"I think nothing has done more damage to the credibility of the western world than the utter cynical behaviour of the United States and of the western NATO powers in regard to Namibia."

—Sean MacBride

1982 was the year that the South African regime decisively expanded the war it is already waging against the black majority at home by crossing international boundaries and attacking its neighbors. The South African army's invasion of Lesotho and murder of 30 South African refugees and 12 Lesotho citizens climaxed a year of attacks on neighboring black countries. South Africa occupied large parts of southern Angola throughout most of the year. South African soldiers were intercepted on a raid into Zimbabwe. A South African sponsored force has been wreaking havoc in parts of Mozambique, destroying crops and blowing up railroads and pipelines.

The Reagan administration has refused to take any action against South Africa. It preferred instead to allow sales to the apartheid state of electric shock batons almost identical to the electric cattle prods used against civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama. In the name of "constructive engagement" the administration relaxed the ban on arms sales to South Africa, received the South African Foreign Minister in Washington, D.C. and permitted South Africa to open new consulates in American cities to drum up investment and trade.

Throughout 1982 ACOA has been a leader in the fight to reverse these disastrous Reagan policies. We:

• Played a key role in securing passage for state legislation that will require the withdrawal of $300 million in public funds from companies whose investments subsidize apartheid.
• Held an international conference on Namibia in cooperation with the U.N. Council for Namibia which brought together 80 activists and experts from 12 countries and 54 organizations. The conference was followed by programs in Atlanta, San Francisco, Boston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Ottawa and Montreal.

• Initiated Two Weeks of Action in Support of Southern African Liberation Movements involving students on 75 campuses in 30 states.
• Supported the struggle for independence in the Western Sahara with a public statement (with prominent signatories) condemning U.S. arms sales to Morocco.
• Helped persuade artists and athletes not to perform in South Africa.
• Spoke to community, religious and campus groups throughout the country, testified before the United Nations, and worked intensively to get an accurate picture of southern Africa expressed by the American media.

LEGISLATIVE DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGN

In 1982 we began to see the results of the campaign ACOA and other groups have been waging for the past three years to stop the investment of public funds in South Africa. State and municipal legislation passed last year will force the withdrawal of $300 million in public funds from companies doing business in South Africa. Massachusetts, Michigan, Connecticut and the cities of Philadel-
Virgil Smith, until it finally passed in December. Connecticut Governor's Task Force studying divestment legislation. As enforcing divestment from companies selling products to the South continuing to collaborate closely with the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives supporting a bill for the past three years speaking with legislators and concerned organizations and individuals. He is in regular contact with legislators and divestment coalitions wherever legislation is pending and edits ACOA's Public Investment Newsletter. The newsletter is sent to 500 legislators and key activists throughout the country.

The Massachusetts law, which provides that state pension funds sell all securities in companies doing business in South Africa, is the most far reaching state divestment legislation ever passed. ACOA worked closely with State Representative Mel King and State Senator Jack Backman, who sponsored the legislation, and with Mass Divest, a state wide coalition which mobilized support for it. Kumalo addressed the Massachusetts State Senate and made a number of trips to the state to speak with unions, church and civil rights groups about the legislation.

Philadelphia became the first major American city to pass a divestment ordinance. ACOA Research Director Gail Hovey testified in April on behalf of the legislation which will result in the sale of $60 to $70 million in stocks and bonds from the city's pension funds.

In January 1982 Gail Hovey spoke before the Civil Rights Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives supporting a bill to require public universities and colleges to sell all investments in corporations operating in South Africa. Hovey spoke at Western Michigan University and Kumalo at the University of Michigan to help mobilize support for the bill. ACOA kept in close touch with the bill's key supporters, State Representatives Perry Bullard and Virgil Smith, until it finally passed in December.

ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis spoke before the Connecticut Governor's Task Force studying divestment legislation. As a result of the Task Force report Connecticut passed legislation enforcing divestment from companies selling products to the South African police and military or who refuse to recognize the right of black workers in South Africa to organize and strike. We are continuing to collaborate closely with the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee which campaigned for passage of the bill and has declared that it will now press for total divestment. In 1982 we published a case study of the Connecticut campaign in cooperation with the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee.

We believe 1983 will bring even more victories. There are plans to introduce divestment legislation in Minnesota, Kansas, California, Oregon, Michigan and Texas as well as in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**NAMIBIA CONFERENCE**

"The continual denial of freedom in Namibia, the continued violations of the decisions of the International Court of Justice, of the Security Council and the General Assembly, are among the most damaging aspects concerning the credibility of the Western world and are a source of weakness to the United Nations itself."

With these words Nobel laureate Sean MacBride opened ACOA's seminar on multinational corporations in Namibia. The seminar, organized with the support of the United Nations Council for Namibia, brought 80 people, experts and activists from 12 countries and 54 organizations together in Washington, D.C. for four intensive days of discussion. MacBride, the former U.N. Commissioner for Namibia, served as the president of the seminar. The first session also heard keynote addresses from Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun of Algeria, Vice President of the Council for Namibia, and Theo-Ben Gurirab, SWAPO's Representative to the United Nations.

The working sessions that followed generated a high level of energy and excitement. Representatives from Western Europe, Japan, and Canada shared information, research and action techniques with American church and labor leaders, civil rights activists, and experts on Namibia.

Reports were delivered on the role of multinational corporations in uranium mining, fishing and banking and on the various ways in which these investments help maintain South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. Working groups discussed strategies for material aid to Namibian refugees, and for economic and political action.

The participants adopted a final declaration urging the American people to demand that the U.S. "support mandatory sanctions in the Security Council of the United Nations" if South Africa continues to refuse to declare an immediate cease fire and hold free and fair elections supervised by the U.N.

After the conference we sent two teams of speakers to Atlanta, San Francisco, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Boston, Ottawa and Montreal where local Africa support groups cooperated in setting up very intensive one or two day programs. The teams included a SWAPO representative, someone from ACOA and representatives from Holland, Norway, Britain and France.

Minneapolis Mayor Donald Fraser made each member of the team an honorary citizen. In Atlanta, Mayor Andrew Young organized an official reception for them. They met with dozens of organizations including unions, church groups, and civil rights, campus and community organizations.

**STUDENT ACTIONS**

Last spring students on 75 campuses in 30 states held rallies, forums and material aid drives in conjunction with Two Weeks of National Action in Support of Southern African Liberation Movements initiated by ACOA. During the weeks of action there were numerous demonstrations demanding that colleges and universities divest from corporations investing in South Africa, including a rally on the Columbia University campus at which ACOA President William Booth was the featured speaker. Another important feature of the weeks of action were speaking tours for African National Congress and SWAPO representatives organized by ACOA.
Student groups have remained active and successful since the weeks of action. In fall 1982 the University of Maine divested its $3.1 million in stocks in South Africa related corporations. Students in Massachusetts, Michigan and Philadelphia participated actively in the successful lobbying for divestment legislation.

ACOA’s Student Coordinator Joshua Nessen was the key resource for students throughout the country who worked on the weeks of action. He has continued to put out the Student Anti-Apartheid Newsletter which plays a unique role in keeping campus activists in touch with national developments.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA SUNDAY**

On Sunday March 21, 1982 many churches in the New York area marked the twenty-second anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa with special religious services.


ACOA provided resources including a sermon by Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and bulletin insert on anti-apartheid actions taken by churches. Among the many congregations marking the day were The Riverside Church, The Community Church of New York, The House of the Lord Church, and General Theological Seminary. Services were broadcast on two radio stations.

**CULTURAL AND SPORTS BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

In 1982 public discussion and debate over the cultural and sports boycott rose to a new level. ACOA joined in efforts to persuade prominent artists and athletes not to perform in South Africa.

Although South Africa lured some performers with lucrative contracts many others refused to lend their talents to apartheid. Tony Bennett, Diana Ross and the Newport Jazz Festival were among those who refused to go.

Quick protests by groups including ACOA prevented perhaps South Africa’s most prized catch to date. The Harlem Globetrotters announced enroute that they would cancel their engagement at the Sun City resort near Johannesburg.

**WESTERN SAHARA**

When reports surfaced that the Reagan Administration had sold military equipment to Morocco which could be used in its war against the Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara, ACOA and TransAfrica, the black lobby for Africa and the Caribbean, initiated a public statement, calling for a halt to such sales. Signatories included the International Affairs Director of the NAACP, a Vice-President of the United Auto Workers, the Director of the Washington Office of the Episcopal Church, and the Director of African Studies at Michigan State University.

In May ACOA sponsored the first public showing of the film "Blood and Sand: War in the Sahara," which documents the struggle of the Saharawi people to achieve independence in the face of Morocco’s efforts to annex the Western Sahara. Producer Sharon Sopher introduced the film. Speaking to an audience of seventy-five invited guests which included several African ambassadors, Madjid Abdullah, the Polisario representative and Jennifer Davis outlined the ongoing Saharawi struggle and highlighted the Reagan administration’s dangerous policy of increasing support for Morocco.

ACOA President William Booth addressing a demonstration at Columbia University during the Two Weeks of Action.

**INFORMATION AND OUTREACH**

The outrages committed by the apartheid regime, Reagan’s ever closer collaboration with South Africa and our own constant activities have generated new interest in the region. Our staff has been hard pressed to meet the demand for speakers, interviews and testimony and to respond to the requests for information that come in every day from journalists, legislators, churches, universities, civic organizations, and unions.

Early in 1982 Executive Director Jennifer Davis debated the South African Consul General at Dartmouth College. When Kentucky sent a trade delegation to South Africa Davis flew to Louisville to meet with Governor John Y. Brown together with the Kentucky NAACP, black legislators and representatives of the African National Congress and the American Friends Service Committee. Governor Brown immediately announced that "We are not going to do any business with South Africa."

Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo had to reduce his speaking schedule somewhat following a serious operation in the spring. He still managed to speak on many campuses including Princeton, Yale, the University of Florida, the University of Virginia, the University of Illinois, Texas Southern University, and Berea College.

Kumalo joined a delegation to Texas organized by ACOA board member Jerry Herman of the AFSC. Kumalo spoke in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin, appearing on local television and meeting with legislators, business leaders, grass roots activists, and students. Soon after, ACOA President Judge William Booth was the keynote speaker at a large public meeting in Houston chaired by Congressman Mickey Leland.

In September Kumalo attended the convention of the Lutheran Church in America at the invitation of the Lutheran Coalition on Southern Africa. He played a key role in getting the church to pass a resolution supporting divestment. Kumalo also visited Indianapolis to discuss the divestment issue with leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples).

Throughout the year ACOA staff members worked actively to get an accurate picture of southern Africa into the American media. Jennifer Davis met several times with ABC News journalists who were preparing to go to South Africa to shoot a documentary on the
struggle of the black unions. Film they shot in South Africa was ruined in a way that led ABC to conclude that it had been deliberately sabotaged. Nevertheless the documentary will be shown in 1983.

Davis was interviewed on the WOR-TV program "Straight Talk" about U.S. investment in South Africa and did numerous radio interviews. Research Director Gail Hovey appeared on WOTV in Grand Rapids, Michigan and on U.N. Radio and Voice of America. The Christian Science Monitor published an op-ed article by Dumisani Kumalo on exposing new attacks on the press by the South African government. He was also interviewed by television stations in Maine and Texas.

ACOA representatives testified four times before the United Nations in 1982. Jennifer Davis presented a paper on South African military links with repressive Latin American regimes at a United Nations seminar in Vienna. Director Emeritus George M. Houser spoke before a session of the U.N. Committee Against Apartheid commemorating the 30th anniversary of the African National Congress Defiance Campaign.

ACOA periodically puts together meetings to bring southern Africa activists together with a visitor from overseas with an especially important message. In May we hosted a meeting with Mozambique's Minister of Information Jose Luis Cabaco. Later in the year we arranged for a group of people to meet with Albie Sachs, a well known South African political activist and lawyer who is now teaching at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique.

Throughout the year we mobilized opposition to new violations of human rights in South Africa and the Reagan administration's intensifying collaboration with apartheid:

• Wrote letters and circulated statements supporting the effort to prevent the deportation of Dennis Brutus, a noted black South African poet.
• Communicated with U.S. labor leaders about the death in detention of Neil Aggett, an organizer for a black South African union, and the repression against other leaders of the emerging black unions.
• Helped build pressure on South Africa to commute the death sentences of three members of the African National Congress.
• Alerted church leaders to attacks on the South African Council of Churches.
• Got hundreds of signatures on petitions demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners.

We are especially grateful to the labor and church leaders, attorneys and human rights activists, who shared with us letters they wrote about these areas of grave concern.

We feel 1982 was a year of solid accomplishments for ACOA. But as the year ended Reagan's acquiescence in South Africa's brutal invasion of Lesotho showed us that we will have to try to do even more in 1983.

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*The financial figures above are preliminary and subject to independent audit. Copies of the 1982 audited financial statements for ACOA and The Africa Fund will be available when completed on request.

**Difference in income/expenses reflects successful elimination of $12,000 deficit ACOA entered 1982 with and some Namibia seminar expenses paid in 1983.**

**AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038 (212) 962-1210**

ACOA & The Africa Fund

The American Committee on Africa, founded in 1953, is devoted to supporting African people in their just struggle for freedom and independence. The Africa Fund was founded in 1966 as a tax exempt associate of ACOA to undertake humanitarian projects in Africa, research and publication.

ACOA and The Africa Fund have complimentary programs, sharing office space and staff, but have separate budgets and governing boards.

THE FUTURE AND ACOA

Some who care deeply about the work of ACOA have made provisions for it in their wills. These remembrances have helped generate growth and vitality in our ongoing work. For those who wish to provide for the continuance of their interest in the purposes of the Committee, the following form of bequest is suggested:

I hereby bequeath to the American Committee on Africa, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038, for use in its programs, the sum of $__________.