in their history.

Black Business and the Middle Class: Although there are an estimated 100,000 Black-owned businesses, these businesses as a whole contribute only 1% to the total GDP. Government statistics estimate that there are currently 2,860 Black managers, executives and administrators versus 180,000 whites in similar positions.
Repression and Control

Bannings: In 1960 the government banned the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress, the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, and has continually banned popular organizations since then. In February 1988 the government effectively banned 17 national, mass-based, anti-apartheid organizations. The government's order prohibited the organizations from "carrying on or performing any activities or acts whatsoever." At the same time, the activities of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) — South Africa's largest trade union federation — were severely restricted. That month members of South Africa's religious community launched the Committee for the Defense of Democracy which was banned in March 1988.

State 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 protestors in 1960, a second emergency was declared in July 1985 and a third and present state of emergency was declared in June 1986 and has been renewed annually since then. Emergency regulations permit detention without trial, the banning of persons and organizations, and the restricting of the media. The emergencies also provide low ranking members of the security forces with extensive powers of arbitrary arrest and detention without trial and give security forces immunity from prosecution for their actions. 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.

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 communication, association and participation in any event. This law makes it illegal to render assistance to any campaign, domestic or international, that 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 law 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 Africans. Opposition organizations charge that this action effectively continues the pass laws under a new guise.

Restrictions on the Press: There are more than 100 laws which regulate the press and prevent coverage of events or individuals. The press is 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).

Restrictions on Trade Unions: In September 1988 the South African Government instituted the Labor Relations Amendment Act which undermines workers' rights in the areas of collective bargaining, unfair dismissals and strike law.

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, and oil companies are particularly restricted by South African laws.

Statistics on Government Violence

Detentions: 9,194 people were known to have been detained in 1987 under both security legislation and the State of Emergency regulations. This figure understates the number of detentions as it represents only those known to South African human rights monitors. Since the 1986 State of Emergency over 30,000 people have been detained at one time or another, 10,000 of them under 18 years old.

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. One study by South African doctors found that 70% of former detainees had been physically assaulted. At least 80 political prisoners have died in police custody in the last twenty years.

Prison Populations: South Africa boasts one of the highest per capita prison populations in the world. In 1983 there were 440 prisoners for every 100,000 South Africans. This is almost twice the number of U.S. prisoners per 100,000 citizens (U.S. 228 per 100,000).

Hangings: Between 1969 and November 1986, 1,536 people were hanged in Pretoria Central Prison with 1,014 of those hanged since 1978. In 1986, 128 people were hanged, 6 of them white. In 1987, 194 people were hanged, 9 of them white. As of May 1988, there were 274 people on death row, and in the first 6 1/2 months of 1988, 81 persons had been executed in South Africa.

NOTES

- All figures have been converted into dollars at the following rates for one commercial rand: 1988 - $5.00; 1987 - $4.45; 1986 - $4.44; 1985 - $4.45; and 1984 - $4.68.
- The racial divisions used are official South African government categories. The term "Black" includes the African, Coloured and Asian populations.
- Among the sources used for this fact sheet were: South African Barometer, Central Statistical Service RSA, South African Institute for Race Relations, South African Reserve Bank, National Union of Mine Workers, U.S. General Accounting Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- 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.

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