

THE SOUTH AFRICA CATALYST PROJECT

FUNDING PROPOSAL

"The South Africa Catalyst Project has played a key role in providing resources, skills, and energy to the movement both in California and in the rest of the nation..."

-- Southern Africa Magazine
June/July 1978

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History

The South Africa Catalyst Project assists campus groups which are working to change the policy of the American government and corporations towards minority-ruled South Africa. To date such student activity has focused on ending the support which U.S. investors give to the white regime in that country.

The Catalyst Project was formed in June 1977 by twenty Stanford community members involved in the Stanford Committee for a Responsible Investment Policy (SCRIP). It was created in response to numerous requests for aid received from activists at other campuses following SCRIP's May 9, 1977 sit-in, at which 294 people were arrested. Our communication with other campuses made it clear that there was a need for both good material on organizing techniques, and a more accessible analysis of the U.S. role in South Africa. Financed through foundation grants, we produced both an organizer's handbook and a detailed booklet on American investment in South Africa, and sent out a full-time field organizer to distribute this material and catalyze activity on California campuses.

These publications were printed at the end of 1977 and have been very well received. The booklet on U.S. investment has gone through two printings and will soon be reissued by the Institute of Policy Studies. Our field organizer has made extended trips throughout California, working closely with approximately twenty campus groups. His efforts have led directly to new anti-apartheid campaigns at previously inactive schools and greater coordination among those already involved in the movement. In the spring of 1978, campus groups focused both on companies operating in South Africa and on the South Africa loan policies of American banks, such as the Bank of America and the Export-Import Bank. On May 18, simultaneous demonstrations and sit-ins at campuses in the University of California system won their demand that the Regents schedule a special June meeting to discuss the possible divestment of holdings in companies operating in South Africa. Increased coordination of this nature in the anti-apartheid movement is what the Catalyst Project seeks to facilitate.

The Catalyst Project has also been providing support for the growing campus anti-apartheid movement in other regions of the country. We are in contact with groups at over 125 campuses nationwide. Since March of this year, the Catalyst Project has sent out two information packets to schools in this network, including material on subjects such as alternative investments, and updates on anti-apartheid activity across the country. Upon request, we supplied the National Student's Association (NSA) with a handbook for student government leaders, which included options for student anti-apartheid activity on their campuses, and an extensive resource list. This material was distributed to all participants at the NSA conference held Aug. 6-12 in Colorado. In May, 1978, the Catalyst Project was invited to testify before the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid. Finally, we have provided background material for articles in Time, Newsweek, the Los Angeles Times, Mother Jones, Seven Days, and In These Times.

While the Catalyst Project was involved in these organizing efforts on the West Coast, anti-apartheid activities increased elsewhere during 1977, most notably in the Northeast. The existence of several experienced groups in Western Massachusetts led to the formation of a Five College Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa, to support and coordinate work at the five schools in the Amherst area. This committee contacted groups at other campuses, and helped organize a meeting in December, 1977 which resulted in the formation of the Northeast Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa (NECLSA), consisting of representatives from ten campus groups and several larger organizations such as the American Committee on Africa. NECLSA organized a successful conference at Yale University during March 31-April 2, which attracted

over 400 people from 50 schools across the country. The results of the conference included the initiation of a regional newsletter to keep campuses informed about past and future activities, and a week of coordinated actions at over 15 Northeastern schools during April 14-24.

The Yale conference also introduced the idea of establishing an East Coast Catalyst Project. Two Catalyst members at the conference contacted one of the organizers about forming an Eastern Catalyst Project, and invited him to California for the summer to become more familiar with the collective and the movement on the West Coast. A working group of six people was formed in the East. This group included members of the West Coast Catalyst, members of Politics and Education magazine, and activists from Amherst College, Hampshire College, Wesleyan, and Princeton. These people established the East Coast Catalyst Project.

The formation of the East Coast Catalyst has greatly extended both our communications network and our ability to help campuses coordinate their activities. Currently two new publications are being jointly written by the two Catalyst collectives. One study projects the impact, both economic and political, of U.S. economic disengagement from South Africa; the other, a companion to our organizing publication, will compile additional information useful to campus organizers, including a current contact/resource list, and strategic histories of various campus movements from the last year. In addition to these booklets, the Catalyst Project will be printing a monthly national newsletter beginning in the autumn.

The Catalyst Project is uniquely suited to address the needs of the student movement. The blossoming of campus anti-apartheid groups, over the short period of two years, has created a need for additional resources and greater communication and coordination among groups. Many new student activists lack experience and basic skills in organizing, and therefore resources are vital both to support existing groups and to assist those students who are now initiating anti-apartheid work on their campuses.

There are several non-student organizations, such as the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), which have provided excellent and useful information on U.S. involvement in South Africa. However, such groups are neither experienced in nor directed toward campus organizing, and their research is designed to provide general information, rather than information directed specifically toward a student constituency. There are also student coalitions already in existence, such as NECLSA in the East and Campuses United Against Apartheid (CUAA) which the Catalyst has started in the West. But these coalitions are composed of full-time students who are actively involved in their own campus groups, and who tend to be somewhat separated from each other geographically. The coalitions are consequently limited both organizationally and in terms of the time and energy their members are able to devote on a regular basis.

The South Africa Catalyst Project is able to meet the needs of the student anti-apartheid movement which no other group has met. It is composed of students and former students, experienced in campus anti-apartheid organizing, who work together on a regular basis and devote most of their time to building and strengthening the student movement. The Catalyst Project's literature is designed specifically to provide students with the information they need to launch successful campus movements. Our considerable access to news and information concerning the growing movement across the country has increasingly made us the known clearinghouse for information and contacts which strengthen the unity of the movement.

Goals and Philosophy

The major goal of the South Africa Catalyst Project is to support the movement for self-determination in South Africa, building a strong student anti-apartheid movement in the U.S. This student movement, as part of the more broadly based anti-apartheid activity in the U.S., will help precipitate the economic disengagement of U.S. corporations from South Africa, and will help prevent any U.S. military intervention there. To achieve these long-term objectives, we must concentrate on more immediate goals:

1. To promote awareness about the South Africa issue and to provide relevant information on U.S. involvement there.

2. To support and strengthen new and existing student anti-apartheid groups, through introducing strategies and tactics which have proved successful on other campuses, and by providing advice and information on student organizing techniques.

3. To facilitate greater contact between students, churches, and unions involved in anti-apartheid work.

4. To promote local discussion about socially progressive reinvestments of institutional endowments currently invested in corporations present in South Africa.

We expect that organizing around the issue of apartheid will promote a greater awareness of the need for social change here in the U.S., and will facilitate the growth of a movement that challenges basic social, economic, and political tenets.

Our experience has shown us that there are several basic principles which must be adhered to in order to assure successful organizing. First, we are committed to non violence, both verbal and physical. Second, we believe in leadership by example, democratic decision-making, and constant grass-roots work. Finally, our previous work showed us how important it is to focus on a specific issue; to meticulously organize every action; and to resort to direct action only when established channels have been exhausted, real community support is apparent, and a firm commitment exists to backing up any demands which are made.

Structure and Decision-Making

The South Africa Catalyst Project's Board consists of eighteen members, nine in both the East and West collectives. The Board size may fluctuate but will never exceed twelve members in each collective; all new members must be approved by consensus in the particular collective to which they are being added. Board members have final responsibility for the Catalyst Project's decisions and are expected to work toward their implementation.

Day-to-day operations are overseen by the staff of each collective, who are automatically Board members. All major policy decisions are made by consensus, with each member of the Board having an equal voice. Activities and decisions which are purely regional in scope will be decided by the Catalyst Project's collective in that area, again through consensus. Frequent meetings of the Board

members on each coast, and prompt communication of the proceedings of those meetings, will assure unity and coordination between the two collectives.

Funding will be sought on both a regional and a national level, with the national funding specifically designated for Catalyst activities of a national scope. All national-level funding will be divided equally between the East and the West collectives. Each collective is responsible for obtaining its own funding for regional activities, although as members of the same Project we will aid each other in fundraising whenever possible.

Goal Implementation

In the coming year (Sept. '78 - Sept. '79), the Catalyst Project intends to expand its work on campuses in aiding the growth of a movement to end U.S. complicity in apartheid. Our efforts will be directed in three major areas.

First, we will intensify our work on the nation's campuses. At previously inactive schools, our field organizers will stimulate anti-apartheid organizing by making contact with various student political organizations, student governments, the campus media, individual student activists, concerned campus workers, and progressive professors. Field organizers will also serve in an advisory capacity to established anti-apartheid groups. In both settings, the field organizers will give advice regarding strategy, internal structure, feminist process, and such skills as working with the media, outreach and canvassing.

Our field organizers will have close contact with a large number of student activists. They will provide those activists with each other's current plans and status, and encourage them to communicate directly with each other. As we have found during the past year, the field organizers' visits will also generate a sense of the size and excitement of the expanding student movement.

Field organizers will submit regular reports to their respective Catalyst Boards detailing their activities and analyzing the progress made at each school. All reports will be scrutinized for the degree to which our efforts are leading to the establishment of functioning groups and the development of local leadership. Field organizers will also ensure the effective distribution of each of the Project's publications as well as research on the possibilities for reinvestment of college endowments. It is anticipated that through this process, local needs for further research will also be identified.

Second, we plan to expand our role as a clearinghouse for the national student anti-apartheid movement. Over the past year, the Western Catalyst office has served this function for CUAA and the University of California Coordinating Committee. Also, every week we receive numerous requests for assistance from campus groups, active individuals, national groups (such as the Americans for Democratic Action, Youth Division), and media. The Eastern Catalyst office will provide a clearinghouse for the Eastern half of the country; this office may be located with the office of the American Committee on Africa.

Both Catalyst collective offices will be equipped to supply a broad range of resources to local student groups, as well as to larger regional and national organizations. These resources include reports on American economic ties to South Africa and the likely impact of a boycott on the struggle for freedom there; guides on how to initiate and maintain a campus movement and on specific activities such as divestment, the Kruggerand issue, the bank campaigns, and legislative developments; up-to-date facts on particular strategies being employed around the country; and information on options for socially progressive reinvestment.

Most importantly, the clearinghouse will facilitate the formulation of joint strategies among individual campus groups and regional associations, so that they may focus more effectively on the policies of the American government, as well as the practices of U.S. corporations.

The clearinghouse work will primarily be the responsibility of the office workers in each Catalyst office, who will direct correspondence, collect news relevant to the movement, make new informational contacts, manage the newsletter, and coordinate the work of Board members and friends of the Catalyst Project.

The third major area we will concentrate on is the compilation and distribution of our monthly newsletter. This newsletter will fulfill several critical needs. It will be the major form of outreach to schools where organizers are unable to go, such as certain Midwestern and Southern colleges and universities where we have no organizer, and small colleges both inside of and beyond our organizers' active areas. Through its ability to connect student activists to each other and to the wider movement, the newsletter will increase the motivation and enthusiasm of its readers, demonstrating to them their position as part of a large and effective movement. As an implementation of this goal, our distribution of the newsletter will extend beyond the leadership of each student group to many of the individual members. We feel a newsletter is the fastest and most efficient means of disseminating to students information on new resources, tactics, and organizing ideas.

The content of the newsletter will vary somewhat as new needs arise and as the student movement develops, but it is possible to draw a broad outline of the types of information we will include. It will regularly update its readers on general anti-apartheid news, resources, and tactics. In addition, each issue will focus on the organizing efforts at one or several campuses; will communicate the most relevant news available from South Africa; and will continually update an address list, to enable its readers to contact one another directly.

We anticipate that the newsletter's format will be off-set printing, on legal sized paper. It will usually be eight pages long (four sheets, front and back), to be varied occasionally as the need arises. The East and West Catalyst collectives will alternate the publishing of the newsletter and jointly distribute it nationwide.

PROPOSED BUDGET (SEPT. '78-SEPT. '79)

National Newsletter:

5,000 copies at 15¢ each = \$750.00/month for nine months..... \$6,750.00
\$6,750.00

Staff:

West: Two field organizers, \$300.00/mo. each,
for twelve months..... 7,200.00
Two officepersons, \$300.00/mo. each,
for twelve months.....7,200.00
Gas and Maintenance, \$240.00/mo. for each field
organizer, for ten months.....4,800.00
\$19,200.00

East: Two field organizers, \$350.00/mo. each,
for twelve months.....8,400.00
Two officepersons, \$350/mo. each,
for twelve months.....8,400.00
Gas and Maintenance, \$190.00/mo. for each field
organizer, for ten months.....3,800.00
\$20,600.00

Office Space:

West: \$100.00/mo. for twelve months.....1,200.00
East: \$150.00/mo. for twelve months.....1,800.00
\$3,000.00

Telephone:

West: \$200.00/mo. for twelve months.....2,400.00
East: \$100.00/mo. for twelve months.....1,200.00
\$3,600.00

Supplies and Mailing:

West: \$75.00/mo. for twelve months.....900.00
East: \$50.00/mo. for twelve months.....600.00
\$1,500.00

Booklets:

The Impact of U.S. Economic Disengagement from South Africa....1,500.00
Companion booklet to Organize.....1,000.00
\$2,500.00

GRAND TOTAL: \$57,150.00

REFERENCES

Dennis Brutus, International Campaign Against Racism in Sports, Prof. at Northwestern U.
624 Clark St. Evanston, Ill. 60201, (312) 328-9154

Jennifer Davis, Director of Research for the American Committee on Africa, 305 East 46th St.,
N.Y., N.Y. 10017, (212) 838-5030

Tim Smith, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Dr. N.Y., N.Y.
10027 (212) 870-2294 (5)

Helen Hopps, Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Q St., N.W. Washington D.C. 20009

Professor Raymond Giraud, 2200 Byron, Palo Alto, Calif. (415) 326-2623

Lenny Siegel, Coordinator Pacific Studies Center, 850 West Dana St., Mt. View, Calif.
(415) 322-4664

Carey Lowe, Co-director California Public Policy Center, Bradbury Building, 304 S.
Broadway, Rm. 224, Los Angeles, California, 90013 (212) 628-8888

Carol Bremner, Students for Economic and Racial Justice (SERJ) Berkeley Calif., CUA
Chapter, 2424 Haste Rd. E-12, Berkeley, California, 94709. (415) 548-5173

Miles Mendehall, UC Irvine CUA (Campuses United Against Apartheid) Chapter, 515 Emerald
Bay, Laguna Beach, California 92651 (714) 494-3818

Bob Lawrence, Riverside Committee for Human Rights, UC Riverside CUA Chapter, 3281
Chestnut St., Riverside, California 92501 (714-784-0136

Trebor Fullwood, UC Santa Barbara CUA Chapter, 6593 Sabado Tarde, Isla Vista, California
93017 (805) 968-0291

Sarah Bernstein, Coalition Against Institutional Racism, UC Santa Cruz CUA Chapter,
521 Walnut St. , Santa Cruz California 95060 (408) 425-1974

Prof. Noelie Rodriguez, Cal State Dominquz Hills, 2044 Circle Dr. Hermosa Beach California
90254 (213) 376-1284

Todd Davis, Cal State Northridge, 8150 Chastain Ave., Reseda, California 91335
(213) 342-0856

Desmond N Tonsela Masupo, South Africans in Exile, 501 N. Venice Blvd. #20, Venice
California, (213) 822-0920

Niko Ngweyam, Working Committee on Southern Africa, 3302 Sawtelle Blvd. #19, Los
Angeles, California (213) 398-0904

COMMENTS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

"Please send us all information distributed by your organization. This material will be placed in our library and will be made available to students' and instructors."

-- Director, Afro-American Resource Center, Howard University

"Thanks for the material; it will definitely be helpful to our committee in its organization."

-- Robert & Justina Baker, South African Consciousness Committee,
Santa Clara, California

"Thanks tremendously for all that material you sent us...That pamphlet on U.S. involvement in South Africa looks like an extremely well researched and well presented piece of work...I also like your organizing manual. Just tonight at a Coalition meeting we had to deal with the question of our relationship to certain Leninist groups in the area, and I was able to present some of the arguments that you present to forewarn some of our younger members. So thanks..."

-- Barry Rigby, Southern Africa Coalition, Duke, North Carolina

"You've been responsible for making my day! Reading through Organize, I got the exciting feeling that there are people on other campuses attempting the same kind of radical activities that we are here. Keep up the good work!"

-- Marty Robinson, Cornell University, New York

"The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Library of the University of Pittsburgh would like to order two copies of your publication United States Investment in South Africa... this publication has been requested by a GSPIA professor for use in one of his classes."

-- Librarian, University of Pittsburgh

"Thank you so much for your packet of material on South Africa. It was very useful to MACSA in our campaign to get the U.W. Board of Regents to divest their South African stocks."

-- Ron Lord, convenor, Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa

"Thank you sincerely for the excellent packet of materials you mailed us recently concerning U.S. investments in South Africa and campus organizing."

-- Paul Irish, Associate Director, American Committee on Africa

"I thought Organize was excellent! I'm quite new to politics, and it gave me some good insights into mistakes that SASC has made this year. I intend to be around next year and would like to have a copy of Organize for my own."

-- Peter Sacks, South Africa Support Committee, Harvard, Mass.

"I would appreciate your sending me a copy of "U.S. Investments in South Africa"...I can use material of this kind in several of my courses on Africa and international relations."

-- R. Bradford, Professor, Susquehanna University, Pa.

"We are interested in distributing your pamphlet, "U.S. Investment in South Africa"... we would want about 300 copies."

-- Richard Knight, The Africa Fund

"Bill Duggan of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) referred me to you to find out about researching investments and running a divestment campaign. He also said that you could put me in touch with other campuses. I am the campus association president of the Colorado College. I would appreciate any detailed information you could send me on organizing a divestment campaign..."

-- Michele Feingold, Colorado College

"Dear Friend... I would like to invite you to attend the meeting of the Special Committee, to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York..."

-- Leslie Harriman, Chair, Special Committee Against Apartheid,
United Nations

Mary Kathleen McTigue

born January 17, 1956, Spokane, Wash.

Staffperson, South Africa Catalyst Project

Political Experience

Various anti-war activities (through school) ('70-'72)

Founding member, Spokane Free Store ('71)

Educational outreach in high schools with Native American Students ('71)

McGovern for President, Spokane ('72)

Spokane Mountaineers, environmental defense ('72-74)

Research, alternative education in primary schools ('73)

Member, Common Cause ('74-'77)

Pro -ERA work, Bennington College, Vt. ('74)

Farmworker support committee, Stanford ('75)

Member, Nominations Committee (appoints student members of all university committees) ('76)

Writer, Stanford Daily ('76)

Member, Board of Directors, Center for Research on Women ('76)

Active in collecting aid for Guatemala earthquake victims (76)

Member, Columbae Co-operative community ('76-'77)

Founding member, Stanford Committee for Responsible Investment Policies (SCRIP) ('77)

Founding member, South Africa Catalyst Project ('77-'78)

Work Experience

Nursing home aid, waitress, cook, gardener, receptionist, office assistant, caretaker, resident assistant for dormitory, researcher.

Educational Experience

B.A., Stanford University, economics ('78)

Research in Tanzania for four months, for economics honors thesis ('78)

Three months hitch-hiking in eastern and southern Africa ('78)

Chris Hables Gray

born August 28, 1953, Bishop, California

Political Experience

Member, non-violent caucus of Stanford Rehabilitation Movement ('71)
Associate member, Vietnam Veterans Against the War ('71-'72)
Chair, Stanford Community for Joshua Goldstein for Palo Alto
Board of Education ('74)
Steering Committee member of Student Support for United Stanford
Employees (U.S.E.-SEIU) recognition strike ('74)
Founding member, Stanford Alliance for Radical Change ('74)
Member, Associated Students of Stanford University Senate ('75)
Chair, Stanford Community for Joshua Goldstein for Palo Alto
Board of Education ('75)
Founder, "Against the Grain", Stanford's alternative newspaper ('75)
Door to door fundraiser for Massachusetts Fair Share Inc. ('75)
Member, 100 Flowers Book Co-op, Cambridge Mass., and member of
the newsletter collective ('76)
Coordinator, Stanford for David Harris for Congress for 1976
general election ('76)
Founding member, Stanford Committee for a Responsible Investment
Policy ('77)

Member of Columbae Community for three years

Work Experience

Dishwasher, cook, gardener, old age attendant, mill hand, travel
agent, door to door salesman, grease monkey, ditch digger, researcher,
typist, carpenter and mover.

Educational Experience

Instructor SWOPSI class on Men's Sex Roles
B.A., Stanford University, self-designed major "Human Values
and Social Change" ('75)
Two years travelling in North America, Europe, and North Africa.
Hitchhiking over 60,000 miles.

Lawrence Litvak

born May 5, 1954 St. Joseph, Missouri
graduate student, Harvard University

Political Experience

Office manager, Buchanan County office, Jerry Litton for Congress ('72)
Intern, Stanford Commission on Investment Responsibility ('73)
Community work, Citizens' (Peace) Conversion Project ('73)
Coordinator, prisoner legal aid, Prison Information Center ('74-'75)
Organizer, demonstration against President Ford speech at Stanford ('75)
Organizer, Disorientation Week at Stanford ('76)
Founding member, Stanford Committee for a Responsible Investment Policy ('77)
Founding member, South Africa Catalyst Project ('77)
Steering Committee member, Harvard Southern Africa Solidarity Committee ('78)

Work Experience

Manual labor in hat and pharmaceutical factories, office work, gardening
Summer intern, office of Senator Thomas Eagleton ('75)
Research associate, Committee for Comparative Studies of Africa and the Americas ('76)
Research assistant, Health Services Research Program ('77)
Staff member, Sunrise Community Services, Palo Alto, Ca. ('77)
Instructor, Stanford Workshops on Political and Social Issues "The University
as Institutional Investor: Ethics and Profits" ('77)
Research Associate, Counsel for Community Development, Cambridge, Mass. ('78)

Educational Experience

B.A., Economics, Stanford University ('76) with general and departmental honors,
Phi Beta Kappa
Graduate student, Public Policy Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard
University, second year

Karl Frederick Seidman
born May 3, 1956, New York New York

Political Experience

Founding member, Cardozo High School Anti-War Club ('70-'71)
Member, Student Mobilization Committee ('70-'72)
Volunteer, National Peace Action Coalition (summer, '71)
Treasurer and Organizer, Amherst Action Coalition ('75-'78)
Member, New York City Taxi Drivers Union, Local 3036 AFL-CIO ('75-'76)
Member, New York Taxi Rank and File Coalition ('76)
Member, United Taxi Workers ('76)
Founding member, Amherst College South Africa Support Committee ('76-'78)
Founding member, Five College Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa ('77-'78)
Founding member and steering committee member, Northeast Coalition for the
Liberation of Southern Africa ('77-'78)
Member, N.Y. Chapter Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa ('78)
Member, East Coast South Africa Catalyst Project Board ('78)

Work Experience

newspaper boy, delicatessen clerk, laboratory assistant, dishwasher, gardener,
office work, taxi driver

Educational Experience

B.A., Political Science ('78): Honors Thesis, "Imperialism and third World
Development: A theoretical Comparison of American and Soviet Economic
Relations with the Third World with Case Study of India" Amherst.
Good Reading Ability in French. fair speaking ability.