

FILM SERIES HIGHLIGHTS BLACK RESISTANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA:

The Committee for a Free South Africa (CFSA), a recently formed local Washington group, is organizing four showings in May of recent documentary films on South Africa. The series, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library, includes the classic Last Grave at Dimbaza (1974) and several more recent films depicting the history of African resistance, the emerging black trade union movement, and the role of African women in the liberation struggle.

The showings are May 16(Monday) at 6:30 p.m. (GENERATIONS OF RESISTANCE); May 18 (Wednesday) at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. (LAST GRAVE AT DIMBAZA); May 23 (Monday) at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. (PASSING THE MESSAGE); and May 31 (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m. (YOU HAVE STRUCK A ROCK). The May 31 showing will be followed by a talk by a representative of the Women's Section of the African National Congress. All showings are free, and will be in Room A5 of the public library, at 9th and G Streets, which is easily accessible by public transport or by car (there is free parking underneath the library).

Wendy Simmons, a spokesperson for the group, says the major reason for the series is to heighten public awareness of the internal resistance to South Africa's racist apartheid system. Though often little publicized in this country, resistance has continued and escalated in South Africa -- strikes and boycotts by trade unions and community organizations, protests by churches and student groups, military attacks on strategic targets by the African National Congress. The South African government has talked of reform, while imprisoning and torturing black leaders. It has

repeatedly attacked neighboring black states, while successfully seeking increased support from the U.S. and other Western countries.

The Committee for a Free South Africa, focusing on South Africa in particular, aims to supplement the work of other groups in the D.C. area concerned with liberation in the southern Africa region. It has joined in support of a petition campaign for City Council Bill 5-18, to cut off the investment of city money in South Africa. And it plans to try to make films and other information on South Africa more easily available to people in the Washington community.

"At a time when the White House is cozying up to South Africa's rulers, it's particularly important that the community link up with the cause of African freedom," Simmons said. "The Southern Africa Support Project's campaign for Namibia is a good example, and groups like TransAfrica and the Washington Office on Africa are working hard at lobbying official Washington. But more people from diverse sectors of the community need to get involved."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 585-3265 or 583-3039,

OR WRITE CFSA, P.O. Box 7193, Silver Spring, MD 20907.