

U.S. Policy

A DROP IN THE BUCKET FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT: \$25,000 for the U.N. TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

On March 21, 1968, more than two years after the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United States Government pledged its first gift of \$25,000 to the Fund. The U.N. Trust Fund was established by a General Assembly resolution in December, 1965, at which time the United States voted with the majority in favor a Fund which would make grants through voluntary organizations, agencies and host governments to go towards:

- a) the legal defense of persons charged under South African repressive legislation,
- b) the relief for dependents of these persons persecuted by apartheid,
- c) the education of prisoners and their dependents, and
- d) relief for refugees from South Africa.

The major source of funds for the U.N. Trust Fund has been U.N. member nation governments, with total contributions as of April 1, 1968 amounting to \$532,102. Five nations, all considerably less wealthy than the United States, have made larger grants to the Fund than the American gift. These include grants from Denmark (\$119,125); France (\$30,000); Netherlands (\$27,584); Sweden (\$196,775); and the United Kingdom (\$40,000).

Although the U.S. Mission to the U.N. requested an allocation of \$150,000 for the U.N. Trust Fund (and the U.N. Education and Training Programme for South Africans), the amount was whittled away during Senate discussions of the Foreign Assistance Act in 1967. It is this type of monetary cutback which should not pass unnoticed, particularly since the United States has spoken out in fervent tones against the evils of apartheid. Recently American government officials, including Vice-President Humphrey, condemned the trial of 35 South West Africans in Pretoria as illegal and inhumane.

It was the U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa which helped pay for some of the reported \$100,000 defense costs of this trial. The disparity between American condemnation of this specific trial and the lack of American funds for the work of the U.N. Trust Fund is obvious in the paltry size of the U.S. contribution of \$25,000 to the Fund. This one grant would have barely paid for one quarter of the cost of the defense in this one case. It is well understood that future trials, a number of which are in the offing, will increase the need for more and more defense and aid funds channeled through the U.N. Trust Fund.

Why has the U.S. donated such a small amount of money? Should this embarrassingly small gift be seen as part and parcel of the ostrich posture of our foreign aid policy? Could not the influential people at the U.N. Mission to the U.N., other government officials and concerned individuals make stronger demands on Congress and the Administration? At this time of political fury and hustling let the candidates see one very specific instance where U.S. action falls way below its verbiage. Is the stated U.S. concern over southern African racism so absolutely devoid of Congressional support that pressures could not be applied to elicit more monies for the U.N. Trust Fund? Giving to this Fund is one of the simplest forms of implementing a positive aspect of U.S. policy towards South Africa.

WRITE NOW URGING A RESPECTABLE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.N. TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA: WRITE TO:

The Honorable Arthur J. Goldberg, U.S. Mission to the U.N., 799 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017

The Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, State Department, Washington, D.C.

Your Congressman and Senators.

April, 1968