

# ACOA Action News

## SA-US CORPORATE TIES ASSAILED



Demonstrators protest South African participation in the Davis Cup match. See page 3.

## Zimbabwe 'Internal Agreement' Scored

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and three African leaders signed a so-called "internal agreement" in early March which purported to pave the way for black majority rule by the end of this year.

The agreement was quickly denounced by Patriotic Front Leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, who have been leading the armed struggle against the white minority regime, and by the Frontline States.

In a joint statement read by Mr. Mugabe before a special session of the UN Security Council, the Patriotic Front leaders noted that under the agree-

ment, the white minority would enjoy special privileges such as the right to hold dual citizenship and an effective veto power in parliament, while the almost totally white-dominated judiciary, civil service and security forces would remain intact.

"In terms of real power, this agreement does not settle anything," the statement said.

Subsequently, the five Western countries, including the US and Britain, abstained on a Security Council resolution condemning the accord.

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Pressure is building on US banks and corporations to cease operations in South Africa, as students mobilize to build a strong withdrawal movement.

Among universities which have divested themselves of stock in companies doing business in South Africa as a result of student protests are the University of Wisconsin (about \$8 million), eight Oregon state universities and colleges (about \$6 million), and the University of Massachusetts (\$620,000).

Students have used a variety of tactics including referendums, teach-ins, large and small meetings, and rallies.

In one particularly effective action, Princeton University protestors sustained a daily picket line outside the president's office for several weeks during the spring. Two Princeton students who served as ACOA interns last summer were among the chief organizers of the picket line, which drew an average of 65 to 90 students a day.

### **Demands for assistance grow**

Countrywide interest multiplied tenfold the calls on ACOA staff to provide information on corporations and to serve as speakers on campuses.

An urgent need to respond swiftly and supportively to the spontaneous student movement led ACOA to ask Rhodes Gxoyiya, a South African exile, to take on this responsibility in March. This was done despite the absence of any assigned 'budget line' for this purpose.

He has already begun travelling as far afield as South Dakota and building strong links with student organizers.

The NAACP added its weight to withdrawal efforts with a call on US corporations in January to withdraw their investments. In a statement, the NAACP noted that the conduct of US

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## SA-US Ties

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firms to date "has failed to make a significant impact on the elimination of the total concept of apartheid..."

### AFL-CIO urges withdrawal

The NAACP action was followed in February by a statement by the AFL-CIO which deplored the escalating repression in South Africa and maintained that "US corporations should immediately divest themselves of South African affiliates and sever all ties with South African corporations."

In other union action, trustees of the \$236 million pension fund of District 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, announced that the fund would ban investments that aid South Africa. The union has 70,000 members.

Among corporations, the only withdrawal action to date linked to US pressure has been the announcement by Polaroid Corporation in November that it was ceasing all operations in South Africa. This action followed ACOA's release to *The Boston Globe* of information and documentation on the continuing secret supply of Polaroid products to the South African government. These products included film for making the hated "passbooks" Africans must carry.

### Bank campaign scores

The Committee to End Bank Loans to South Africa won a concession in March when Citibank announced it was no longer making loans to the South African government. This was

followed by similar statements by five other banks in New York, Chicago, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

While Prexby Nesbitt, ACOA associate director and COBLSA coordinator was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying that Citibank's move was "a significant step in the right direction," he added that until Citibank bars all loans—to government or private borrowers—"we view it as a participant in the apartheid system."

Further encouragement for the bank campaign came in the form of a March 3 announcement by Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers Union, that his union would withdraw funds from institutions making loans to South Africa.

Previous union, church group and individual withdrawals are estimated to have totalled at least \$35 million.

### Sharpeville remembered

The anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 on March 21 was the occasion of numerous bank actions in cities across the country. These included Boston, where the Church of the Covenant announced its withdrawal of \$50,000 from First Boston, and Chicago, where it was announced that a cultural association had withdrawn \$10,000 from First National Chicago.

In Minneapolis, a press conference was held to announce the beginning of a campaign aimed at Northwestern National Bank. At that press conference, it was announced that over \$1 million had already been withdrawn.

Within an hour, the directors of Northwestern called a news confer-

ence at which they announced a new policy which prohibited the sale of Krugerrands and loans to the South African government.

### Chemical reaction

In New York, two hours before a planned rally against Chemical Bank, Chemical issued its statement saying it was "strongly opposed to apartheid, and consequently has a policy prohibiting any loan transactions with the government of South Africa."

That rally was addressed by Leslie O. Harriman, Nigerian Ambassador to the UN and chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid. He indicated that the UN is considering moving its own pension and other funds from Chemical Bank if all loans to South Africa are not halted.

In Rochester, the Committee Against Bank Loans to South Africa sponsored a march to Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover and Chemical Bank branches. The marchers, who included George Houser, delivered statements to bank officials and attempted to discuss the loan issue.

The bank campaign is not an isolated US phenomenon. There have been significant actions in many countries including England, Canada, Ireland and Holland. The Nigerian government recently instructed its public sector agencies to withdraw their funds from Barclays Bank to protest the bank's activities in South Africa.

### Attack launched on Ex-Im Bank

A campaign to end US government Export-Import Bank financing of trade with South Africa has been launched by the Washington Office on Africa, co-sponsored by ACOA. A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 9746) which would end Ex-Im Bank financing to South Africa, which grew from \$43 million in fiscal 1971 to \$205 million in fiscal 1976.

A petition and a brochure on the campaign are available from ACOA. Some local groups have already delivered copies of the petition to their Congressional representatives.

Materials on bank loans which are available from ACOA include instructions on how to research a bank's involvement in South African loans and "U.S. Dollars in South Africa; Context and Consequences of Bank Loans to South Africa," a paper by Jennifer Davis, ACOA research director.

Also available are the COBLSA newsletter and a list of banks known to have made loans to South Africa. ■

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Thursday, Feb. 23, 1978

**Pamphlet Power**

**Small Group of Activists Puts Pressure On Rie**

**Polaroid halts its S. Africa shipmen**

**Free HARVARD**

**SOUTH**

**Picket 2 banks here over S. Africa**

**AFRICA**

**Board will divest South Africa stock**

## ACOA SUPPORTS POLISARIO

Events in southern Africa have tended to overshadow another important struggle for national liberation in Africa, that of Western Sahara.

That country, formerly known as Spanish Sahara, was a colony of Spain until Spain partitioned it between Morocco and Mauritania in late 1975. This action was taken despite the conclusion of a UN mission that almost the entire population was "categorically for independence and against the territorial claims of Morocco and Mauritania." The mission also noted that POLISARIO, which had led the struggle against Spain, appeared as the dominant political force.

### Struggle continues

In response to the Spanish partition, POLISARIO formed a popular government and has continued to struggle against the Moroccan and Mauritanian armies. It now controls most of the territory except for the large cities and phosphate mines. Already the war has caused a large number of people to become refugees, with most of them now in POLISARIO-run camps in Algeria.

The US government, while not officially recognizing the territorial claims of Morocco and Mauritania, has granted increasingly large amounts of military assistance to Morocco. The ACOA executive board adopted a policy in December calling for an end to all such assistance and supporting POLISARIO as the only legitimate representative of the Saharan people.

A background paper on Western Sahara is available on request from ACOA. ■



William Booth, ACOA president, flanked by organizers of the Davis Cup protest, joins in a show of solidarity.

## ATTENDANCE AT DAVIS CUP MATCH CUT SHARPLY BY DEMONSTRATIONS

*An estimated 5,000 people turned out in Nashville, Tenn. on March 17-19 to protest the presence of a South African tennis team in the Davis Cup match. The protests were organized by a coalition of groups including ACOA and headed by the NAACP.*

*Judge William Booth, president of ACOA, was among those who participated. His report follows:*

The group of protestors met at noon to march from the state office buildings to a large public park. The numbers in the march swelled as it moved along the entire width of major downtown streets. When we reached the park, there were more than five thousand participants.

At the park, major civil rights and African liberation figures addressed

the rally.

While the rally continued, a number of demonstrators marched in front of the Vanderbilt University gymnasium where the matches took place. It is noteworthy that each day the attendance in the gymnasium was about 13% of capacity (between 1200 and 1600 each day with a 9600 person capacity). In fact, on the first day there were 1500 demonstrators, 300 more persons than those in attendance at the matches.

I proceeded from the park to the gymnasium, where I briefly addressed and congratulated the demonstrators.

It appeared that city authorities were cooperative, providing cover and clearance throughout the day. ■

### Sobukwe — In Memoriam

ACOA notes with sorrow the death of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, founder and president of the Pan-Africanist Congress. Mr. Sobukwe, 53, whose death was attributed to cancer, spent the last 18 years of his life first in prison and then under banning orders. His conviction followed passbook protests to which the government responded with the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

At a memorial service held March 11 at the Church Center for the UN, George Houser recalled Sobukwe's words to his followers just prior to the passbook demonstrations: "We must know quite clearly now that our struggle is an unfolding one, one campaign leading on to another in a never-ending stream—until independence is won."



## Zimbabwe

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### ACOA opposes accord

The ACOA executive board issued a statement calling on the Carter administration to reject the agreement and to continue efforts begun at Malta to find a solution acceptable to Zimbabweans engaged in the liberation struggle.

Charging that the agreement "creates the facade of a new structure without the reality," the ACOA statement noted the special privileges assigned to whites and maintained that the agreement perpetuates white minority rule. It said further that the agreement lays the foundation for civil war by excluding the Patriotic Front forces, which, it said "have been responsible for Smith's finally signing even this agreement," and lays a basis for international conflict.

ACOA staff met with Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo during the two leaders' visit to New York for the UN session. ACOA also met with Dr. Herbert Ushewokunze the Zimbabwean doctor in charge of medical relief for the more than 30,000 Zimbabwean refugees who have fled to neighboring Mozambique, to discuss ways in which ACOA can continue its assistance. ■

### Krugerrand Sales

Seven city councils and the Massachusetts House of Representatives have now adopted resolutions opposing Krugerrand purchases. At least a dozen TV stations from New York to Portland have refused Krugerrand advertising and an equal number of businesses including Merrill Lynch, the nation's largest brokerage firm, have discontinued sales. The need for action continues: over one million Krugerrands were sold in the US last year. A useful fact sheet on the Krugerrand is available from ACOA. ■



## ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR

**The United Nations has declared this Anti-Apartheid Year, commencing March 21, the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre. All individuals and groups are urged to observe the year "in full solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement."**

### BRIEFS

Molefe Pheto, one of whose poems was printed in the last issue of ACOA Action News, decided not to return to South Africa after being warned six hours before his scheduled departure that he was on a police wanted list. He was told that police had raided his home repeatedly since October 19, the day on which many other South Africans were arrested or banned.

Pheto, who visited the U.S. last year, previously was arrested in 1975 and served 281 days in prison. He remains in London while determining his future plans.

Vigorous protests by ACOA and others led to the cancellation of a proposed \$14 million rematch between Muhammed Ali and Leon Spinks in the

South African bantustan of Bophuthatswana.

George Houser, ACOA executive director, visited Cuba in February. While there, in addition to travelling around the country, he met with various leaders to discuss such matters as the southern Africa struggle, the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict, and recent developments in Angola.

ACOA's disengagement activities were the subject of a lengthy feature article in the February 23 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* under the headline "Small Group of Activists Puts Pressure on Big Firms to Get Out of South Africa." ■

### PUBLICATIONS

The Africa Fund, associated with ACOA, regularly publishes research and analysis papers on events of major importance in South Africa, copies of which are available at low cost to individuals and groups for use in educational and other activities.

**SOUTH AFRICA INFORMATION PACKET** Ten publications including a list of US corporations doing business in South Africa, fact sheets on South Africa and the Krugerrand, and an analysis of US policy in southern Africa. \$1.00. Over ten, 80¢ each.

**RHODESIA: THE PROPAGANDA WAR** The report of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia documenting efforts by the Rhodesian government to intimidate the civilian population and incidents of atrocities committed by Rhodesian troops. Reprinted by The Africa Fund, 1978, 25 pp., \$1.00. Over ten, 75¢ each.

**VOICES FOR WITHDRAWAL** A new edition of this highly useful compendium contains excerpts of statements by Steve Biko, the Black Peoples Convention, the South African Students' Organization, the NAACP, the AFL-CIO and others on the role of foreign investments in supporting apartheid. AF 1978, 4 pp., 10 cents. Over ten, 8¢ each.

1978 Africa Fund Literature List, free, available on request.

Also available through The Africa Fund:

**POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA** by Amnesty International (London) 1978. Review of South African laws on detention, banning, etc. and a report on numbers and condition of political prisoners. \$2.00

**SOUTH AFRICA AND US MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS** by Ann & Neva Seidman, Hill & Co., 1978, 251 pp. A detailed analysis of US investment and its implications both for South Africa and for neighboring African states. \$4.95.

**THE QUEST FOR A TRUE HUMANITY** Black Liberation Press, 1978. Documents and statements of the Black Peoples Convention of South Africa. Also contains an essay by Steve Biko on the nature and history of black consciousness. 75¢.

minimum order, \$1.00. Add 15% postage and handling to all orders.