

MINUTES

Emergency Meeting on South Africa Trade
Mt. Zion Church, Seattle, Washington
September 12, 1987, 2:00 p.m.

Present: Randy Carter, Maryamu Eltayeb, Bill Clifford, Marc Lampson, Bob Santos, Tom Buchanan, Eddie Rye Jr., Norm Rice, Jim Gunsolus (Brock Adams staff), Patricia Donohue, Marjorie Prince, Gary Prince, Vanessa Langston, Mike Lowry, Jeri Ware, Charles Rolland, Lee Carter, Jesse Wineberry.

An introductory statement was made by Randy Carter detailing the long history of South African trade in the Northwest. Efforts to date have pressured Treetop to end apple concentrate imports, SeaFirst to end loans, and Frederick and Nelson to end kruggerand sales.

A new menace has sprung up with ore imports from South Africa and Namibia through Seattle. In the past months, shipments of zinc chromide, steel, and uranium hexafluoride have entered our area. The possibility of South African products on public projects such as the metro tunnel and the convention center indicates the depth of the problem and the danger of not confronting South African trade.

Tom Buchanan discussed in great detail the history of uranium hexafluoride shipments to the U.S. and efforts to stop it. A group in Washington D.C. has filed briefs with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, arguing the loopholes in the Anti-Apartheid Act need defining and that uranium hexafluoride qualifies as a banned commodity. Approximately 70% of all uranium exported from South Africa now qualifies as hexafluoride. It is a deadlier form of uranium because it attaches uranium molecules to fluoride gas. When touched or inhaled, the fluoride corrodes body tissues and uranium penetrates the lungs, skin, etc.

Tom concluded by indicating the tremendous health hazards associated with this form of uranium. A worker was killed in Oklahoma and motorists in a 50 mile radius were affected. Fifty people were hospitalized from this accident. Waterfront conditions are such that an accident is very likely. The vapor that escapes from the cannisters travels low to the ground and spreads rapidly. The cargo currently being ordered is about 20 tons of 168 tons purchased. Twenty tons = 18-20 cannisters.

Others spoke about:

-- South African steel at Metro tunnel:

Eddie Rye, jr. stated that South African steel has allegedly been used on the State Convention Center

Norm Rice stated that he has been contacted by the U.S. Customs Service. All steel to their knowledge arrived before the law went into effect. Further, Metro Council will pass a resolution banning all South African steel.

Mike Lowry stated that we must work to see that the Treasury regulations pertaining to South African steel and other products are closed.

Maryamu Eltayeb spoke on behalf of the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid. She urged us to not forget the Namibian workers who mine the uranium. They have no protection or medical coverage as they work in the mines. It is workers here in this country that have helped to blow the whistle on imported products. Our politicians must take the lead in securing strong legislation.

-- Action Items:

1. Draft a letter to the NRC to object to the request of Advanced Nuclear Fuels before October 1.
2. Endorsed the public meeting on October 4 as a means of elected officials and other community leaders to convey the seriousness of this situation to the community.

Final Comments:

People in the community want to know about South African products here. Workers have the right to know about hazardous products.

The one person in the city responsible for hazardous products is terminally ill in the hospital, and no one is assigned to take his place.

The media representatives assembled agreed to:

- Promote the public meeting;
- Do weekly updates on South Africa products;
- Investigate the Convention Center, Metro, and other public projects.

KRIZ -- Oct. 2nd

KFOX - Oct. 4

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Randolph Carter