

SNCC

International Affairs Commission

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Position Paper of the
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
(SNCC)
to the Special Committee on the Policies of
Apartheid of the Government of the
Republic of South Africa, presented by
Phil Hutchings, National Program Secretary
for SNCC, at the U.N. on March 18, 1969

Mr. Chairman:

Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Guests:

Brothers and Sisters:

Once again we are drawn together to protest and condemn the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, a vicious and illegal government in the eyes of all those who favor Freedom and Justice.

As most of you may or may not know, SNCC declared itself a Human Rights Organization in 1966 and keeping with the spirit of that understanding, last year at our Annual June Staff Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, we voted unanimously to dedicate our lives to the struggle against the triple-threat hyenas of: Racism, Capitalism and Imperialism, recognizing them clearly as the enemies of Humanity. And since our patriotism is toward Humanity, which far exceeds the borders or frontiers of any land, we also recognize that it is our uncompromising duty to wage a struggle against the practices of inhumanity whenever and wherever we find them existing, regardless of whom-ever the guilty parties may be. We recognize this duty and accept it.

Last year, after having attended in 1967, the International Seminar on Racism, Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa held in Kitwe, Zambia, our Deputy Chairman of International Affairs, a profoundly eloquent orator, James Forman, delivered a position paper within the halls of this U.N. on behalf of SNCC in which he clearly pointed out the role of the United States Government in its relationships with the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. That paper offered indisputable evidences, with particular reference to the "sugar quota system", which clearly could only have led to a condemnation of the U.S. Government practices, in fact, a universal indictment against the U.S. Government, in the hearts of just men everywhere. In earlier papers, the unholy alliances of U.S. private

enterprises such as General Motors or the Chase Manhattan Bank owned by the Rockefeller Family, with the Apartheid Government of South Africa were pointed out.

We are here today, Ladies and Gentlemen, to tell you that none of this has changed. These evidences, these indictments, these position papers have fallen for the most part upon deaf ears. Those, who are without a doubt, the "exploiters of the earth", have not only not ceased to continue their evil practices, but have escalated their efforts in the past year or two. That is a fact. An excellent example of this is the fact that on March 29th of this year, a South African airlines will be launching a campaign from John F. Kennedy Airport here in New York City, to solicit White American tourist trade. It expects to carry 5,000 passengers and 17,000 pounds of cargo in its first year, with an estimated revenue of five million dollars. Holiday Inns of America plan on having 12 inns in Southern Africa soon. Thus American Tourism means more money for foreign exchange to South Africa. It is a continuing stability or a show of confidence in the South African Government. It also means that the United States is making a mockery of all the U.N. resolutions passed against Apartheid in South Africa.

We have also received concrete and extensive information regarding a project centered around Tete Province. Tete Province is one of the wealthiest provinces in Mozambique, mainly in the field of mineral wealth most of which is unexploited. It is also in Tete province that the Portuguese are preparing a vast project geared towards agriculture and attached to the construction of the biggest hydro-electric barrage of the whole of Africa, in the region of Cabora-Bassa. Within this frame work, the Portuguese intend to encourage the immigration of Europeans to Mozambique. Their plan is to create in the

Valley of Zambeze the necessary conditions for the installation of a million Portuguese Colons. The Hydro-electric dam project is 200 kilometers to the Northwest of Tete City. It is calculated that this dam will cost about 350 million dollars for a capacity 17,000 millions of KW/H and that it will provide electric energy to Mozambique, South Africa, Rhodesia and Malawi. The partner who has the greatest amount of vested interest in this project is South Africa which has already stated: "With the cooperation of the South African Republic, the energy of Zambeze could provide at lower cost to the other members of the complex of Southern African Nations. In this way, developing countries could have access to an economy of large-scale production and attract international capital investments." South Africa also intends to link the project up with its project of Nuclear Plants which are expected to be built on the South African Coast in the 1970's. Vorster has declared that: "The borders of South Africa from now on pass through the Zambeze." The financing of the project is mainly undertaken by West Europeans and American groups. They are in part:

1. A Franco American consortium

-Morrison-Knudsen, Compadec (France)

-General Electric, Brown-Boveri, Compagnie des Forges de la Loire, Compagnie Electro-Mecanique de France

2. A German-Italian consortium

Gruppo Industrie Elettro - Meccaniche

Per Impianti a l'Estero (Italie) et

Creusot-Jeumont, Schneider (France)

3. A consortium French-German

Siemens et Compagnie Generale

d'Electricite, en association avec

l'Anglo-American Corporation, South Africa

4. British Consortium

Associated Electrical Industries, the

British Electrical Co.

5. A Swedish-Japanese Consortium

A.S.E.A. (Sweden)

Hitachi, Mitsubishi & Toshiba

Thus, you see, most of the White Western countries have their hands in the pie and the continuing exploitation of our Motherland.

We have stated that we see ourselves as Overseas Africans, not African-Americans or simply Black People in America. This gives us the indisputable right, to intervene in the internal affairs of our Motherland. Anything that touches Africa, also touches us. We do not feel it necessary here today to quote long extensive figures regarding the situations of our Brothers and Sisters in South Africa. We know that this body is fully aware of the mass atrocities being committed against our people there daily. We say here today with our eyes clear and our voices in full volume that our people all over the Third World of Africa, Asia, and Latin America should join with the Liberation Groups, of South Africa and meet the violence of Apartheid with Revolutionary Violence. Let those who speak of liberation, speak of it; Let those who want Liberation, rise up and take it.

No more debates or conferences or mouthing of pretty rhetorical phrases in the corridors of great halls such as the United Nations will free the yoke of oppression enacted by Colonial Governments and their puppets everywhere, against mankind. In the words of Jose Marti: "Sometimes we must speak to them in their own language, since they do not understand ours."

In closing I would like to appeal to this Committee that there are many other "over-seas Africans" within the United States concerned and angered over the treatment of their brothers and sisters in South Africa and who desire the chance to speak before this committee or any other UN committee dealing with the problems of racism and international human rights.

1971 has been declared the International Year for Action to combat Racism

and Racial Discrimination. We in SNCC know that racism, capitalism and imperialism is an international system. Racism rests not only in South Africa but everywhere there is racial and economic oppression of one group over another. We hope that the United Nations will see fit to expose racism not only in South Africa which has been condemned by all civilized nations, but also in the United States of America from the deltas of Mississippi to the skyscrapers of New York City, the capital of the Western World.

To the native Africans suffering in the homeland of South Africa SNCC says "resist" by any means possible. Together the poor and colored peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the North American continent have a whole new world to build.

We shall conquer without a doubt.

WE WILL WIN.

VENCEREMOS

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