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4205 SE Ramona
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(503) 774-2397

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Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

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Bulletin Editor

Bud Day
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Los Angeles, CA 90034

Political Action Comm.

Christine Root
729 Sunset Ln.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Carol Thompson
Political Science Dept.
USC
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Research Comm.

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1839 Newton St., NW
Washington, DC 20010

Ann Seidman
7 Dartmouth Pl.
Boston, MA 02116

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June 15, 1989

John Hammock
Executive Director
Oxfam America
115 Broadway
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Hammock,

Thank you for your letter of May 26 describing the work of Oxfam America concerning Namibia and proposing the idea of a national coalition on Namibia during this critical moment in that country's history. I apologize for taking so long to reply.

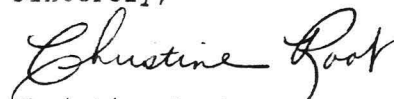
The Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (ACAS) shares your perception that focusing on Namibia at this time is of critical importance. ACAS is organizing a "Namibia Writers Bureau" of scholars who commit themselves to try to insert news and commentary about Namibia into the media in their communities. We decided on this program because we recognized that there was considerable information available from Namibia demonstrating South African abuses of the transition process, but extremely poor coverage of this information in the U.S. media. It seemed that this was one way that something important could be accomplished even with limited resources.

We would be delighted to collaborate with Oxfam America in our work on Namibia. To begin, we will inform the our network of the priority you are giving to Namibia and the eight objectives you have set. If you will send me future press releases or reports about your work, I can disseminate them to the Writers Bureau participants and ask them to make an effort to give visibility for your efforts and findings in their communities.

We would also be most interested in participating in and helping to build a coalition on Namibia. We have no paid staff nor an office on the East Coast, but there are several members of the ACAS Board who could participate in discussions that might take place in the East. Our ACAS Co-chair, Willard Johnson, is vitally concerned about Namibia. He lives in Boston and has already met with some of your staff working on this project. He would try to be available for any gathering that might occur in Boston. My Political Action Committee Co-chair, Lee Cokorinos, lives in New York City and so could attend meetings there. Or, if you gather people together in Washington, D.C., you could contact our Research Committee Co-chair, Bill Minter. I would also appreciate you keeping me on your list for any written material about the coalition, since I am coordinating our Namibia Writers Bureau. You will find addresses and phone numbers for these people at the end of this letter.

Thank you again for the initiative Oxfam American has taken on Namibia. I look forward to ACAS' cooperation with you in this effort.

Sincerely,



Christine Root
Political Action Co-chair

P.S. I have enclosed a leaflet describing the Namibia Writers Bureau and a brochure describing ACAS.

P.S. Here are the addresses and phone numbers of relevant ACAS Officers:

Willard Johnson

44 Norwood Ave.

Newton Centre, MA 02159

(617) 253-2952 (o)

(617) 332-5988 (h)

Lee Cokorinos

Institute of African Studies

Columbia University

New York, N.Y. 10027

(212) 222-9603 (h)

Bill Minter

1839 Newton St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20010

(202) 234-0338 (h)

Christine Root

729 Sunset Lane

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 332-0333 (h)

cc: Willard Johnson, ACAS Co-chair

Lee Cokorinos, Political Action Committee Co-chair

Bill Minter, Research Committee Co-chair