

WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA and the WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA EDUCATIONAL FUND

HIGHLIGHTS 1990....

A revamped and revitalized Washington Office on Africa (WOA), and our affiliate Educational Fund (WOAEF) opened 1990 with a refined focus, but nevertheless, with high goals and broad expectations. And despite the dizzying pace of change in southern Africa and in the world, tight funding and a smaller staff, most of the organizational goals set by our Board at the beginning of the year were achieved. WOA/WOAEF made substantive contributions, with other groups, towards achieving our objective of a U.S. policy towards southern Africa that promotes social justice and peace in that region.

Concretely WOA and WOAEF approached 1990 with plans to:

- provide quality commentary and educational material to our sponsors, Congress, anti-apartheid activists and the general public.
- increase our networking with concerned citizens outside the established anti-apartheid movement.
- work with Congress on maintaining sanctions and on achieving new U.S. foreign and military policies toward the countries of Angola and Namibia.
- improve administrative methods and the effectiveness of office operations.

ADVOCACY

WOA continued to maintain an active and visible presence on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress and their staff. We began the year with a briefing for Senators and staffers on the reform efforts in South Africa and the continuing need for sanctions. Our advocacy efforts have also included:

- one-on-one meetings with key Members of Congress on issues such as sanctions and ending aid to UNITA;

- coordinating lobby visits and lobby training for constituents from our sponsoring organizations on southern Africa issues;
- conducting a national phonebanking effort aimed at drawing support for amendments that would have reduced aid to UNITA, the rebel group in Angola;
- organizing and coordinating delegations of religious leaders for meetings with the State Department and congressional leadership.
- hosting the Nelson Mandela National Reception Committee (USA) an international project initiated by the ANC immediately following Mr. Mandela's release. The committee formed to mobilize public support and focus attention on the continued need for sanctions.

And our advocacy efforts have not stopped with the U.S. Congress and Executive. On hearing that the Soviet Union planned to tour the famed Moscow Circus and had developed new trade relations with South Africa we sponsored a joint letter of protest with a coalition of 18 national human rights, advocacy and public policy organizations.

NELSON MANDELA'S HISTORIC U.S. TOUR

The success of Nelson Mandela's historic whirlwind tour of the United States lies with thousands of individuals and organizations across the country. The Washington Office on Africa is proud to have been one of the many who contributed to the success of the tour. WOA/WOAEF, a member of the National Welcoming Committee which hosted the tour, also:

- was a key member of the D.C. Welcoming Committee which was responsible for organizing the ANC delegation's activities in the metropolitan area.

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- assisted in the coordination of a national briefing, addressed by Mr. Mandela for U.S. anti-apartheid activists. The briefing, co-sponsored by the American Committee on Africa, TransAfrica, and the American Friends Service Committee, was attended by activists from all over the country.
- printed Nelson Mandela's historic address to the Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress for national distribution.

MEDIA

In 1990 WOA worked regularly with media at both the national and local levels through:

- commenting on breaking news events in the region and on Capitol Hill. Interviews included national major media like National Public Radio, Pacifica Network, Sheridan Broadcasting Network, National Broadcasting Network, as well as local radio and public, cable and network television.
- serving as a resource for major media researching news and feature stories on the region and southern Africa legislation. This year assistance has been provided for national programs such as: Nightline, Nightwatch, and ABC News.
- providing suggestions for guests and expert referrals for all of the above news agencies.
- opinion editorials, letters to the editor, or articles for the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, the Michigan Citizen, the Buffalo Challenger and several Black papers affiliated with the National Newspaper Publishing Association.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

In line with its major objective of providing quality educational resources WOA has produced:

- tips on citizen lobbying,
- regularly updated summaries of all pending legislation on southern Africa,
- regularly updated sanctions talking points,
- regular action alerts,
- the collectors reprint of Nelson Mandela's address to Congress, and
- regular issues of our three-times-a-year newsletter the Washington Notes on Africa.

Through the Educational Fund (WOAEF) several important resources were produced, including:

- *De Klerk and Apartheid: What Kind of Change?* a briefing paper analyzing the changing face of apartheid,
- *Apartheid Laws and Institutions*, a fact sheet on the laws currently still in effect in South Africa,
- *Natal/KwaZulu, Buthelezi and the ANC: What's Behind the Violence?* a briefing paper on the so-called "black on black" violence in South Africa.

1990 AFRICA PEACE TOUR

As in previous years WOA was an active participant in the 1990 Africa Peace Tour and a member of the Africa Peace Tour National Committee. The tour is sponsored each year by the 13-member committee which brings national experts to small communities. The primary goals of the tour are to explain the relationship between African hunger and famine and militarism and to explain how U.S. foreign policy exacerbates problems of hunger in Africa. This year's tour focused on Virginia and successfully reached out to many new interested communities.

ADMINISTRATION

Following a difficult period of reorganization and financial recovery in 1989 it was necessary to make a priority of better integrating corporate, financial and other administrative requirements with our program work. This priority was successfully met in 1990 and both the efficiency and effectiveness of WOA/WOAEF were improved.

Many more challenges for WOA/WOAEF and to the U.S. anti-apartheid movement lie ahead in 1991: blocking premature attempts to lift sanctions, encouraging the Congress to continue along the path of change vis-a-vis Angola and other issues yet to unfold. There is still much to be done so that the U.S., and Congress in particular, moves towards policies promoting sustainable development, human rights, peace, social justice and non-racialism in the southern African region.