

Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa

P.O. Box 101, Boston, MA 02123

## SOWETO: EVENING OF SOLIDARITY HIGHLIGHTS

On November 5, 1976, the Coalition sponsored an "Evening of Solidarity" with the people of South Africa at the Church of the Covenant on Newbury St. The event was a great success from several different perspectives: The speakers covered a wide range and gave an in-depth picture of the current crisis in South Africa; the poetry and musical entertainment was moving and competently performed; and over a thousand dollars was collected from ticket sales and donations as a benefit for the African National Congress of South Africa.

Highlights of the evening's speakers were the moving presentation by Mr. Dennis Brutus, a South African black poet living in the United States, an "eye-witness" account of the events in Soweto this past summer by Ms. Sikosi Nji, a talk on the U.S. involvement in South Africa by Ms. Anne Crane of the Coalition, and a summary of the political significance of the current situation in South Africa by Rev. Chris Nteta of the African National Congress (and the Coalition). Significantly, he warned against viewing the Soviet Union as an enemy of the South African people.

Over four hundred people attended the event and many signed slips indicating their interest in doing more work to publicize the situation in South Africa and southern Africa. The Coalition hopes to sponsor more educational activities as developments occur and to plan rallies and demonstrations.

## Madison, Wisconsin Condemns U.S. Corporate Support of Apartheid

The 300-plus United States corporations with investments in South Africa will find a new protest from the City of Madison, Wisconsin. Following the provisions of a resolution passed recently, the City Council will attach a protest letter to each of its contracts with these corporations. The letter, signed by the mayor, will inform all contract holders that the City of Madison expresses grave doubts about the policy of continuing support for apartheid with economic investments, and that alternative sources of the products are being sought. The resolution passed by a 20-1 margin.

The Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa (MACSA) built support for the resolution by petitioning church and civic organizations and the Africanist community at the University of Wisconsin. They will also be responsible to the City for updating the list of U.S. corporate ties to South Africa.

The Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa urges anyone who wants more information or who wants to attempt a similar resolution in the Boston area to talk to Wendy Simmons. She can be contacted through the Coalition.

## PETITION DRIVE RESULTS

The June 16 uprising in Soweto and subsequent events in South Africa have elicited many different types of response in the U.S. One way the Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa responded was to sponsor a petition campaign condemning the brutality of the South African government and urging that the U.S. withdraw its support from the Vorster regime.

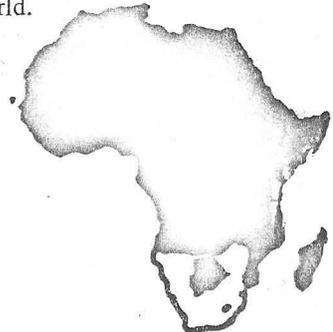
We collected nearly 3200 signatures on the petition and have sent copies to Senator Edward Kennedy, Congressman Tip O'Neill and President-elect Jimmy Carter. Letters describing the campaign were sent to the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation.

While we don't have any illusions that petition campaigns will greatly affect policy-making in Washington, we feel that such action is important for several reasons: 1.) It keeps up the pressure on policy-makers; 2.) it is a useful educational tool for informing the general public about Southern Africa; and 3.) it provides a way for people to respond immediately to an issue which concerns them but in which they may not be deeply involved. For these reasons we will probably continue to have petition campaigns from time to time as a part of our general program for education and political action on Southern Africa.

A. Crane

## Other Events in the Boston Area:

1. The Black Studies Dept. at Wellesley College sponsored a "teach-in" on the situation in Southern Africa on Dec. 4. They had representatives from SWAPO (Southwest Africa People's Organization), ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and the OAU (Organization of African Unity).
2. The National Student Coalition Against Racism (NSCAR) Conference at Boston University in November focused on the crisis in southern Africa. Speakers included Tsietshi Mashinini of the Soweto Students' Council, Sinos Mangazza of ZANU, and Jeff Duma Baqwa of the South African Student Organization. Workshops on southern Africa focused on organizing opposition to U.S. support of apartheid and to repressive white settler regimes. The Conference endorsed a proposal for national demonstrations calling for an end to U.S. support for apartheid on March 25-26, 1977. The demonstrations will also commemorate the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa.
3. African Students and Workers for African Liberation (ASWAL) sponsored a "teach-in" at the Harvard Science Center on Dec. 11, 1976. Speakers included Ms. Ann Seidman of the Wellesley College Economics Dept., Ms. Sikosi Nji (again) of the African National Congress of South Africa, and Mr. Themba Vilakazi of the African National Congress of South Africa, along with ASWAL speakers. The overall perspective was to see the developing revolutionary struggles in southern Africa as part of the overall movement for an end to oppression in Africa and the whole world.



## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS.

January 6, 1977 - The Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa will hold an open meeting in Rm. 105 Memorial Hall, Harvard U., Cambridge at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be to discuss plans for upcoming events and demonstrations and to hear a report of a conference being held in Chicago in Dec. to co-ordinate southern Africa solidarity work nationwide. A specific plan to demonstrate against sale of the "Krugerrand" gold coins in Boston will be discussed. This is part of a national campaign to foil the white South African government's latest scheme to increase the price of gold and improve its international economic situation. Please come.

January 7, 1977 - The film, "O Povo Organizado" will be shown at the Boston University Law School Bldg. It is co-sponsored by a black lawyers organization and a B.U. student organization. The film is about the developments in Mozambique during the period after it became independent? It will be introduced by the film-maker, Mr. Robert Van Lierop; proceeds from the \$5.00 ticket price will be used to outfit a maternity hospital in Mozambique.

January 10-14 - Ms. Sikosi Nji will be back in the Boston area on speaking engagements. Watch for notices.

### The "Krugerrand" drips African blood

## RESOURCES:

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The Coalition recommends the following resources for information about the true situation in southern Africa.

1. Southern Africa magazine, published monthly by the Southern Africa Committee in N.Y., N.Y. It contains interviews, analytical articles and news from around the world about the situation in southern Africa. It also lists new books and reports on the area that are seldom catalogued elsewhere.

The magazine can be ordered for \$8.00 per year from its office at 156 5th Ave. Room 707, N.Y., N.Y. 10010.

2. LSM News, a quarterly journal of the Liberation Support Movement, provides much of the same material as Southern Africa but has a more explicit political orientation (anti-imperialist, socialist perspective). LSM currently has a SWAPO Printshop Project underway to buy and outfit a printshop for SWAPO. They are selling a beautiful poster for \$2.000 to raise money for the project. Please inquire if you are interested in purchasing a poster from the Boston Coalition.

LSM News can be ordered from LSM East Coast Unit, P.O. Box 673, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202 Tel. 212-499-5226.

3. Films about the liberation struggles in southern Africa can be obtained through the International Defense and Aid Fund, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard U., Cambridge, MA 02138 Tel. 617-495-4940

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