

# CAMPAIGN TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA



Interim Address: 1838 Calvert Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
(202)-797-1253

Coordinator: Carole Collins

## WORKING PAPER ON ORGANIZING AND RESEARCH TASKS - JUNE 1981

A key need of COBLSA is to clarify priorities and needs in the areas of (1) organizing tasks to be carried out by the national office, and (2) research/analysis tasks to be carried out by the national office. Obviously these can only be set with a realistic understanding of the resources (person, time and money-wise) available to the national office (as well as what contributions local groups can make to doing these tasks).

COBLSA has not met nationally since January 1980 or had a national coordinator since May 1980. Many research and organizing tasks have remained undone, including updating past research. Much of the research on recent changes in US-SA links (and in the banking industry as a whole) may indicate new points of leverage and strategies that COBLSA should pursue to effect changes in bank policies towards South Africa.

Below is a tentative listing of organizing and research/analysis tasks which need to be prioritized for the national office to act on (or try to find others to assist in carrying out).

### ORGANIZING TASKS

- A. Strengthen communication between and information flow to local affiliates.
  - hot line or more active Implementation Committee functioning, including regular meetings
  - internal newsletter for BLC affiliates (how often; categories of info to be communicated on regular basis; how could local groups have more input; how fund)
  - Other?
- B. Develop resources for local affiliates' use.
  - Update a listing of organizational statements calling for an end to bank loans to SA (and, preferably, endorsement of COBLSA) - A kind of "The People Say - On South Africa" to supplement ICCR's "The Banks Say - On South Africa". Would quote specific positions by organizations, date and place made, etc. (Local affiliates could assist in collecting statements by regional/local bodies and groups.)
  - Develop a Handbook on How to Build a Campaign (including how to research your bank's international lending activities locally; how to develop a local campaign).  
[This is currently being discussed with Beate Klein and Tina Simsich; it may also have potential for fundraising.]
  - Resurrect COBLSA News as a periodic external newsletter for general distribution (shd look at several local newsletters, e.g. the DC Bank Campaign one, as possible models as well)(again, how fund)
  - Re-issue COBLSA brochure describing its activities, focus, listing affiliates, organizational & individual endorsers.



- C. Attempt to re-mobilize inactive COBLSA affiliates (NY; Phila.) and generate new affiliates in areas of little previous focus or work (e.g. the South and Southwest)
- D. Generate renewed/new organizational and individual endorsements of COBLSA. (esp. among union groups, national networks of community groups, others?)
- E. Assist in carrying out/coordinating any national activities decided on by COBLSA. (See Proposals for National Work of COBLSA)
- F. Fund-raising for national office (including salary), work of local affiliates, and special projects.
- G. Exploring linkages with new constituencies currently or potentially targetting banks' domestic and/or international policies.  
Specifically, to explore other networks/organizations researching and organizing around the role of banks in the domestic and international economy and on people's everyday lives (including groups focussed on: anti-redlining campaigns; role of banks in urban fiscal crises; role of banks in disinvestment from local communities by US corporations; role of banks in job losses and plant closings; denial of credit to job-creating businesses in poor and minority communities; etc.)
- H. Facilitate COBLSA's ability to plan strategically through research and analysis. (See following section)

#### RESEARCH/ANALYSIS TASKS

- 1. Update of the status of US bank lending to South Africa, its parastatals or to private industry operating there. Should be placed in the context of recent trends in the South African economy (e.g. re-emergence in world capital markets in 1980; drop in gold prices) and the current strategic importance of bank loans and international finance to So. Africa. Should include amount of exposure, for what purposes, etc.  
[Beate Klein has prepared a brief update of the international loan picture and of top US lenders for the National COBLSA Meeting.]
- 2. Update of current bank policies on lending to South Africa.  
[ICCR is planning to update their 1979 "What the Banks Say" by the end of summer 1981.]
- 3. Update on new directions/conduits of major finance capital flows to South Africa. Should include compiling existing data and developing means to gain new data on less-accessibly researched financial links to South Africa, including:
  - methods & extent of trade financing, and nature of traded items
  - extent of eurocurrency loans and unsecured loans routing funds to So. Africa (e.g. Wells Fargo making eurocurrency loans through its UK branch)
  - role of correspondence banks & services they provide
  - using 3rd countries as conduits (e.g. 1st National Bank of Boston funding trade between Brazil and So. Africa)
  - new loans from European banks (any stake in them by US banks?)
  - role of European affiliates of US banks in loans, esp. consortia loans



[Should try to develop methods by which local groups can carry out some of this research.]

4. Information on Reagan Administration policy directions that would affect COBLSA work, including:
  - national branch banking (would change scope of campaigns against individual banks)
  - Ex-Imbank trade financing policy changes (immed. task: does FY 1979 loan exposure to So. Africa contradict 1978 Evans Amendment? Are there loopholes?)
  - IMF policy re: loans to South Africa (& US influence on that policy)
  - Other?
5. Research on relationship between domestic and international policies of banks and how they intersect with corporate policies (esp. corporations sitting on bank boards), including:
  - red-lining re: mortgages, home loans, insurance, credit for small/black businesses
  - patterns of divestment and investment worldwide as this affects the use by banks of local deposits [Update COBLSA piece by Gene Jones]
  - impact of foreign loans/investments by US banks on domestic disinvestment, job losses & inflation [See Ill. AFL-CIO study; Ill. Reg. Off.-US Commission on Civil Rights study; IPAC fact sheet]
  - destabilization at home and abroad: banks in NYC/Chicago and bank policies in Chile
  - interbank connections and ownership of one another
  - "Free enterprise" zones and parallels re: international investment policies
  - banks and the ideology of "reinvestment"

[to provide a basis for ongoing future work with community and grassroots constituencies and unions around the role of banks in affecting everyday economic realities at home and abroad]
6. Role and Extent of So. African gold in world and US markets and economy. The US is currently the largest market for SA gold coins. Need to research the major role of 3 NY gold dealers in internationally marketing SA gold output; which of 23 banking outlets for international Krugerrand sales are located in the US; concentration of Krugerrand sales in South/Southwest; SA role in pressing for gold cartel)
7. Research on Citibank, currently the largest lender to So. Africa: their service offices in 22 states; ownership of regional/local banks; large institutional investors in Citibank; pension fund holdings in Citibank; etc.  
[as basis for assessing feasibility of targetting Citibank nationally]
8. Role of US banks in financing South Africa's nuclear industry (much of Namibian uranium may be refined in the U.S.)  
[important as basis for working with anti-nuclear groups]
9. Research role, activities and significance of bankers' organizations such as the American Bankers Association as possible targets.
10. Research on alternative banks and on how large organizations can withdraw their accounts with least negative impact.  
[Need to define what is "alternative" enough, esp. in light of building alliances with diverse constituencies targeting other bank policy areas; what criteria we should develop to guide placement of withdrawn accounts]  
[B. Klein will be researching "How-To's" of the process of account withdrawal this summer for the WCC, which we may be able to adapt for use here.]