



American Committee On Africa

198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038 / (212) 962-1210 / Cable AMCOMMAF

August 1983

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a notice for a national student anti-apartheid conference to be held October 8 and 9 at New York University. We encourage your participation in the event which is being co-sponsored by the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. We ask that groups in the Northeast and in particular the New York City area not send more than 3-4 people to the conference to ensure that there is fairly balanced regional participation. It would also be very helpful if you preregister by September 15. This can be done by contacting us by phone or letter.

With the Reagan Administration stepping up its support of South Africa, it is vital that there be increased mobilization and coordination in the student anti-apartheid movement. The conference will offer an opportunity to discuss grass-roots organizing strategies and also plan ahead for coordinated action. Part of this coordination involves linking up student work to the growing movement in the community for divestment of public funds linked to South Africa as well as connecting anti-apartheid organizing to related struggles at home and abroad (notably anti-racist work and Central American solidarity). We hope you will make every effort to attend and will spread word through your own networks

For groups outside the Northeast there is the possibility of some assistance for traveling expenses on a first come first basis. Anyone seeking such assistance should also approach their school (Administration or Departments) to try to get aid. The co-sponsorship of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid should help you get assistance.

Also enclosed with this mailing is a review of the anti-apartheid play "For Better Not For Worse" which last spring appeared at 50 campus and community theaters in 18 states nationwide. The play was extremely well-received and effective politically and during the summer a tour was organized with anti-apartheid groups in Holland, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland. This fall the play will again be on tour in the United States and we hope that you will make every effort to arrange for a performance or performances. The cost is \$600 for one performance or \$1000 for two performances plus transportation costs, room and board for the two performers. We have already received numerous requests for the play so please contact us immediately on possible scheduling even if the financing is not definite at this point. We need to know by the first week in September.

I hope to see you at the conference.

In Solidarity and Friendship,

Joshua Nessen

Joshua Nessen, Student Coordinator





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NATIONAL STUDENT ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

Co-sponsored by the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid
and the American Committee on Africa

DATE: Saturday and Sunday October 8th and 9th, 1983

PLACE: New York University

PURPOSE: The U.S. student movement has historically played a vital role in supporting the struggles for liberation in southern Africa. Given the Reagan Administration's open support for the racist white minority regime of South Africa, it is critical that we intensify our efforts.

This conference will provide students nationwide with the opportunity to share grass-roots organizing strategies for divestment, and also to plan coordinated action to break all U.S. ties to apartheid.

Already over 30 schools have divested part or all of their funds linked to South Africa and last year alone state and local governments passed legislation divesting over \$300 million of such investments.

We need to build on these victories and engage in direct support for the liberation movements of southern Africa. To encourage such support the liberation movements will be sending youth representatives from Africa to attend the conference.

ENDORSEMENT: We invite the endorsement and participation of all interested students and student organizations. It will be important that all endorsing organizations mobilize for the conference through their networks and by informing other interested groups.

REGISTRATION: Loeb Student Center, 566 LaGuardia Place (Wash Sq Park South)
Friday Oct 7 6-10PM and Saturday Oct 8 9-10am

HOUSING: Available for Friday and Saturday at minimal cost in NYU-area
Must contact American Committee on Africa in advance: 212-962-1210

TO ENDORSE AND FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: (212) 962-1210
American Committee on Africa
198 Broadway NYC 10038
(Joshua Nessen, Student Coordinator)

PLEASE TRY TO REGISTER IN
ADVANCE BY CONTACTING
THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

CRUCIAL MOBILIZATION MEETING FOR CONFERENCE

DATE: Monday September 12 6:30PM

PLACE: American Committee on Africa
198 Bway NYC 10038 (Rm 402)
(#2 or #3 to Park Place, #4 or #5 to Fulton Str
AA or E train to World Trade/Chambers Str)



the daily campus

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Hatred of apartheid lives on in South African play

By JOHN SARE

Staff Writer

"For Better Not for Worse," written by South African playwright Selaelo Maredi and presented last night in Karcher Auditorium, incorporates native and popular black African songs and dances into the sorrows of its two characters, as they try to find logic

Analysis

behind apartheid, a system of rigid racial discrimination based solely on centuries' old prejudice.

More deliberately emotional plays have been written about apartheid than "For Better Not for Worse," but Maredi's story of two men fighting a form of discrimination that permeates and disrupts the tiniest details and the largest components of the lives of South African blacks, possesses an element of optimism not found in the plays of another South African, Athol Fugard.

Fugard's highly regarded "A Lesson from Aloes" is currently being presented by Dallas Theatre Center, but, for all its seriousness, it lacks the raw edge that makes "For Better" seem to be a product of apartheid and not just a play written about it.

The juxtaposition Maredi uses, placing



photo by Leslie Pool

Actors Selaelo Maredi and Moeketsi Bodibe express pseudo-grief over the assassination of the prime minister of South Africa in the play "For Better Not for Worse."

the play's serious undertones in a context of free-spirited, popular black music and timeless, native rhythm songs is an effective one. It brings across a cultural strength that refuses to weaken, a de-

fiance on the part of South African blacks that leaves one with a sense that, regardless of how many schools in that country are segregated, or how many employees are mistreated, or how many

blacks remain in the slums, the will to survive and finally to rule South Africa, in which blacks comprise a huge majority, will not be forced into submission.

The play, presented here by Organiza-

tion of African Students, Association of Black Students and the chaplain's office, centers on a few weeks in 1966, in which hated South African Prime Minister Hendrick Verwoerd is assassinated and the daughter of one of the characters is killed by the secret police.

The two deaths, both related to apartheid, form a violent framework for the intense interchanges between Shaye (Maredi) and Mampane (Bodibe).

Shaye and Mampane's dislike of apartheid is made especially clear when they learn that Verwoerd has been assassinated. The government asks everyone in South Africa to mourn the late leader's death. Says Mampane with disgust, "That's like asking the Jews to commemorate the death of Hitler. . . I'm going to buy some liquor so we can mourn properly."

Yet their jubilation over the death of Verwoerd is short-lived, and we begin to hear still more about the discrimination that does not seem to end—of doctors who train in black hospitals but move to white hospitals as soon as their skills are perfected, of a wealthy white woman more concerned with buying shoes for her dog than the working conditions of her black employees, of black lives stifled while the whites succeed and grow wealthier and more powerful.

But the spirit of Maredi's characters is not stifled. They continue seeking the dignity, freedom and equality denied them, in no way defeated and increasingly determined that the inequities cannot last.

TO SCHEDULE THE PLAY FOR FALL 1983

IMMEDIATELY CONTACT: JOSHUA NESSEN, THE AFRICA FUND
#212-962-1210 198 Bway NYC 10038

FALL SPEAKING TOUR

KLAUS MOPHEPHA: Leader of the African National Congress Youth Section
based in Lusaka

-Mr. Mophepha will be available from October 10 through November 20 to speak at campuses and in communities across the country.

-The ANC has called on people in the U.S. to make southern Africa a major election issue in 1984. To strengthen that campaign Klaus Mophepha will be the first of a series of speakers from Africa that the ANC will be providing

-Sponsoring groups must cover all travel and local expenses.
Honoraria will benefit ANC refugee assistance programs.

TO ARRANGE ENGAGEMENTS CONTACT: David Ndaba, African National Congress #212-490-3487
Joshua Nessen, American Committee on Africa #212-962-1210