

# THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002  
(202) 546-7961

June 17, 1983

Dear Friends,

One week before the anniversary of the Soweto uprising in which 600 unarmed Blacks were murdered by the South African police, three African National Congress freedom fighters were executed for the same reasons: struggling against apartheid and for justice and equality. Out of the horror of Soweto came a new awakened consciousness and commitment to end the destructive force of apartheid. The three young men executed were among those who escaped the Soweto massacre determined to struggle even harder for their liberation.

And, so, out of the horror of these executions we, too, must strengthen our commitment and end all US support for this brutal and racist regime. Never has the need been greater intensified by the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" which has moved the US into a closer embrace of apartheid. But never have we had a better opportunity to oppose this policy and apartheid as well.

For the first time in five years we have a chance to score some major and decisive victories against apartheid. Right now there are three pieces of legislation which stand a good chance of being passed on the House floor and striking a blow against apartheid by 1) prohibiting the US IMF director from voting for any IMF loans to South Africa 2) reimpose export controls on sales to the South African military and police; 3) prohibit further US corporate investment in South Africa; 4) cut off bank loans to the South African government and prohibit kruggerand sales. (Our enclosed Action Alert provides more information on this legislation.)

Getting this legislation this far has not been easy. Getting it passed will require even harder work -- but we can do it! The passage of this legislation would be a serious setback to constructive engagement and deal a crippling blow to apartheid by ending crucial aspects of US support.

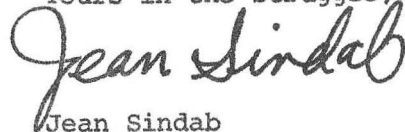
But we need your help to get these bills passed! We need your political support so we can do the political mobilizing which is necessary for success. Our office must now bombard congressional leaders with letters and background information on these issues. We must be able to send you the updated news and action alerts on the status of the legislation. We must be able to place calls across the country to mobilize churches, unions, and South Africa activists. Our past experience tells us: There is no short-cut to legislative victory; we must be persistent and we must be thorough.

(OVER)

**THE SPONSORS OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA ARE:** THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA • THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, DIVISION FOR WORLD MISSION AND COOPERATION • CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) • CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN • EPISCOPAL CHURCH, COALITION FOR HUMAN NEEDS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL • LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIVISION FOR MISSION IN NORTH AMERICA • SOCIETY FOR AFRICAN MISSIONS (S.M.A. FATHERS) • UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA, UAW • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES, AND OFFICE FOR CHURCH IN SOCIETY • UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AFRICA OFFICE AND WOMEN'S DIVISION OF BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES • UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PROGRAM AGENCY

Won't you please help us achieve these victories? We ask everyone to send at least \$10. For those of you who can send \$25 or more, we will send a copy of the new 49-page report entitled: Namibia: Crisis in US Policy Toward Southern Africa, produced by a group of 24 organizations including the Washington Office on Africa. We need to get busy; this legislation is expected on the House floor in July. Please help us send the strongest message yet to Pretoria and Washington that we reject apartheid and US support for it.

Yours in the Struggle,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Sindab". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jean Sindab  
Executive Director

Enclosures