



The Washington Office on Africa and the Africa Policy Information Center

The Washington Office on Africa (WOA), a lobbying organization, was founded in 1972 by a coalition of religious denominations and trade unions. The Washington Office on Africa Educational Fund (WOAEF) was approved as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1978. The mandate of both organizations was to support the movement for freedom from white-minority rule in southern Africa, and to serve as a resource for the broader anti-apartheid network, including churches, unions, other anti-apartheid groups and a wide variety of other non-governmental organizations.

Since 1990 the Washington Office on Africa has expanded its scope of work beyond southern Africa to issues affecting grassroots African interests throughout the continent. And the WOAEF has been transformed into the Africa Policy Information Center (APIC), also with a continent-wide mandate.

The distinctive role that WOA and WOAEF played within the anti-apartheid movement was to provide information and action resources addressed to policy in Washington, and particularly within the congressional arena. WOA/WOAEF provided timely information on the legislative process, facilitated joint campaigns and lobbying efforts, and enhanced coordination and exchange of information among groups working together in the anti-apartheid movement. WOA helped coordinate the regular meetings and strategy sessions of the Southern Africa Working Group of non-governmental organizations. WOAEF concentrated on producing accessible public education materials, which were widely used by WOA's sponsoring organizations and throughout the anti-apartheid movement.

Today, with a broader geographical scope, WOA and APIC continue to stress serving the wide

Africa-advocacy network, including WOA's sponsoring organizations, other Africa-focused groups and concerned individuals. The focus is on facilitating linkages to the Washington policy arena for Americans and Africans.

WOA and APIC have a wide variety of contacts with grassroots groups in Africa, with Africanist academics and grassroots activists in the United States, with Congress and with a wide range of national groups concerned with African issues. The organizational sponsors of WOA, principally religious denominations and trade unions, represent important constituencies in the United States, with their own networks of grassroots contacts in Africa. APIC cooperates closely with the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars. APIC's board members provide links to the academic and activist communities, as well as to the non-governmental organizations that are members of Interaction.

In addition to working in coalition with other groups, WOA and APIC identify key projects which can have a multiplier effect by making opportunities and resources available to the wider Africa-advocacy network. Thus in 1992, in conjunction with the Africa Office of the National Council of Churches, WOA coordinated a briefing and produced a policy paper on Zaire. And APIC published *Africa's Problems ... African Initiatives*, making three recent African policy documents available to U.S. constituencies.

Be a part of the Washington Office on Africa Advocacy Network:

Individual members receive:

- ▶ a subscription to the *Washington Notes on Africa* and critical action alerts on select legislation.

Africa Advocates receive:

- ▶ a subscription to the *Washington Notes on Africa*,



periodic APIC publications and more frequent action alerts.

- Organizations receive the above plus five copies of the *Washington Notes on Africa*, and special discount rates on bulk orders of over 100 copies of any publication.

**Inform yourself, educate the community,
link up with APIC's educational network.**

Individual member:

- receives periodic APIC publications.

APIC Associate:

- receives all APIC publications and the *Washington Notes on Africa*. Organizations receive the above, five copies of the *Washington Notes on Africa* and a special discount rate on bulk orders of over 100 copies of any publication.

*Libraries and resource centers pay individual membership rate of \$30 for a basic subscription to WNA and major APIC publications. \$50 or more to receive action alerts as well.

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Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union
The American Committee on Africa
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of the Brethren
Episcopal Church, Coalition for Human Needs
and Public Affairs Office, Executive Council and
the Washington Office
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Missionaries of Africa
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Home
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The Reformed Church in America
Sacred Heart Fathers

Society for African Missions (S.M.A. Fathers)
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural
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United Church of Christ, Board for World Minis-
tries, Office for Church in Society, and Commis-
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