

UCM-Southern Africa Committee

The University Christian Movement Southern Africa committee (SAC), has been in existence since 1964. For five years it has worked on southern African problems in the United States. With the death of the University Christian Movement, the SAC is seeking ways to continue its life and work. What follows is a brief summary of the kinds of involvements the committee has had and will continue to have, the structure of the committee for 1969-70 suggestions for an expanded newsletter and the budget.

Committee Involvements:

1. Education: The Committee produces a monthly survey of Southern African news that goes to about 1400 readers. It also distributes other types of information on southern Africa. This is a key involvement of the SAC. The newsletter is used to inform people of the situation in southern Africa and the involvement of the United States in that situation as part of an effort to change both these realities.

2. Relations with United States Churches: The Committee has had a close relationship with a number of denominations. Members are frequently called upon to speak at church gatherings. The committee chairman sits on the Africa Strategy Group. Four members of the committee have served in southern Africa under the sponsorship of church boards. The committee hopes to continue these relationships and work to keep southern Africa as a priority concern of the churches.

3. U.S. economic involvement in South Africa: The Committee is deeply concerned about the extent to which U.S. institutions, churches, universities, private industry, support South Africa through economic involvement both direct and indirect. The bank campaign has been a sample of major involvement over the years. The SAC will continue to feed issues of this sort into the increased activity on U.S. campuses in an attempt to have the southern Africa issue become one of the international focuses of campus movements for change.

4. The United Nations: The SAC testified before the U.N. Special Committee on Apartheid at a general meeting for non-governmental organisations in March and at a special meeting called for by the SAC in April. The April testimony focused on the student situation in South Africa. The SAC keeps in close touch with staff at the U.N. who are responsible for southern Africa concerns.

5. Relations in southern Africa: Over the years the SAC has built up a series of relationships in southern Africa. Representatives have attended both annual meetings of the University Christian Movement of Southern Africa. Small services have been performed for FRELIMO through contacts with members working for the Mozambique Institute. In the past year there has been increased co-operation with liberation movements in southern Africa.

6. In all these activities we plan to make a greater effort to feed information to African studies programs, black student unions etc. We co-operate with the American Committee on Africa, the Africa Research Group, the Committee of Returned Volunteers, and local committees on Southern Africa. This list does not exhaust our involvements but does indicate the nature of our concerns. The situation in southern Africa is tragic. The struggle will be long. We want, in our small way, to contribute to a new southern Africa. We ask your serious consideration of our request for funds to carry on this work.

Revised Structure of the Committee for 1969-70:

Total Committee headed by the chairman

Advisory Committee:

Members: Chairman, Program co-ordinator, 3 members at large including the editor of the News Survey.

Functions: (1) to focus the ongoing strategic thinking of the committee;
(2) to make decisions between meetings;
(3) to aid the chairman and the program co-ordinator.

Chairman; Responsible to the Total Committee and the advisory committee:

Functions: (1) to call and chair meetings of the total committee and the advisory committee;
(2) to direct the total work of the committee;
(3) to act as official representative of the Committee at all meetings unless decided otherwise by the chair, the advisory committee or the total committee;
(4) to raise the budget for the committee.

Program co-ordinator: Responsible to carry out the directives of the Committee, the Advisory, and the Chairman.

- Functions:
- (1) to relate the news survey to new constituencies and use it as a tool for education and action on southern Africa;
 - (2) to assist in News Survey administration
 - (3) to administer and maintain the office: answer all correspondence in consultation with the chairman and the advisory committee, and keep the files and resource materials in order;
 - (4) to keep financial records and submit monthly report to the total committee;
 - (5) to administer ad hoc programs as they come up in the committee.
 - (6) to assist in formulating and implementing the ongoing strategies of the committee.

PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS

of

S O U T H E R N A F R I C A

A Monthly Survey of News and Opinion
(Stephonie Boyd - Editor)

UCM-Southern Africa Committee

475 Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y.

PURPOSE:

Americans generally are unfortunately not aware of the horrendous details of the Apartheid system that pervades in South Africa and how it affects the lives of 75% of the population. Neither are they aware of the Portuguese colonialism nor minority rule in Rhodesia.

Racism is entrenched in the constitution and laws of the South African State, which provides the supreme example of racial oppression in the world today. The need for change is obvious to those who are at all aware of the situation. In fact, increasingly a number of people feel the solution in Southern Africa must be a war of liberation, as all avenues for peaceful evolution have been blocked by an intransigent white and colonial governments. The violence in the southern African situation does not allow America the luxury of ignorance.

We feel that the News Survey has a valuable role to play in disseminating information about Southern Africa, which comprises the alliance of white racists, South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola, the powerless satellite states of South Africa - Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, and the annexed mandated territory of Namibia (South West Africa).

Through the news survey we hope to inform many more Americans (and others) of the background to and the horror of the present situation and of its future developments. Secondly we hope to alert them to the pending war between the races in southern Africa, which is likely to lead to a situation as dangerous as the Middle East is to the world today. Strategy suggestions for action are outlined for readers as well.

PRESENT FORMAT:

Approximately ten people are responsible for contributing materials to the news survey. Each has an area to cover (e.g. Churches in Southern Africa, Liberation Movements, Internal Affairs, American Involvement) and submits his/her article to the editor on the first Tuesday of each article, checking against overlap, correcting errors and misinterpretations and finally for lay out and design. The news survey is typed at and produced and mailed from the Interchurch Church Center.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS:

The response to the survey has been most encouraging. However, we all feel that ~~that~~ there is room for improvement.

1. The criticisms received from a few readers is that the survey assumes too much prior knowledge of Southern Africa. In other words, insufficient background is given to the news discussed. A detailed background and history is needed to some of the reports.

2. Regular re-prints: This would entail scanning and reading numerous magazines and newspapers to find suitable articles for reprint and writing for permission to do so.

3. Review articles need to be written (for each issue if possible) on different aspects e.g. repressive laws, Tribal College and segregated education, student protest, migrants and contract labour, myth of "bantustans" as independent states etc. The research required for these articles would take considerable time.

4. Occasional Book Reviews of new books written about Southern Africa and an up to date bibliography and comments on new publications including both books and articles published in journals and magazines.

5. Lay Out: Some improvements have been made to the lay out since the survey's inception in 1965 but in order to make the appearance more distinctive and the survey more readable, substantially more time and effort would have to be spent on it.

6. Mailing list: We have over 1,000 recipients at present - churchmen, students and others. But we hope that the proposed improvements would lead to a far wider readership. In addition we wish to actively increase the mailing list by including Black Studies Programs, High Schools, Africa desks of newspapers, congressmen among others.

NEED FOR PAID EDITOR:

At present the Editor of the survey is a volunteer who can only give a limited amount of time to editing the paper. In order to accomplish the improvements in standard, a paid editor is needed to fulfill the tasks of writing review articles, and detailed background material, to spend considerably more time on lay out and design, to publish the news survey more promptly on a monthly basis and generally to accomplish the goal of using the survey as a vehicle for information and education on Southern Africa.

Budget for 1969-70 (June to June)

General:

Salary for Program co-ordinator	\$3350
Telephone	120
Postage	120
Supplies	120
Travel to meetings	190

News Survey:

Salary for editor	3350
Postage	750
Printing	2000

TOTAL:	\$10,000
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