

COMMITTEE FOR A FREE  
SOUTH AFRICA  
PO Box 7193  
Silver Spring, MD 20907

Minutes of June 28th meeting

I. Nelson Mandela Event: Rick Clemmons reported on preparations and CFSA's responsibilities. The program is being planned by SASP, with input from all other initiating groups: CFSA, TransAfrica, and Washington Office on Africa. Our responsibilities are: (1) find 10 organizations or individuals to become sponsors at minimum contribution of \$10 and (2) design and print the leaflet/poster. Sponsors should make checks out to SASP/Metropolitan AME and get them to Rick. The leaflet/poster should be ready around July 5. Rick will need help mailing. Call him to volunteer. The event is JULY 16, 6-9pm PEOPLES' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

II. Evaluation of CFSA's Party: With minimal work, we managed to net about \$55, meet some people who expressed interest in becoming involved with CFSA, and have a good time. The consensus seemed to be that there was a confusion about our goals for the evening - to raise money, have a good time, make new contacts - and so we did each of them perhaps less well than had we been more focused. There was a tension between having a party and having an outreach event that was not quite resolved. Some people did come as a result of receiving the leaflet but there was a feeling that for all the mailing we did, we didn't get much return. Because we have only \$27.50 to donate to the Morogoro school, we decided to write a letter to the ANC telling them how much we raised and that we have started a fund for the school. When we get a substantial amount, we will turn it over to them.

III. DC Divest: Chris Root made a detailed report on the ins and outs of the bill over the past few weeks. The upshot of it all is that the bill may not reach the full Council for a vote until September. If so, this gives us more time to continue getting signatures on petitions. (1,000 of the 2,500 collected to date have come from CFSA) We will recommend to DC Divest that they do a leaflet which summarizes the current state of the bill so that we have something to use for outreach. It could be modelled on the March leaflet for the hearings. We will also approach Common Capital Fund about the possibility of getting a grant for such a leaflet.

The legislative route over the last weeks included: a vote in Ray's committee with 4 in favor, 1 abstaining, others opposed or not present; essentially negative recommendations on the bill by two key committees, with the Retirement Bd. recommending that it be exempted from the legislation because the value of the pension funds couldn't be assured and the Housing Finance Agency recommending that its existing bond issues be exempted. (It is not clear how these recommendations will weigh in the continuing deliberations); Ray agreeing to exempt HFA for an additional three years, making five in total that HFA wouldn't have to abide by the bill's provisions; Ray meeting with representatives of DC Divest for their opinions on certain amendments, etc.

Action Alert's have gone to targetted constitutencies in Jarvis' and Spaulding's wards. They ask that a postcard be sent to the Councilperson. Jarvis' office has gotten lots of return mail, asking her to support the bill.

IV. Letter to the Editor re: ANC and the Pretoria bombings: It was re-written by David Neigus and Carolyn Long and sent to editors of local papers. Because both Post and NYTimes took fairly strong editorial stands understanding (if not supporting) the ANC's actions, it was decided that the letter should be educational in nature and geared for local papers.

July 12<sup>th</sup>, District Bldg., rm 114, 7:30 pm → next meeting