

DECISIONS ABOUT FALL CONFERENCE MADE AT AUGUST 16 PLANNING MEETING

Attending: Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea, Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa, Congress of Afrikan Peoples, South Bend, Ind., Southern Africa Liberation Committee, East Lansing, Washington Office on Africa

AGENDA

The group considered further several parts of the agenda which were not finalized at the July 19 meeting. A full agenda for the event is enclosed.

The group also made recommendations of groups and individuals to be asked to lead events. Many of these are from among the sponsoring groups.

I. Overview of current political situation

The speakers have already been invited. These are Salim Salim on current developments in southern Africa, Jennifer Davis on developments in US policy toward southern Africa, and St. Clair Drake on economic and political developments in the US that affect our work. Jennifer Davis has agreed to speak; the others have not yet responded.

II. Participation of liberation movement representatives

There will be discussions with representatives of ZANU, ZAPU, SWAPO, MPLA, UNITA, and ANC (South Africa), on the evening of the first day. Their input thus follows closely the analytical presentations of the other resource people, and people will have maximum time to talk with them.

The meetings with liberation movement representatives will consider questions like the following:

1. How do they consider local groups in the US significant to their struggle?
2. What is the relative importance of educational work vs. direct material support?
3. Specific discussion about current developments in each country

The meeting can start with a very brief statement from the representatives if they wish to make one, but the bulk of the time is meant for informal discussion.

There will be a moderator and recorder for each meeting. The moderators will be able to move to a meeting with a different representative during the 2nd session.

People will sign up for which liberation movements they would like to meet with in each session during registration at the beginning of the conference. This way we will be able to insure that the numbers at each meeting are balanced.

III. Sharing and evaluating local strategies

Each workshop on specific strategies and tactics will consider:

- A. the history of the use of the given technique (briefly!)
- B. an assessment of its effectiveness (what was its aim? how does one evaluate effectiveness?)
- C. what lessons can be drawn from past experience for actions in the future?

In these discussions, issues to keep in mind include: what constituencies has the action been addressed to and what groups has it actually reached? what national co-ordination has there been? what national co-ordination would be useful in the future? what effect do the changing conditions in southern Africa have on the importance, use and effectiveness of each strategy and tactic?

Each group which leads a workshop will be asked to give some kind of brief introductory statement to begin the discussion. It should not be a full story-telling of past history or an attempt to "sell" a certain approach. The idea is to put it in perspective. Each co-ordinating group will be provided with a list of

some other groups which have used the particular strategy or tactic, with the suggestion that they may contact some or all of these groups to help with the presentation, and/or to help evaluate their work along the lines suggested above before the conference.

IV. Panel on analyzing and overcoming class and race divisions in our work

This focus for the panel emerged from the general discussion at the July 19 meeting on how to reach out to different constituencies. The group felt that considering this question might best be done in terms of the fifth point of the "Basis of Unity". Also, differences in class and race cut across the other constituencies (ie, church groups, progressive organizations, etc.).

The panel will address the following questions, with 5 minute presentations from each panelist followed by 25 minutes of discussion among the panelists:

- A. What are the reasons for these class and race divisions in the work on southern Africa in the past?
- B. What are the conditions now -- what is the race and class composition of groups working on southern Africa? Who do we try to reach? Who do we actually reach?
- C. How can we struggle against these race and class divisions in our work?

The panel will be followed by 45 minutes discussion in four groups, each with a moderator and recorder.

V. Resources

Sunday evening will be left mostly free for people to view and informally discuss resources available on southern Africa. As many films and slide shows as possible should be available at the conference so people can see things they haven't been exposed to before.

Also, all participants will be urged to bring multiple copies of any written material they use, if at all possible.

VI. Concluding session

The last session of the conference will focus on the question: Will some kind of national co-ordination help to strengthen the work of local groups on southern Africa?

This could include discussion of specific proposals for joint action (ie a boycott action, co-ordination of educational work) proposals for national co-ordination or organization, discussion of resources which we are lacking.

The form of this session will be discussed further at a meeting of the planning group on Sunday night. This meeting will start with a 45 minute period, in which anyone may come to suggest proposals they would like discussed, or give more general feedback on what has happened thus far in the conference and what is needed to conclude it effectively.

If there are any votes during the last session, each local group will have one vote.

PLANNING DURING THE CONFERENCE

The planning group will consist of a representative of each of the sponsoring organizations. There are two planning meetings scheduled: one immediately before the conference on Friday night and one on Sunday night, prior to the last session. The group felt it was essential to meet before the conference starts to make sure that all the arrangements are still intact and to make any last-minute changes. This will be

a closed meeting. We hope one representative of each sponsoring group can come early for this meeting. (Housing for Friday night can be arranged gratis.)

We may need to meet at other points during the conference.

INVITATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE

All local groups that we know of which are working to support the liberation of southern Africa will be included. We have made several additions to the original list within this guideline. A new list is enclosed. Please look over it to see if we have still missed any groups that you know of.

National groups which have a unified political position will be invited as a national organization. Organizations which have different positions in different cities, or which have different relationships to the national organization, will be invited by local chapter. This second category applies to United Church of Christ Task Forces and Africa Liberation Support Committee.

Each group will be invited to send three representatives, and asked also to list other members of the group which would like to attend if there is additional room. All groups which desire to come will be able to send at least three persons. If there is still room, additional members will be invited to participate. 100 people is the upper limit.

HOSPITALITY ARRANGEMENTS

MACSA reported on two alternatives, one at a conference center and one using university meeting facilities and homes plus hotels for sleeping. The conference facilities cost \$17 per person per day, which we felt was prohibitive, although the other arrangement is much more difficult to co-ordinate.

The group asked MACSA to arrange to use the university facilities, to try to sleep as many people in homes as possible (including putting people on the floor in sleeping bags), and to look into arrangements at YMCA and YWCA and other cheap places for the remaining people.

We were not able to arrive at a fee for the conference without knowing how the arrangements would work out. We did, however, agree on a fee of \$5 per person for conference materials and communication.

We also asked MACSA to provide sandwich makings for lunches on Saturday and Sunday so we would not lose time in the middle of the day.

INFORMATION SHEETS FROM PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Each participating group will be asked to have 100 copies of an information sheet about themselves prepared and sent to the co-ordinating office before the conference for distribution there. This will include information about the composition and practice of each group.

PROGRESS REPORT ON FUND-RAISING

We have raised \$900 so far. We expect that we will be able to raise enough to meet the \$2250 budget, which includes travel costs of resource people and liberation movement representatives, and transportation expenses of people from local groups who would otherwise not be able to attend.