

## CONCERNED CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017

May 2nd, 1980

Dear Concerned Citizen,

The Concerned Citizens' Committee is still very much alive and functioning, even though you have not received the Africa Bulletin or any other news from us for a long time. Despite our difficult financial situation, C.C.C.A. has been active in many areas:

In June 1979, we began to make contacts in the anti-nuclear movement. We distributed our literature and carried our banner at the Shoreham and Indian Point anti-nuclear demonstrations. Our literature pointed out that the same financial groups which are financing nuclear power plants here also have investments in South Africa. South Africa is not only exploiting the people and resources of Namibia, but is refusing U.N. Security Council demands to vacate the territory and has unleashed a reign of terror against the Namibian people to secure its hold there. Namibia has become one of the world's leading suppliers of uranium. So far as we know, no one had previously traced the connections between the liberation support struggle and the aims of the anti-nuclear movement at an anti-nuclear rally.

Last spring C.C.C.A. began an outreach program to other anti-apartheid groups in the New York Metropolitan area. We participated in organizing a coalition demonstration at the U.S. State Department against Bishop Muzorewa's visit to the U.S. That demonstration was co-ordinated with similar activities of other groups around the country who protested the Muzorewa visit.

When the military victories of the Patriotic Front produced the impetus for the Lancaster House agreements, C.C.C.A. became involved in a much larger coalition in New York--The Committee to Support the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. In early January this Committee was able to raise more than \$12,000 for the Patriotic Front's electoral funds in Zimbabwe. Equal contributions were sent to ZAPU-PF and ZANU-PF. The funds were the result of the most successful event held in support of southern African liberation in New York in many years. Working with representatives of the southern African liberation movements, community organizations and support groups, we helped organize a concert which attracted more than 3,000 people to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on February 9th. Major artists contributed their time. The concert, in addition to providing needed funds to both ZANU and ZAPU, gave a significant impetus to the liberation support movement in the Metropolitan area.

In late February, the coalition organized demonstrations in New York, including one at the U.K. Mission to the United Nations, in support of free elections in Zimbabwe. Some members of C.C.C.A.

actively assisted in the preparation of background papers for the Security Council debate on Zimbabwe which ended in early February. The coalition also decided in February to continue its support work as a coalition. It is now called the Coalition to Support the Liberation of Southern Africa.

During this period two mailings were sent by C.C.C.A. to all members of U.S. House and Senate urging them not to lift sanctions on Rhodesia and not to recognize the "elected" Muzorewa regime.

Additionally, four of our members, at their own expense, visited Zimbabwe during and after the elections to see developments at first hand. Some have published articles in the press, notably The Nation, In These Times and Southern Africa magazine. In forthcoming Bulletins we will report their findings to you. We also plan to publish more detailed analyses of the revolution in Zimbabwe, and of the likely responses to it in this country.

One of our difficulties in communicating with those who have supported us in the past has been that we have not been able to publish the Bulletin. Normally we raise funds to publish the Bulletin by giving dinner gatherings with guest lectures and by raising funds through small contributions from our supporters. In recent months, however, we have been very involved in coalition work and have not been able to do that. With the passing of the immediate crises in Zaire and in Zimbabwe, Africa has assumed lesser importance in the ongoing debate on U.S. policy. All eyes have been focused on the Iranian crisis and on the Middle East. Consequently, we have found it more difficult to raise funds necessary to print the Bulletin and to send it out to the 300 student groups, 400 community groups and supporters to whom we mailed it in the past. We take the opportunity of this letter, though, to say that we are grateful for your solidarity and assistance in the past and to assure you that we recognize the need to continue to publish the Bulletin and intend to do so.

The struggle continues,

  
Members of C.C.C.A.

P.S. C.C.C.A. presently is an initial sponsor of the Ad Hoc Committee to Commemorate the Soweto Uprising. A demonstration is planned for June 16th in New York. For those who are interested in joining us on that day, please call us or (212) 490-3429 for details. For those who live outside New York City, we urge you to take similar action on Soweto Day.