

SAMRAF

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1981. No.3.

news & notes

SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY REFUGEE AID FUND

This is the third SAMRAF newsletter, addressed to white South Africans, primarily living in the United States. It is meant to inform you of our work and our programme. Its main goal is to incorporate more of you into ongoing anti-Apartheid work.

We cannot stress how important it is to involve more people in the struggle against Apartheid, especially at this given period. At the time of production, South African military forces are engaged in a full-scale invasion of Southern Angola from Namibia. Two armoured columns, with over 30 tanks and air support are penetrating the region. Initial press reports are suggesting that possibly 40,000 South African troops are involved. The invasion force is claimed to be heading towards the town of Lubango, deep in Angolan territory. Piet "Wapen" Botha has said that the attack is aimed primarily at SWAPO bases and depots.

Amidst growing condemnation from other African states, the East and even some Western countries (France and West Germany), the Apartheid state continues its desperate war drive. In terror operations such as these, the regime is dependant upon the hearts and minds of young whites to participate on the side of Apartheid. We cannot ignore the importance of encouraging white war resistance, especially when the regime is presently exhibiting its most lethal weapon, the military.

The Apartheid state has increased its harrassment against South Africans in exile. In a recent action in Zimbabwe, Joe Gqabi, the ANC representative in that country, was killed by Apartheid assassins. (See enclosed letter.) Via infiltration and physical intimidation, the regime is intent on disrupting the work of opponents of Apartheid. Even in N.Y., SAMRAF has been the victim recently of such infiltration (See enclosed article and letter). We are not deterred by such actions. The State's antagonism towards SAMRAF is an important indication of our effectiveness.

All of these examples, we hope, highlight the need for a coming together of progressive whites. We have a duty to act against the terror of Apartheid. The continued existence of this newsletter is in many ways determined by your willingness to get involved in the struggle. We have many avenues of anti-Apartheid work to offer you. As individuals, we might be incensed by the actions of the State and

the continued existence of Apartheid. Together, we can help to destroy it and create something of value for our country, South Africa.

OMKEER.

We have enclosed with this newsletter, a sample copy of the latest production of "OMKEER", the soldiers' resistance magazine. OMKEER is produced by concerned South African war resisters in exile. It is made available to thousands of white South African soldiers, students and workers. If we are serious about encouraging white resistance, we have to have a means of doing it. OMKEER is one of the ways that we can reach the hearts and minds of young white South Africans. We cannot underestimate its importance.

This particular issue is also available in Afrikaans. If you know of other South Africans (either in exile, but more importantly inside South Africa) who would benefit from receiving it, please write to us. We will send you as many copies as you need. We are asking you to take the responsibility to make it available to your friends and contacts. We also seek any feedback that you might have on the content of the publication. This will be passed back to the producers.

SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE.

Again we encourage you to support the case of Charles Yeats, an imprisoned South African war resister. (See SAMRAF News and Notes No.2.) Charles is currently serving a year's prison sentence for refusing to participate in the SADF's unjust war.

Messages of solidarity should be sent to;

Charles Yeats
Detention Barracks
Voortrekkerhoogte
Pretoria 0143
Republic of South Africa.

Messages of protest should be sent to;

General Magnus Malan
Private Bag x427
Pretoria 0001
Republic of South Africa.

SAMRAF OFFICES INFILTRATED.

THIS IS A REPRINT OF A LETTER DISTRIBUTED TO FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES OF SAMRAF. IT DESCRIBES HOW OUR OFFICE WAS INFILTRATED BY A SOUTH AFRICAN AGENT, POSING AS A WAR RESISTER. AS THE STRUGGLE ESCALATES, WE CAN EXPECT SUCH DIRTY TRICKS FROM THE STATE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN ACTION POSES SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR US. WE ARE VULNERABLE TO SUCH INFILTRATION, BEING AN EXILE ORGANISATION. HOW WE RESPOND IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. ONE OF THE STATE'S MAIN AIMS IN SUCH AN OPERATION IS TO DISRUPT OUR WORK AND TO INTIMIDATE US. IT IS TRUE, OUR WORK HAS BEEN DISRUPTED. BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN DISRUPTED TO THE POINT OF NON-PRODUCTION. AND WE ARE NOT INTIMIDATED BY SUCH ACTIONS. THAT WHICH HOLDS US TOGETHER, NAMELY OUR IDEAS AND VISION FOR A FREE NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, DEVOID OF RACIAL EXPLOITATION, CAN NEVER BE STOLEN BY AN AGENT OF THE STATE. WE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE. WE ARE NOT AVOIDING SELF-CRITICISM. WE ARE TAKING MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH AN ACTION OCCURRING IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AS OUR WORK CONTINUES, SIMILAR ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE BY THE STATE. TRAITORS AND AGENTS OF APARTHEID SUCH AS CLIFTON WESTRAAD, WILL PAY FOR THEIR DEEDS. THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

Dear Friends and Associates,

The South African Military Refugee Aid Fund, SAMRAF, has been infiltrated by an agent of the South African Security Police. His name is Clifton Westraad.

Posing as a deserter from the SADF and war resister against the South African military, he approached SAMRAF on the West Coast over a year ago for asylum assistance. He had all the right papers, sympathies and had even claimed he had spent time in detention barracks for draft resistance.

Appearing as a friend and doing public speaking in support of South African war resistance, he slowly got closer to the organisation and the people in it. Three months ago, he moved to New York and got involved there. He later accepted the task of stage manager for a play about South African war resistance (See News and Notes 2) for which SAMRAF is presently organising a national tour.

On Friday the 14th of August, 1981, over 100 files were stolen from the locked SAMRAF offices. Clifton Westraad vanished on the same day. He also cleaned out the petty cash box and owed SAMRAF a considerable sum of money. SAMRAF's entire USA and international mailing lists on index cards were stolen as well.

SAMRAF was in the final stages of production of three different booklets; one on the nuclear links with the USA; one on the military

(Continued)

and the history of military resistance in South Africa and finally a booklet on our political motivations and beliefs. The final drafts of these were taken as well. No files relating to contacts inside South Africa were kept at the office. These remain safe.

All of this constitutes a serious blow to our work. It will take some time to recover from the damage. In view of the recent stepped-up harrassments and attacks on South African activists in exile, we are very concerned about the safety of certain of our leaders. Security is the major area we are working on at present.

This letter is both an alert and an appeal for help. Someone said to us, "They must be threatened by the work that you do in order to have gone to such lengths." That may be true, but our ability to regroup and renew the work as soon as possible, partly depends on how much help we get from our supporters.

Although we have undertaken a number of measures to prevent similar damage in the future, the danger is constant in our kind of work. Very few white South Africans actively support resistance to Apartheid upon first arriving in exile. Because we believe in peoples capacity to change, we try to encourage and involve war resisters in work beyond their initial asylum application. This means on-going risks, but it also means we have to take maximum security measures. We are preparing a profile of the agent for distribution in South Africa and overseas to prevent any on-going dirty work on his part, or others acting similarly.

As for SAMRAF's future, there is no doubt that we will pick up the pieces and fight on, more committed and determined to resist the madness of Apartheid than ever.

The struggle continues
SAMRAF staff.

MATERIALS STOLEN FROM SAMRAF BY CLIFTON WESTRAAD.

1. USA AND INTERNATIONAL MAILING LIST.
2. SAMRAF CORRESPONDANCE WITH ORGANISATIONS.
3. MINUTES OF STAFF AND BOARD MEETINGS.
4. ALL MATERIALS RELATING TO ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.
5. FUNDING FILES: FOUNDATIONS, AGENCIES INDIVIDUALS.
6. SWAPO USA TOUR REPORT.
7. DRAFTS OF THREE (3) BOOKLETS SOON FOR PUBLICATION.
8. ALL SAMRAF PRESS CLIPPINGS, STATEMENTS AND CONTACTS.
9. LIST OF LITERATURE SUBSCRIBED TO.
10. LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT FROM ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS
11. SAMRAF NEWS AND NOTES MAILING LIST.
12. DETAILS OF WORK DONE WITH ANTI-NUKE, ANTI-RACIST GROUPS.
13. HISTORY OF WHITE RESISTANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
14. DETAILS OF PLAY, "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE."
15. MONEY.

ASSASSINATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTER.

On the 31st of July, 1981, Joe Gqabi, representative of the ANC (African National Congress) in Zimbabwe and leader of the ANC, was assassinated by the South African regime. Joe Gqabi was a veteran of the struggle and from 1965 through till 1975 he spent ten years on the notorious Robben Island. In 1976, he was one of the accused in the State's "terrorism" trial" otherwise known as the trial of the Pretoria 12. He was acquitted in 1978, and then left South Africa to play an active role in continuing the struggle.

This is a reprint of a letter of solidarity and condolence submitted by SAMRAF to the ANC (NY). It was read at a memorial service held in New York City.

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY UPON THE SLAYING OF ANC LEADER MR. JOE NZINGO GQABI, SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY REFUGEE AID FUND, SAMRAF

We, as South African war resisters, condemn with contempt the brutal assassination of Joe Gqabi, ANC leader and patriot. Our sincerest condolences to those closest to him.

This murder reminds us to what extent the fascist military rulers in Pretoria will go in order to preserve the lie of Apartheid.

In response we can only resolve to double our commitment and efforts. We call on more and more young men to refuse military service and to resist the madness of Apartheid.

In Solidarity
SAMRAF Staff.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.

"For Better or for worse", a tragicomedy written by Salaelo Maredi about war resistance in South Africa, has begun its first tour of the United States. The tour organised by SAMRAF, started in Baltimore, Maryland at Morgan State University. The play will move on to the Midwest where it will play in a variety of colleges, community centres and theatres. Performances are scheduled for Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Purdue (Bloomington, Indiana), Iowa City, Denver and Kansas City. Dates are still being affirmed. Tentatively, the play will run in the Midwest from September the 24th through till October, starting in Chicago.

For more information call: Jane Reitzes or Karen Rosenberg
(212) 638-0417.

SPRINGBOK RUGBY SIDE TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES:

DON'T SCRUM WITH THE RACIST BUMS!.

In a vain attempt to restore some international respect, Apartheid has dispatched a Springbok rugby side to the far corners of the world. The "valiant" XV have already met solid resistance in New Zealand. Wait till they come to the United States.

Already there are strong coalitions formed in NYC and Chicago, made up of organisations and individuals determined to halt the tour. The tour is scheduled to occur during mid-September. There is also some intrigue about the smuggling of funds from South Africa to the U.S. to make the tour possible. The Eastern Rugby Union of America, which is sponsoring the tour, accepted a \$25,000 donation last December, from Louis Luyt, well known white South African businessman and fatcat. Luyt, who made his money through Triomf fertiliser and then brought Luyt Lager (which tasted just like the fertiliser) onto the market, is also responsible for the reactionary English language newspaper "The Citizen" (Worse than the fertiliser). Luyt also had his fingers in the information scandal pie, and was the recipient of at least \$15 million in secret funds for his rag "The Citizen". The \$25,000 was apparently donated to the ERU of America to "upgrade coaching and refereeing in the ERU." A likely story. It was donated at the same time that the invitation was offered to the Springboks to tour the US.

In NYC, Mayor Ed Koch (nog 'n twit) had originally granted permission for the boks to play at Randall's Island stadium. However since the formation of the "Stop Apartheid Rugby Tour Coalition", and the increased publicity that opponents of Apartheid have given to the tour, Koch has backed off. Seeing this as a threat to his electoral campaign, a statement was issued, claiming that police protection at the game would cost the City too many dollars. This is a victory and it comes as a result of organised forces making their presence and their objections to playing ball with Apartheid well known. Right on! Similarly the organisers of the game in Chicago have opted for a private venue, rather than have to deal with protesters.

It's not that we object to rugby. Most South Africans enjoy the sport. It is that the Springbok rugby side is a public relations division of the Apartheid state. South Africa has always had a lot invested in its ability to participate in international sports. It fits in very snugly with the master race mentality of the proponents of Apartheid. Although severely restricted over the last 15 years through international boycotts, the regime has still been able to infiltrate the international sports theatre and jumps at the chance of an invitation to play overseas. It gives them credibility. They deserve none.

Therefore if you are in the vicinity of any of the proposed sites, we strongly encourage you to hook up with other demonstrators and coalitions and make the game as difficult as possible (for all concerned). Take a couple of rugby balls to the game, throw 'em in the middle of the pack. Organise your friends to participate.

SAMRAF: WHO WE ARE

SAMRAF IS A GROUP OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTERS AND AMERICAN ALLIES WHO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OUR MAIN FOCUS OF WORK IS AIMED AT WINNING WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AWAY FROM SUPPORTING APARTHEID, TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY IS SO KEY IN THE MAINTENANCE OF APARTHEID AND BECAUSE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF WHITE YOUTH ARE REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPULSORY APARTHEID MILITARY SERVICE, WE SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICAN WAR RESISTERS.

THIS IS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF OUR PROGRAMME:

MILITARY RESISTANCE. SAMRAF has set up a base of support for military resister in the U.S. Those that arrive can receive free legal services for political asylum applications. We can offer guidance to white South African war resisters upon arrival in the U.S. Key to the military resistance programme, is the dissemination of counter-propaganda to white South African youth of military age. SAMRAF helps facilitate the production of a war resister publication which reaches thousands of white South African soldiers. Collecting resource material about the apartheid regime and its military is crucial to being an effective organisation. SAMRAF does research and educational work about the war in Southern Africa which is available for the broad public. As an active participant in the external movement, SAMRAF seeks to involve other white South African exiles into this programme.

WOMEN AND WAR PROJECT. SAMRAF has initiated a programme on how the state mobilises white women to defend it. The goal of such a programme is to counter the one of the state by reaching out to white South African women with an alternative. This includes the sharing of ideas and material to women inside South Africa, encouraging them to look at their role in society and to resist apartheid.

SOLIDARITY WORK. SAMRAF participates in the U.S. Solidarity movement, raising support for the Liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa. This involves assisting in material support work and political education as a means of building support for the struggle.

PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S. MOVEMENT. SAMRAF participates in the U.S. anti-imperialist movement. We share our analysis with the left in the U.S., in the hope that it will encourage more white North Americans to address their role in society. We participate in the mass movements i.e. anti-nuke, anti-draft and anti-klan movements. These are important areas to make the connections between South African and the U.S. and expose American/S. African collaboration.

* PROPOSED VENUES FOR SPRINGBOK RUGBY GAMES *

September 19th....Chicago, Illinois.

September 22nd....Albany, New York.

September 26th....New York City, New York.

NEWS AND NOTES.

SAMRAF News and Notes is a monthly publication. It's aim is to inform and involve white South Africans, particularly those in the United States, in ongoing anti-Apartheid work. We will continue to inform you of our activities. Responses are welcome.

SAMRAF CONTACTS.

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FOR FREEDOM IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

