

P.O. Box 101  
Boston, Mass. 02123  
Sept. 15, 1976

Dear Friend,

The Southern Africa Solidarity Committee has recently called together a coalition to focus on the rapidly emerging crisis in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The coalition includes representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa, the Southern Africa Solidarity Committee, plus other groups and individuals interested in liberation support activities; the name is the Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa and we are currently planning a series of events and campaigns for this Fall. The political basis of unity for the events having to do with South Africa is support for the African National Congress of South Africa.

The major work we are doing right now involves a week of activities during the week of October 16-23 sponsored by the Coalition and other groups. We are in the process of contacting community groups, campus organizations, Church groups, and the media. Those groups that are planning educational events will be asked to co-ordinate them with the October "week of solidarity with Southern Africa." In addition, we hope to have a fund-raising dinner and cultural evening on Oct. 22, to continue the petition campaign, letter-writing, demonstrations at the appearances of Presidential candidates, production and distribution of a brochure, etc. We are seeking funds from foundations and individuals to support all the above plans.

We would like to invite you to participate in the Fall campaign in whatever way you can: Come to meetings and work on subcommittees if possible, circulate the petition, arrange to visit your Congressperson, organize an educational meeting and have someone from the A.N.C. or the Coalition speak, distribute literature about the recent developments in Southern Africa, or give donations to support the work of the Coalition. Enclosed is a Proposal which the Coalition adopted as its consensus; if you agree with this statement, we hope you will recognize the urgency of the moment and come forward to help.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be Monday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the C.M.H.E. Office in 105 Memorial Hall (Harvard Univ., Cambridge); if you are interested, please come to that meeting or call Alan at 625-7199 or Dick at 599-4985 for further information. Thank you for any help you can give.

Southern Africa Solidarity Committee

P.S. Please note that there will be talks by Tapson Mawere of ZANU and Paul Irish of ACOA plus a showing of the film "Last Grave at Dimbaze" on Sat., Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Huntington Ave. YMCA.

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## A PROPOSAL FOR A PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION IN THE BOSTON AREA

The struggle for liberation in Southern Africa has reached new heights in the last two years and especially in the last few months. In response, U.S. imperialism has been forced to take a more direct interest in the area. However, the "new" policy has proven to be nothing but an extension of the long-standing policy of collaboration with South African racism and imperialism. Old forms continue: growing U.S. investments in South Africa; trade with Rhodesia; and investment in Namibia in violation of U.N. sanctions; sales of materials with military applications (and very nearly nuclear reactors - also, possible nuclear reactor fuel) to South Africa. Some new forms of collaboration have been: U.S.-South African talks over Zimbabwe, attempting to force a satisfactory settlement there; support for a South African cover-up in Namibia through a constitutional conference; and the possibilities of more open military collaboration (including possible establishment of U.S. bases in South Africa) under the guise of an anti-communist alliance.

The goals of this activity are: to cool off the revolutionary upsurge in southern Africa; to put power in the hands of "moderate" puppets in Namibia and Zimbabwe; to help South Africa to carry out the same strategy internally in the Bantustans; above all, to prevent liberation movements from coming to power which would be truly opposed to U.S. imperialism's power in their region.

At the same time, in the United States, this period had been characterised by racist attacks on black people and economic attacks on the whole working class. The intervention in Angola, and the statements that have been made about fighting Soviet influence in the region, show that there is a threat of some form of more or less direct involvement by the U.S.A. in a war in the region.

While the present administration represents generally a hard-line position on Africa policy, there are forces within Congress more sensitive to the embarrassment created to the United States in the rest of Africa by the alliance with South Africa. These forces put much more emphasis on working with the black African governments. They have done important work in exposing the U.S. intervention in Angola and leading the opposition to it in Congress. They continue to carry on this work around other issues as they arise. However, for the most part we cannot expect clear support for African liberation from these forces where it conflicts with more general U.S. interests on the continent. Furthermore, the extent to which they will work around this issue depends partly on how much they are pushed forward by their constituents. Therefore, it is important for us both to mobilize public opinion generally against the "conservative" policy and to develop people's consciousness beyond the level of analysis of the "liberal" policy.

Therefore the political goals of our activity are:

1. EXPOSE the racist and oppressive nature of the South African system.
2. EXPOSE the links of the U.S.A. (government and corporate) to the apartheid system in South Africa.
3. EXPOSE the aims and effects of U.S. policy in the area.
4. LINK the struggle in South Africa to struggles against race and class oppression in this country, showing that both are against the same enemy.
5. BUILD support for the liberation movements as the only true alternative to the present system.
6. OPPOSE any form of U.S. support for apartheid.
7. TARGET specific forms of corporate and government involvement.

SLOGANS: Stop U.S. support for Apartheid!

Support the Liberation of Southern Africa!

Fight Racism, in Boston and in South Africa!