

*“Apartheid is  
not over yet.”*

– Nelson Mandela



**THE**  
**AFRICA**  
**FUND**  
**REPORT**  
**1989**





**T**HE AIR IS FILLED WITH REPORTS OF  
CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA • BUT  
BENEATH THE SURFACE APARTHEID  
STILL LIVES • NAMIBIA HAS WON ITS  
INDEPENDENCE • BUT SOUTH AFRICA  
STILL OCCUPIES NAMIBIA'S ONLY  
DEEPWATER PORT • NELSON MANDELA  
IS FREE • BUT HIS COUNTRY IS STILL IN  
BONDAGE • FOUR OUT OF FIVE OF ITS  
CITIZENS CANNOT VOTE BECAUSE OF  
THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN • APART-  
HEID STILL PRESERVES EIGHTY-SEVEN  
PERCENT OF THE LAND FOR WHITES  
ONLY • REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE  
ARE THE DAILY REALITY •





1989

*“Several of the shadowy hit squads have recently been shown beyond doubt to be police and army based structures operating through a line of command which may well emanate from the top.”*

— Max Coleman  
Human Rights Commission  
December, 1989

*“The regime is unable to rule in the old way and is now seeking to restructure apartheid along a new line of defense.”*

— Jay Naidoo  
General Secretary  
Congress of South African  
Trade Unions  
December, 1989

**ONLY VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION  
CAN MAINTAIN A GOVERNMENT BY  
AND FOR THE WHITE MINORITY • BUT  
NOTHING SHORT OF MAJORITY RULE  
WILL BRING PEACE TO SOUTH AFRICA •  
THE APARTHEID REGIME REFUSES TO  
CONSIDER “ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE” •  
YET THIS IS THE CENTRAL DEMAND  
OF THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA’S  
PEOPLE • SHOP STEWARDS, CHURCH  
WORKERS, STUDENT AND COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZERS ARE THE PEOPLE AT THE  
HEART OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVE-  
MENT • THEY ARE STILL TARGETS FOR  
THE POLICE OR PRO-GOVERNMENT  
ASSASSINATION SQUADS •**



**SUPPORTING  
FREEDOM  
IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA**



Minister Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, George Houser, Minister Theo Ben Gurirab and Tilden LeMelle.

**SUPPORTING NAMIBIA** On March 21, 1990, Sam Nujoma was sworn in as the first President of an independent Namibia. Africa Fund Chairman Tilden LeMelle and Executive Director Emeritus George Houser were at the independence celebration. The Africa Fund provided continuous support during the 32-year freedom struggle.



Jennifer Davis with Albertina Sisulu

**SUPPORTING THE UDF** When Albertina Sisulu, the Co-President of the United Democratic Front, came to the U.S. to meet President Bush and urge mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against apartheid, The Africa Fund's Jennifer Davis scheduled Congressional meetings, briefed the delegation and organized interviews with the press.



Charles Malunga, on hunger strike for 29 days.

**SUPPORTING POLITICAL PRISONERS** Early in 1989 hundreds of South African political prisoners, held without charge or trial, embarked on a hunger strike. The Africa Fund broke the news in this country before it received any media coverage. Our phone calls, alerts and emergency bulletins mobilized protests which helped win their release.



Cyril Ramaphosa, National Union of Mineworkers.

**SUPPORTING THE BLACK UNIONS** Striking miners from the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa appealed to The Africa Fund for financial information needed to document American corporate involvement in a company they were picketing. The Fund also alerted American labor and the anti-apartheid movement to the need for solidarity.

# THE AFRICA FUND

## Projects

### PROTECTING NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE

As Namibians voted for independence in 1989, South Africa seemed poised to interfere with the elections. The Africa Fund played an active role in the world-wide effort to ensure the integrity of the vote.

Early in 1989 we decided that the religious community was the key force that could mobilize hundreds of thousands of Americans to speak out for Namibian independence. The Africa Fund took over publication of *Dateline: Namibia* in a unique partnership with the churches, distributing over 160,000 copies to local congregations. It soon became the most widely read publication on Namibia ever produced in America.

During the difficult months preceding the election, The Africa Fund provided briefings for prominent national leaders and a network of concerned organizations. We worked with former U.S. Solicitor General Erwin Griswold to produce an op-ed article for *The Washington Post* warning of the dangers of South African intervention.

Executive Director Emeritus George Houser served as The Africa Fund's observer in Namibia on the eve of the elections. He was briefed by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, and held extensive meetings with church leaders and top United Nations officials. His reports were widely published in the church press.

### DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

As 1989 began, political prisoners in South Africa who had been detained for months or years without trial, embarked on a hunger strike, risking their lives for freedom. Immediately human rights leaders asked The Africa Fund to campaign for the release of the hunger strikers, fearing that without international publicity and protests some of them might die.

International protests forced the regime to release the hunger strikers, but the human rights emergency was far from over. As prisoners were released, the government placed many under virtual house arrest. As the year ended it became clear that death squads were singling out local union and community leaders, the backbone of the democratic movement.

The Africa Fund responded swiftly by getting word to the people and organizations whose actions make a difference for South Africans. In 1989, we sent over 50,000 human rights bulletins and action alerts to elected officials, church, labor and community leaders and anti-apartheid activists throughout the U.S.

The Africa Fund staff provided special briefings for Congressional leaders including Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative Charles Rangel, state elected officials like California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and reporters from "60 Minutes," "The CBS Evening News" and *USA Today* among others.

Anti-apartheid activists called our telephone information hot line continually for the facts they needed to send a protest message, write an article, prepare a sermon or speech. By making crucial information instantly available, the telephone hot line empowered diverse groups from Maine to California to take effective action to defend human rights in South Africa.

### SANCTIONS AND DIVESTMENT

In 1989 both the apartheid government and U.S. corporations were feeling the pain of sanctions and divestment.

In southern Africa sanctions helped bring the release of senior political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu, and end the war against the Namibian people.

In the U.S. many corporations finally decided to cut all ties with apartheid. Hewlett-Packard, announcing its pullout, cited divestment and selective purchasing. The problem, a spokesperson said, "was measured in millions."

But other corporations attempted to evade divestment and selective purchasing measures by hiding their investments in South Africa behind franchising and licensing agreements. And voices in the Administration and on Capitol Hill began to call for easing or eliminating sanctions.

The Africa Fund countered these trends through public education, reaching out especially to public officials and community leaders. States and cities turned to The Africa Fund as the final arbiter of who is and is not in South Africa. Some wrote our *Unified List of United States Companies Doing Business in South Africa* into their legislation as the prime reference source.

City and state governments frequently consulted with The Africa Fund before launching new investment policies. Denver worked with Fund staff to ensure that a bond issue for a new airport did not involve investment banks lending to apartheid.

We helped the Massachusetts state finance committee develop a list of corporations banned from doing business with the state because of their apartheid connections.

At the federal level, The Africa Fund continued to press for the total economic isolation of South Africa through many activities:

- Executive Director Jennifer Davis briefed a strategy session convened by Senator Paul Simon on South African government policy and a U.S. response.
- Congressman Ron Dellums circulated our *South Africa Fact Sheet* to every member of the House and Senate to promote "informed debate" on sanctions.
- The House Banking Committee staff called us repeatedly to get information as the committee framed new restrictions on loans to South Africa.
- Congressman Charles Rangel drew on The Africa Fund staff for information and advice on new tax legislation aimed at South African corporations.
- Research Director Adotei Akwei provided Members of Congress with regular updates on the sanctions issue, debunking reports that South Africans were wavering in their desire for increased pressure on the apartheid economy.

### AIDING REFUGEES FROM APARTHEID

In 1989 The Africa Fund provided over \$100,000 worth of aid to South African refugee centers operated by the African National Congress. In addition to direct funding, we supplied medicines, medical equipment, textbooks and school supplies and technical advice as an investment in South Africa's future.

The ANC asked The Africa Fund for special assistance to send a technician to their Lusaka headquarters to set up a new departmental computer system and, equally important, train people to use it. The new system has both increased the efficiency of the operations and provided exiled young people with skills and training that they could not acquire at home.

## Research and Education

### INFORMATION FOR ACTION

The Africa Fund's Research Center is the nerve center of the anti-apartheid effort in the U.S. Two people, in a small office with fifty filing cabinets and a computer, get out the information that makes action possible. Throughout 1989 they transformed daily faxes from southern Africa and a mountain of publications into bulletins and briefings that empowered a broad range of people to stand up for freedom in southern Africa.

**Students and Youth** - Africa Fund Projects Director Rob Jones collaborated with Daddy-O, the lead singer of the rap group Stetsasonic, in an exciting on-campus educational program on southern Africa for inner city high schools and community colleges.

**Anti-Apartheid Coalitions** - The Africa Fund has built a unique network of community and statewide coalitions that care deeply about the people of southern Africa. Phone calls, action alerts and speakers from The Africa Fund enabled these coalitions to help pass a selective purchasing bill, hold a vigil for political prisoners or run a successful educational event.

**The Media** - Both the electronic and print media looked to The Africa Fund as a primary source of information on issues from investment and human rights to the cultural boycott and attacks on the Frontline States. In a typical week we were contacted by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, "The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour," and "The CBS Evening News."

**South Africa Now** - Confronted by censorship that kept South Africa off America's TV screens, The Africa Fund sponsored the ground-breaking series "South Africa Now". Produced by Globalvision, this award winning weekly news magazine appears on PBS and cable stations from coast to coast. "South Africa Now" broadcast the first reports of the South African military's cold-blooded execution of SWAPO troops days after the UN arrived in Namibia.

### PUBLICATIONS

From the powerful chairman of a Congressional committee to a high school student, people who need to know about southern Africa find Africa Fund publications indispensable. Among our 1989 publications were:

- *The Struggle for a Democratic South Africa - Looking to 1990*
- *South Africa: Questions and Answers on Sanctions*
- *IBM Lobbies to Continue Business with South Africa*
- *Apartheid Whitewash: South African Propaganda in the United States*
- *Dateline: Namibia*
- Special Briefing Papers For Public Officials, Human Rights Organizations, Religious Leaders and Civil Rights Organizations

## Membership and Fundraising

The Africa Fund depends on thousands of individuals who contribute from a single dollar to several thousand dollars each year. Contributions come in response to appeals, progress reports and the annual report. In 1989 we mailed to nearly 100,000 potential new contributors.

Artists United Against Apartheid, who produced the Sun City record, continued to provide important political and financial support. Our entire membership and fundraising program absorbs only 6.1% of The Africa Fund's annual budget.

**WORKING FOR  
AFRICAN FREEDOM  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES**



New York City Mayor David Dinkins

**WORKING WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS** New York City Mayor David Dinkins asked Executive Director Jennifer Davis to help frame new legislation to deny city contracts to companies that do business with South Africa. The Africa Fund provides expert testimony, information and analysis to hundreds of public officials across the country each year.



Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers of SAMAP

**WORKING WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS** Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers and the Southern Africa Medical Aid Project (SAMAP) are part of a network of people that worked with The Africa Fund in 1989 to send \$50,000 worth of medical supplies and textbooks to the African National Congress for projects with South African refugees.



Msgr. James Hunt of St. Peter Claver

**WORKING WITH CONGREGATIONS** Churches throughout the nation responded to The Africa Fund call for solidarity with South African political prisoners on hunger strike. In Brooklyn, Msgr. James Hunt of St. Peter Claver led his congregation in a three mile march downtown. Others fasted and offered up special prayers.



Venita Vinson of Rep. Pat Schroeder's staff.

**WORKING WITH THE NAMIBIA NETWORK** Venita Vinson, an aide to Congresswoman Pat Schroeder in Denver, is a key member of the network that helped Namibia win its independence. The Fund provided the Namibia Network with news and analyses from Namibia and vital resources such as the newsletter *Dateline: Namibia*.

# A VOICE FOR FREEDOM



## The Africa Fund

Founded in 1966 by the American Committee on Africa, The Africa Fund supports the struggle for African freedom by informing Americans about apartheid and southern Africa, works for a concerned U.S. policy and aids victims of apartheid, South African political prisoners and refugees in Africa and the U.S.

### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

A complete financial report produced by an independent accounting firm and an annual program report are available to all who request them. Reports are also produced for federal, state and independent monitoring groups. A financial supplement is available from the New York State Department of State, Charities Registration, Albany, NY 11231 or The Africa Fund.

### BEQUESTS

In 1989 The Africa Fund continued to benefit enormously from an extraordinarily generous bequest from Winifred Clapp. For those who wish to provide for the continuance of their concern for the purposes of The Africa Fund, the following form of bequest is suggested: I hereby bequest the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038, for use in its programs.

### 1989 FINANCIAL RESULTS \*

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenses</i>	
Contributions	\$ 1,027,613	Projects	\$ 835,979
Literature Sales	22,322	Research & Education	169,660
Interest & Misc.	24,949	Membership	43,112
		General/Administrative	15,742
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Total	\$ 1,074,884	Total	\$ 1,064,493

\* Figures do not include an endowment established by the Trustees from a bequest. Results are preliminary and subject to audit.

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