

# T H E A F R I C A F U N D

# NEWS

SPRING 1992

NO. 1 ISSUE 1

## FOCUS

# STOPPING APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE

In early February The Africa Fund launched the STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE campaign in an effort to raise awareness and coordinate activities against the political violence that is threatening the birth of a non-racial South Africa.

While F.W. de Klerk may consider apartheid a thing of history, millions of Black South Africans are still held in its violent arms. As more evidence about government involvement in promoting factional fighting comes to light, the carnage continues. Since February 1990 over 5,000 people have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands have been injured and countless families have seen their homes and belongings torched.

The STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE Week of Activities March 28 to April 4th produced events in many cities and states.

■ In Montgomery Alabama Gwendolyn Patton and the Rainbow Education Project wrote letters to President Bush and Ambassador Schwarz and held a candlelight vigil at Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church.

■ In San Francisco California the Service Employees Union conducted teach-ins on apartheid violence and distributed materials to its members.

■ In Denver March 28—April 4, was declared STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE week by the mayor and a candlelight vigil was held on the State Capitol steps on March 23.

■ In Connecticut, the City of Hartford passed a resolution supporting the campaign and sent copies to Bush, Schwarz, and the state's Congressional representatives. The Council also ordered that information on the campaign be displayed at the library.

■ In Chicago Illinois, SYNAPSES, CALC, and the Alexandra Sister

Photo: Rachael Kagan



*In New York a delegation of religious leaders met with the South African Consul General. Pictured here in front of the Consulate are (l.-r.) Rev. Willard Ashley, Africa Fund's Dumisani Kumalo, American Committee on Africa's Aleah Bacquie, Rev. Calvin Butts and Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker (holding keys), Rev. Bruce Southworth, Rev. D. Darrell Griffin and NY Presbytery's Sharon Davison. They delivered 2,000 keys in protest of the remaining political prisoners as part of the Week Of Action against political violence.*

Community group held candlelight vigils outside the South African Consulate on March 23 and 31. In Champaign, the students at the University of Illinois conducted a dorm-to-dorm teach-in.

■ In Kansas The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee composed of local political organizations and churches launched the STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE Campaign with a candlelight vigil at the Statehouse South Steps on April 4.

■ In Louisiana, the state-wide committee against apartheid began its activities with a program remembering the 69 women, men, and children who were massacred at Sharpeville on March 21, 1960.

■ In Boston Massachusetts the Mobilization for Survival and other local groups held an all-day event on March 30.

■ In Pittsburgh the City Council passed a resolution condemning the violence. Local unions, the NAACP & the Ecumenical Urban Ministries held a vigil which was covered by all three local TV news stations.

■ In Tennessee the Mid-South Center for Peace and Justice held a candlelight vigil at the newly-opened Martin Luther King Memorial monument located at the former Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was slain 24 years ago. Lindiwe Mabuza, Chief Representative for the ANC in the U.S. was the keynote speaker.

■ In Seattle Washington the Seattle Council of Churches launched the campaign with a candlelight vigil at the Martin Luther King memorial monument on April 4.

Also active were groups in Delaware, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Kalamazoo, Rochester, Albany, New Jersey and Virginia.

While the week of action ended at the beginning of April, the political violence did not stop then, neither have our efforts. Already cities are planning STOP THE VIOLENCE events for Soweto Day, June 16. For more information on how you can become involved in the campaign write to the Africa Fund. Help Stop Apartheid's violence!

## THE VIEW FROM MY DESK

### Editorial From Jennifer Davis

With this edition of the Africa Fund News, the first of what will be a regular publication, we signal our concern to stay closely in touch with you during these critical, sometimes confusing times. We hope to provide a quick guide to developments in South and southern Africa that avoids the oversimplification now current in most of the press.

One case in point: The U.S. media heralded March 17th, the day an all white electorate cast its overwhelming YES vote in President de Klerk's referendum, as a turning point in South African history.

But the referendum process itself underscored the continuing reality of apartheid. Once again the majority of South Africans were barred from decision making because of the color of their skins. Ironically, whites were praised for voting to give up their apartheid privilege. Yet the whites were not voting yes to a question which asked "Do you support immediate democratic equality, one person one vote for all South

Africans now?" Instead, the question asked: "Do you support continuation of the reform process which the State President began on February 2, 1990, and which is aimed at a new constitution through negotiations?"

It is not quibbling to stress the difference. De Klerk was forced to abandon the old order by the persistent courage and resistance of the oppressed majority, supported by the added pressure of international sanctions. The white Yes vote voiced important recognition that the old order cannot be sustained. We recognize and welcome that

progress. But the Yes vote stopped short of embracing a non-racial democratic South Africa. De Klerk's amended agenda still seeks the preservation of the maximum possible white minority power. This becomes obvious in the series of code words he uses to describe basic requirements of any future constitution, which must endorse "Power Sharing", avoid "domination by the majority" and a "shared" presidency which would prevent the election of a leader like Nelson Mandela as the first



Photo: Richard Reinhard / Impact Visuals

president of a free South Africa.

Even stronger evidence of de Klerk's determination to preserve white interests is the political violence now being masterminded by the state. Even while he negotiates with ANC representatives in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, CODESA, his government is pressing an assault designed to cripple the democratic movement and compel it to settle for his version of the new South Africa. Progress toward election of a democratic government will not occur swiftly if de Klerk is given a free hand by U.S. policy makers and the international community.

#### AFRICA FUND TRUSTEES

Tilden LeMelle, Chair	J.L.S. Holloman George M. Houser
Marsha Bonner, Vice Chair	M. William Howard Margaret Marshall
Marvin Rich, Treasurer	Frank C. Montero Andrew Norman
Robert Boehm William Booth	Peter Weiss
Elizabeth Calvin Victor Gotbaum	Jennifer Davis, Executive Director

The Africa Fund News is edited by Rachael Kagan and Adotei Akwei.  
Designed by Stanger Graphics.

## RELIGIOUS ACTION NETWORK

### CONGREGATIONS OPPOSE APARTHEID

As part of RAN's continuing education and activism, on March 22 and 29, RAN congregations collected keys which they brought to the South African embassy and consulates all over the country, demanding that the South African government unlock apartheid's jails and stop the violence.

Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, leader of the Religious Action Network, was joined by Dr. Calvin Butts in a meeting with South African Consul General Pieter Viljoen in New York on April 3rd. The Harlem preachers were joined by RAN members Rev. Bruce Southworth, Rev. Willard Ashley and Sharon Davison. They delivered over two thousand keys to the South Africans and demanded the release of the 417 political prisoners who remain in apartheid jails. The face to face meeting was used to remind the Consulate staff that Americans are watching their actions and continue to hold the government accountable for the violence.

Making a direct connection on the problem of violence, RAN held a Working Reception in honor of Bethuel Maserumule, regional secretary for National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA). Bethuel spoke to RAN pastors and the South Africa committees from their congregations during his U.S. visit in March. He gave eye witness accounts of the targeting of labor unions in South Africa for political violence and stressed the need for international support of the democratic movement.

In December RAN congregations participated in a Human Rights Day Interfaith Service at City Hall in New York with Mayor David Dinkins. Dinkins reaffirmed the city's commitment to working against apartheid and maintaining sanctions against South Africa until an Interim Government is established. He was joined by religious leaders of diverse faiths who made statements of their solidarity with the

poor and oppressed of South Africa whom they pledged to support until freedom day comes.

RAN congregations also observed Human Rights Sunday with a focus on the political prisoners that remain in South African jails. Names of political prisoners were read aloud at services of African Methodist Episcopalans, Baptists, Catholics, Dominican Sisters and Muslims, to name only a few of the denominations. Additionally, congregations from eleven states, from California to Georgia, sent letters to the South African embassy demanding the release of the political prisoners.

Much has been done but so much more needs doing. In the words of Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, Chairperson of the Religious Action Network, "a luta continua...the struggle continues."

*The Religious Action Network is a project of the American Committee on Africa, associate organization of The Africa Fund.*

# VIOLENCE AND HOPE:

## A Visit to South Africa

Looking to the future, Richard Knight, The Africa Fund's economic research associate, spent February in South Africa, talking with unionists, church and liberation movement leaders about their plans for a new society. His report follows.

Each of my days was filled with contradictions. In an hour one swings between good news and bad news, between hope and fear.

Much energy is going into trying to shape a new future. I was in South Africa to attend a consultation organized by key church groups, including the South African Council of Churches, to determine what principles should govern international investment in post-apartheid South Africa once an interim government is established and the ANC calls for economic sanctions to be lifted.

Participants constantly stressed the urgency of thinking through the ways future economic development could help overcome the legacy of apartheid. They wanted to think through new roles for old allies. But however intently people discussed the future, anxiety over the political violence was never far away.

I saw first hand some of its terrible effects. The day before I arrived in Durban to visit union and ANC organizer Willies Mchunu, his home was burned down by Inkatha members. I drove north with Willies and other ANC leaders to inspect the damage. As we stood in the ruins of Willies' home, eye-witnesses described how the South African police stood by while Inkatha members deliberately torched the homes of twelve ANC supporters. By

the end of the day dozens of ANC supporters had been arrested but not a single Inkatha member.

Local ANC officials said this was only one of many incidents proving government and police opposition to the ANC and revealing their close official ties to Inkatha. The ANC has been trying unsuccessfully to hold a public meeting in this area, since Nelson

sure to international technologies and world market forces.

■ ANC economists underlined the need to restructure the economy to empower Blacks and pointed out that the end of sanctions must be seen and portrayed as a victory, not as a concession forced on the ANC.

■ Training for advancement was a constant topic.

■ Union officials were interested in the possibility of using states and cities to help persuade foreign investors to accept a code of conduct that would set adequate investment standards.

■ National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) staff stressed that although they are concerned about job creation to combat high unemployment rates, jobs created must pay a living wage.

Current debates on economic issues

reflect the breadth of interests now seeking to influence future directions for South Africa. The ANC is subjected to pressure from international business and from agencies like the World Bank, which urge "redistribution through growth." Black business sees this period as a crucial one in restructuring the ownership and control of business. COSATU wants a say in economic policy.

People said international solidarity has been important in the struggle against apartheid. When political democracy is won there will be new tasks as the Black majority tries to overcome the poverty produced by apartheid. They see an important role for The Africa Fund in helping build economic justice.



ANC and union organizer Willies Mchunu examines the remains of his home, torched by Inkatha the previous day.

Mandela was released from prison. Inkatha violence has blocked them every time.

Despite such constant interruptions in their lives, many people gave me valuable insights into possible elements of a future economy, including the new General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Kgalema Motlanthe, and the acting General Secretary of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union, Muzi Buthelezi.

Among important themes raised:

■ Martin Nicol of the National Union of Mineworkers stressed that foreign investment cannot be seen as the main engine of future economic growth, but will have a major impact, bringing expo-

Photo: Richard Knight

## LOCAL ACTION

# SANCTIONS WITHSTAND APARTHEID'S DISINFORMATION

*"Sanctions were introduced for the purpose of inducing the ruling party to dismantle apartheid and to extend the vote to all South Africans. Neither of these have been achieved"*

—Nelson Mandela, March 18, 1992

**S**tate legislators and activists were surprised in early February when South Africa's Ambassador to the U.S., Harry Schwarz, arrived unexpectedly in Augusta to lobby for the repeal of Maine's divestment legislation.

Weakening the ANC's negotiating strength is the goal of Pretoria's current drive to repeal state and local sanctions.

In Maine, Ambassador Schwarz argued that "apartheid is no longer the policy of South Africa" and strategized with local conservatives to repeal sanctions. But when the South African government's lobbyist arrived to testify for repeal of the sanctions bill, he was greeted by 30 placard-waving protesters, organized by the Maine Project on Southern Africa, the AFL-CIO, the NAACP and the Maine Council of Churches.

Africa Fund Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo faxed information on the current state of negotiations in South Africa and on the opposition to investments from the ANC and South African unions. Working with information, provided by almost daily briefings from Kumalo, the MPSA argued suc-

cessfully that sanctions should be maintained until there is an interim government in South Africa.

By a two to one margin the Maine House of Representatives finally rejected the drive to repeal sanctions in early March.

By early March Kumalo had uncovered evidence that the South African government has lobbied to repeal state and local sanctions in at least five other states:

■ North Dakota's Investment Board met in mid-January to reconsider their sanctions policies after extensive lobbying by Ambassador Schwarz. After detailed discussion — and testimony from the Africa Fund — the board decided to maintain sanctions until an interim government is in place.

■ The Florida State Senate also heard testimony from Ambassador Schwarz in late January. After hearing Pretoria's Ambassador proclaim the death of apartheid, one legislator quipped "invite us to the funeral" just before turning back the effort to repeal sanctions.

Pretoria's diplomats have also traveled to Missouri, Michigan and West Virginia to try and lift sanctions and attempted unsuccessfully to convince the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Miami to reverse their policies.

## RESOURCES

Please indicate the number of copies desired. Add 15% postage to all orders.

### VIDEOS (VHS only)

\_\_\_ STOP THE VIOLENCE 14 minutes. (Globalvision with The Africa Fund, 1992) Documentary exposing the role of the South African police and hit squads in "black on black" violence. Contains graphic footage. Based on footage from "A Savage War of Peace" by Video News Service in South Africa. \$20.00

\_\_\_ HLANGANANI: A SHORT HISTORY OF COSATU 30 minutes. (Video News Service - South Africa, 1992) Powerful documentary about the one million member trade union federation COSATU and the major campaigns it has undertaken. \$20.00

\_\_\_ THE TAMBOVILLE INVASION (WCRA, 1992) Video documents the move and the establishment of a new squatter area that is developing into a functional community. \$20.00

*The Africa Fund reproduces these videos at cost for use only in anti-apartheid activities, not for commercial broadcast.*

### PUBLICATIONS (From the Africa Fund)

\_\_\_ STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (1992), 10c ea. Over twenty, 5c ea.

\_\_\_ POSTER: STOP APARTHEID'S VIOLENCE (22x26 inches) (1992), \$5.00 ea. Over five, \$1.00 ea. Over twenty, 75c ea.

\_\_\_ HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW: SOUTH AFRICA 1991 by Adotei Akwei and Gretchen Kunze. (1991), An end year review of continuing human rights violations in South Africa. Covers political control, repressive legislation, political prisoners, torture, violence, land, housing, education and health. 30c ea. Over twenty, 15c ea.

\_\_\_ WHAT DOES JUSTICE REQUIRE? by Rev. Frank Chikane. (1992), Excerpts from the address of Rev. Chikane, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, to the National Council of Churches of the U.S.A. in Fall 1991. 30c ea. Over twenty, 15c ea.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Org \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and send payment to:

**THE AFRICA FUND**  
198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038 

## THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA STILL NEED YOUR HELP

While their leaders negotiate for freedom, the people of South Africa live in terror for their lives. No one knows where the death squads will strike next. People are being killed on crowded trains, in their neighborhoods and in their houses. Anyone who supports the democratic movement is a target.

International support may be their best hope. The Africa Fund is mobilizing the conscience of America to demand that the South African government end the killings.

We need your generous tax deductible contribution to carry on this vital work.

**YES** I want to help The Africa Fund stand by the courageous people of South Africa. Here is my contribution of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$750  
 \$1,000 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions to The Africa Fund are tax deductible.

Fill out and send payment to:

**THE AFRICA FUND**  
198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038

## QUICK NEWS

# SHOTGUNS UPDATE

The Africa Fund's two year campaign to stop shotgun shipments to South Africa scored its first victory in March when the Commerce Department banned all U.S. exports to a South African company which had been involved in illegal arms exports from the U.S.

Working with the American Friends Service Committee, the Africa Fund had organized protests, collected evidence of further shipments and even filed a lawsuit in an effort to block further exports.

## LABOR DESK

*Continued from page 6*  
against the company on March 30. Those actions were to have included protest actions in the plants by the Steelworkers and Machinists, informational pickets and press conferences, shareholder protests and a formal condemnation by the Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO.

Alarmed, the company agreed to a second meeting on March 19 with Maserumule, Steelworkers Vice President Leon Lynch, Machinists Vice President George Poulin and Fleshman. Facing the prospect of united union opposition and coordinated protests on March 30, Crown reversed its earlier refusal even to discuss rehiring its South African work force. The company agreed to a phased full reinstatement and also agreed to provide about \$185,000 compensation for workers choosing not to return.

"Crown Cork and Seal represented a major challenge to the U.S. anti-



Africa Fund Trustee Peter Weiss, Cora Weiss, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela are pictured here during the Weiss' March fact finding trip to South Africa. There during the white referendum, Weiss said the result "proved that the combination of economic and cultural sanctions, the armed struggle and the internal resistance had finally done their work."

apartheid movement," said Fleshman. "If Crown had been permitted to bust their South African union two months after Bush lifted sanctions, it would have been open season on South African labor. I think we demonstrated that U.S. labor and concerned Americans can and will act to defend the freedom movement from corporate attack."

## NATIONAL ORGANIZING WORKSHOP

The Labor Desk brought together locally based anti-apartheid labor activists from around the United States to attend its National Workshop on Strategies For Local Organizing in

Philadelphia during the last weekend of February. Over two dozen key labor activists, including representatives of the New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area labor committees, the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid, UAW International Affairs representative John Christensen, Mineworkers Special Projects Coordinator Kenneth Zinn, ACTWU representative Edgar De Jesus, and District 1199C AFSCME, President Henry Nicholas joined NUMSA Regional Secretary Bethuel Maserumule to discuss the future of locally-based U.S. labor solidarity work.

President Nicholas opened the conference on Saturday morning, and was followed by NUMSA Secretary Maserumule, who delivered the keynote address on South African labor's agenda for securing democracy. Workshops focused on union-to-union ties and on recent political developments. Rosetta Daylie, Associate Director of Council 31 AFSCME delivered a luncheon plenary about the growth and development of the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid.

The conference ended on Sunday with a call for continued labor solidarity by New York Labor Committee Co-Coordinator and CWA Local 1180 Vice President Bill Henning.



Shop Stewards at Crown Cork's Winchester VA plant meet with NUMSA Regional Secretary Maserumule (center), Africa Fund's Mike Fleshman (far left) and Barbara Shailor, International Affairs Director IAM.

# MULTINATIONAL TO REHIRE SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS

As Africa Fund News goes to press in mid-March a powerful international coalition assembled by The Africa Fund Labor Desk, involving the South African metalworkers union NUMSA, United Steelworkers of America (USWA), the International Association of Machinists (IAM), the United Automobile Workers (UAW) and the national network of U.S. anti-apartheid labor committees, has won a major victory over the union busting Crown Cork and Seal Company.

Last September the Philadelphia-based container and can manufacturer fired the entire union work force at its Alrode, South Africa subsidiary after workers participated in a two-day stay away protest against apartheid violence. The 196 workers, members of Moses Mayekiso's National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, were permanently replaced by scabs.

In November, NUMSA contacted their longtime allies at the UAW to

appeal for international solidarity. The UAW in turn alerted Labor Desk Coordinator Mike Fleshman, who protested the firings to the company and established contact with the Steelworkers and the IAM, who organize many of Crown's U.S. workers. Under pressure from The Africa Fund and their U.S. unions, Crown finally offered NUMSA a cash settlement, but refused even to discuss rehiring their dismissed workers.

In response, The Africa Fund brought NUMSA Regional Secretary Bethuel Maserumule, a key figure in the Crown dispute, to the U.S. in February to publicize the firings. Following a fruitless meeting with the company on February 26, Maserumule was the featured speaker at the Labor Desk's national labor committee workshop in Philadelphia from February 28 - March 1 and traveled widely throughout the U.S. He visited Detroit as the guest of the UAW, and addressed a Midwest

Photo: Mike Fleshman



The Labor Desk toured two NEHAWU nurses in November. Here Khumbu Mtinjana (right) meets with Sadako Holmes, Executive Director National Black Nurses Association at their Washington headquarters.

regional anti-apartheid conference sponsored by the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.

With labor-management talks scheduled to resume in South Africa on March 31, participants at the Philadelphia labor conference began planning for a national day of action

*continued on page 5*

## THE AFRICA FUND

198 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10038

Address Correction requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW YORK, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4598

## INSIDE:

- Fired Workers Rehired
- Local Sanctions Under Fire
- New Videos For Sale!
- Congregations Oppose Apartheid