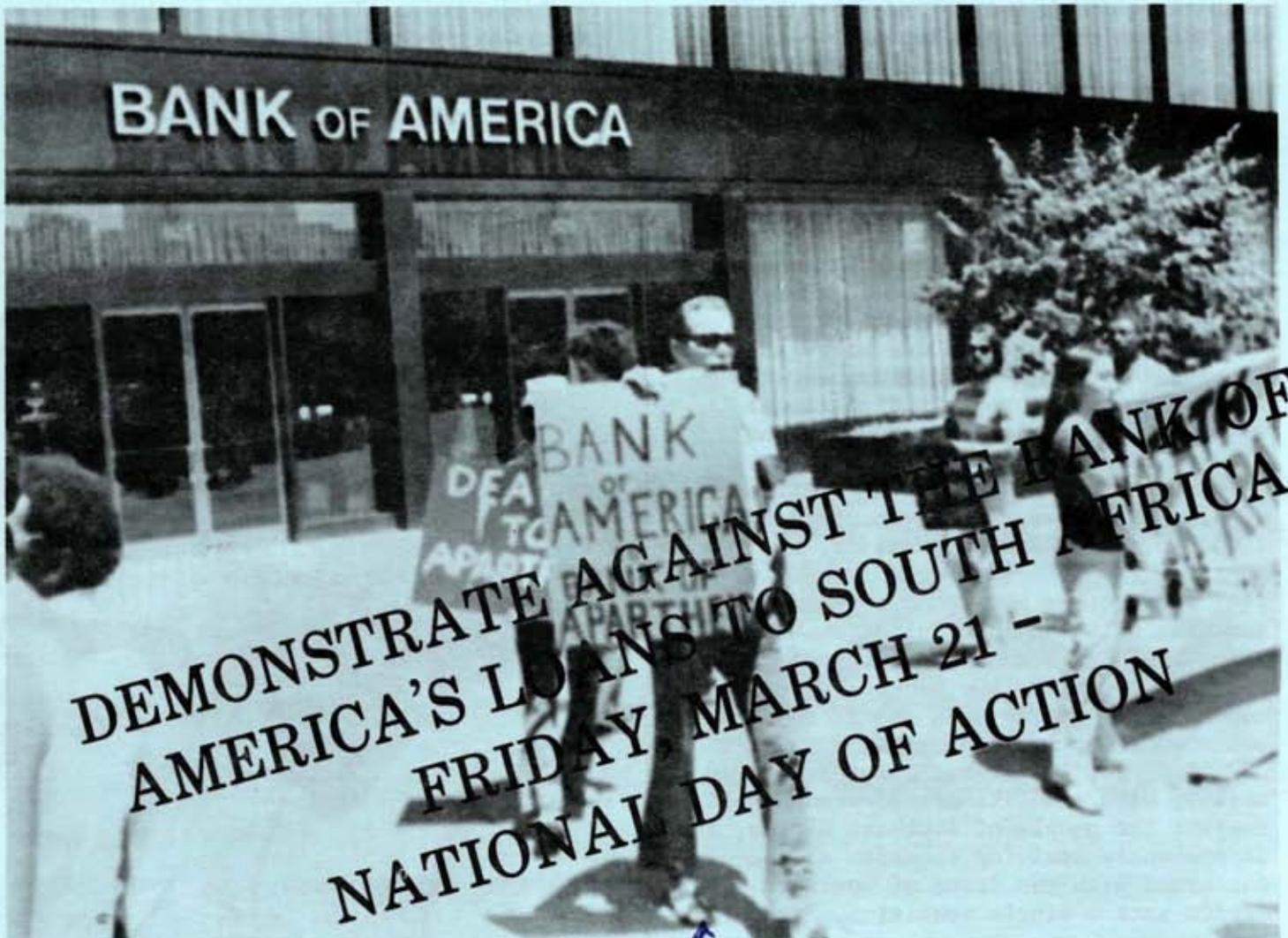


Southern Africa Support Coalition

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

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WHO WE ARE

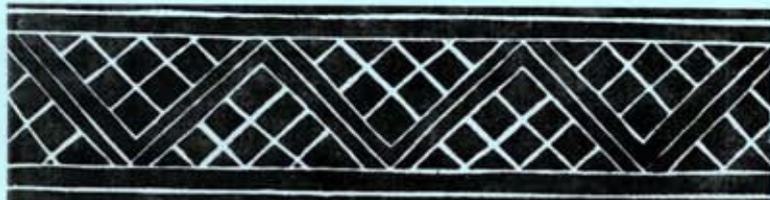
The Southern Africa Support Coalition is a multi-racial group, composed of organizations and individuals who are engaged in building a mass movement in solidarity with the liberation struggles in Southern Africa. The Southern Africa Support Coalition grew directly out of the Southern Africa Support Committee, which was formed shortly after the victory of the Angolan people in 1975. In order to coordinate our work more effectively the Southern Africa Support Committee reorganized and expanded into the Southern Africa Support Coalition.

S.A.S.C. basically recognizes that the white minority regime in South Africa and the puppet regimes in Zimbabwe and Namibia have imposed the inhuman system of apartheid on the peoples in these countries and that these regimes only serve the interests of U.S. and Western imperialism. We therefore oppose all U.S. military, economic and political ties to these racist regimes. Beyond this we recognize and support the real representatives of the Southern African people, the liberation movements in Zimbabwe, South Africa (Azania), and Namibia.

S.A.S.C. is presently engaged in numerous film showings, slide shows, and other types of educational programs. We are also assisting the various liberation movements by raising much needed funds and other forms of material aid.

S.A.S.C. is naturally interested in working with all like minded groups that support the people of Southern Africa, and is presently striving to unite all people concerned with the issue of Southern Africa into a single coalition in the L.A. area.

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Southern African Congress Of Trade Unions

Zola Zembe, Treasurer of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), visited Los Angeles in October 1979. Mr. Zembe is an African and a South African trade unionist who was formerly a railway worker and dock worker in South Africa. In 1963 he was forced into exile because of his trade union activities and persecution by the South African authorities. Since then he has been based in London and is an active leader and organizer of SACTU. His tour was co-sponsored by NAIMSAL (National Anti-Imperialist Movement for Solidarity with African Liberation) and the SACTU Support Committee. The following article contains excerpt of a talk by Mr. Zembe outlining the current status of African workers in South Africa.



In South Africa, roughly speaking, the trade union movement is divided into two groups: One, the white trade union movement. This group belongs to the group of Europeans who came from Europe with their traditional union backgrounds. And when they arrived in South Africa they organized themselves into strong trade unions. But unfortunately, they never allowed African workers to join those unions. They have got all the democratic rights that you can think of. They can assemble, they can go on strike, they can discuss, their standards are very high indeed.

It's definitely higher than the European counterparts - Western Europe- and probably a little bit equal with the American workers. They are very, very much reactionary. They have been bribed over to join the ruling class of that country. Some of them don't even think they are workers. Because in South Africa every white person has a servant working for her or him. I mean every white person- I'm talking about white workers. So when you say you are my brother worker, "What are you talking about?" And it's true, what are you talking about? Because if you organize in a factory, the first person who reports you is a white worker. They are afraid of African workers and they are afraid of the employers. Well, it's easy to see why, because once they sneeze, there's a response from the employers. If the employers do not respond, then the government of South Africa will respond. If they want wages or anything, they are given immediately, because that government that is there today, it is

the white workers of South Africa, they voted them there.

To show a little bit how the white workers have completely deserted their class, for instance, I think two months ago there has been a strike there of the mine workers.. That strike was touched off by the fact that an employer, a mine employer, promoted three Africans to do jobs that were previously done by white workers. And that made the white miners strike.

You know in South Africa we have the "Black Spots". Some of these "Black Spots" have minerals there. And the policy of the government of South Africa is that when minerals in that "Black Spot" develop, they'll train Africans to do skilled jobs there. And it happened in the Western Transvaal. And the government said, well, we'll train Africans to do these mines there and do skilled jobs there. And the miners said, "No, where are you going to end up? Those people are not only going to work there, they'll go over South Africa and replace us". And this is true. They will replace them. Because of the form of the white workers. Because they don't want them organized. As a result it gets lower wages. You can employ five Africans with the wages of one white man. So their whole thing is dangerous indeed. Dangerous to them. You think you're clever,

you see, by saying that a chap is an African so you must keep him down. You are shooting yourself in the back. It's coming to you. Because the employers are not interested in whether you are pink, yellow or green. What they want is profits. And you get profits only when the wages are low, when the conditions at work are bad. The most profitable industries in South Africa are the mines, because workers there are grossly underpaid. And the death rate is worst in the world in South Africa--of the mine workers, African mine workers.

The second group is that of the African workers. This is the backbone of the economy of that country, 70 to 80 percent of the labor force is African in South Africa. Now there are no laws that say that Africans cannot have a trade union. In fact, we are told that now they are going to be recognized, we'll come to that later. They are not allowed to strike at any time. And because they are not recognized by law, they cannot negotiate with the employers. An African worker gets an increase only when he goes on strike.

We don't have unemployment benefits. If you are unemployed, you are chucked out of the urban areas. They don't care what happens to you. Nothing like Social Security. Very little pensions, if at all. Even the money that a worker is paid when he is injured at work, sometimes African workers do not get that money. Because when you are injured - you are sick, you see. When you are better sometimes you decide to go back to your home to be together with your family. And then when the money eventually comes from the government, after a long time, they cannot find you. And there is an accumulation of money unclaimed at the labor department, of the African workers. Now, that money today, recently, it was given the Ministry of Defense as unclaimed money to buy armaments, to buy helicopters to suppress the same African people. It's immoral, you see, the people that rule South Africa.

JOB DISCRIMINATION

Sometimes you can do equal jobs, but not equal wages. For instance, African workers are not allowed to do apprenticeships as we know it. Which means that even if a chap does a skilled job, he does not have a certificate. So you remain a semi-skilled wor-

ker for life. Or, perhaps the skilled jobs are segmented up into small jobs so that you cannot call it a skilled job completely. And of course sometimes the thing is just open discrimination. It can sometimes be two men driving the same machine, one white and one African. The African one is called a grader driver or a bulldozer driver. And then the white one is not called that name, he is called an operator. So that he is a special man of some kind. This means more wages. Even a foreman. You don't call an African a foreman. You call him a "busboy". A busboy! Because, you may be as old as me, with gray hair. You remain a boy, as long as you are African there. So he is a "busboy".

There are also laws, like "job reservation", for instance, where the labor department can say that job belongs only to whites and nobody else can do it. For instance, driving a locomotive is a white man's job. Crane driving in a dock. You can never see an African up there, only white people. There are numerous these things that happen.

Of course, then there is tight control over Africans in South Africa. The population level is 26 million. And 22 million are Africans, and 4 million are white people. And there is rigid control. I am born and brought up in the Cape. But I don't know that province at all. Because if I've got to move from point 1 to point 2, I've got to get a stamp that I'm moving now from Point 1 to point 2 and then from there another stamp must be put by an official on the other side giving me so many days. Otherwise, you don't move at all. If you are found without permission in that area you are punished committing an offense. The law says you must produce on demand. So it's easy for the police to check every African you see. Of course, the police of South Africa, if they see an African walking the street, he's a magnet, you just cannot pass without being checked. And then they say, "Produce on demand". It means exactly that in South Africa.

For an example, if I'm going from my place of residence to buy bread. If the police happen to be patrolling the area, they may say to me, "Where's your pass?", and I reply, it's in my jacket at home, then I have committed an offense for not producing it there. If you have not produced on demand, you disappear into the police station.

And I mean disappear, because you are not allowed to contact your lawyer or your relatives.

That's not the end of the story. The following day you appear before the magistrate court. Now if you plead not guilty, your case will be adjourned for another week. You go back to prison. You are not free. And the situation is not nice in prison. It is better to say yes, I'm guilty. And then of course you are given a month, 2 months penalty. And then of course the story does not end up there. Since 1960, the prison buildings have been moved to outside the urban areas to make it convenient for the white farmers to come and buy, particularly the pass offenders. Which means that if you are sentenced for two months, those two months you spend as the property of Mr. So and So. And you are a slave, and nothing else, to make it clear. Because that money that he has paid to the prison department doesn't go to you, it remains the government's.



You know sometimes courts can be very expensive. In South Africa you can get through with about 50 applicants within less than 10 minutes. The system is that if you're all arrested for passes and there are 50 of you, then you go from the cell underground and appear before the magistrate in the dock. When you are going through these small passages you can't go in a group, you go one by one, in a line. And then once you appear before the magistrate the magistrate says you are guilty of failing to produce a pass. You are sentenced 1 month, 10 pounds.

ORGANIZING STRIKES

You know to organize a strike is rough. It's not a small job. It's a big, big job indeed. Because whoever organizes a strike has got to think of the unemployed. Because within a short space of time your job might be taken away. So you are going to organize the unemployed. And also you have got to think of the community. You've got to organize and you must involve them because the whole thing becomes semi-war. Because whoever strikes any factory becomes immediately surrounded by the soldiers and police with orders to shoot. And they do it. Now, the only thing is to organize the whole area. Strikes have been won, conditions have been improved because of that. Of course, after that they pick up only leaders. They pick anyone, and then if he doesn't tell who is leading, he'll die. He'll be tortured to death. Many of the leading trade unionists have died because of strikes, and some of them have got long terms in prison.

AMERICAN WORKERS AND AFRICAN WORKERS

We have not come here to beg the American workers to help us. Not at all! We are saying our struggle is their struggle. That's all. We say we must communicate and let's find the way of working together. Because if you go to South Africa, these corporations that are here, they are there. Our headquarters are here.

If the American workers are well organized, it becomes dangerous to them. The suggestion of the African workers is don't shy away from helping the African workers. Because those who have got money are looking all over the world for the cheapest places -- South Africa, Chile and so on. They've got no boundaries. For instance, if I'm an engineer for the railway I must look to the railways in South Africa to see are they organized? And organize them, so that we get equal wages, so that there should be no North-South, East-West as is going on in the States here.

The second thing is that we sometimes working people arm these people themselves, really. You know pensions of the American workers have reached South Africa and they have bought helicopters to bomb down the African workers. I want to suggest to you to just check your pension fund. At least you have

control over that one!, and say, "My pension is not going to go to South Africa. It will be invested in Los Angeles, so that the people who is unemployed get a job."

Now I'm saying that this is important. That's number two. Three, is that whoever is in the trade unions, when there is a convention, invite SACTU to come and talk in the conference. It's important.

RECOGNITION OF BLACK WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Now, friends, let me answer that question that all African workers are going to be recognized in South Africa. This is a lie, meant for the multi-nationals and other people to confuse the issues. The thing is this: Because of the pressure that is put by the movement in South Africa, because the policy of the government are failing to bleed the trade unions of African workers to death, they have decided that something must be done. The point is that they want to lead the struggle of our people and divert it into a target where they won't go anywhere. The government of South Africa, under stress, agreed to recognize the African unions. They say they will recognize African people who qualify to be in towns. Now what does that mean in figures? It means if I'm liberal, about 10% of the African people will be recognized to join the unions. Now, that means 80% of the Africans will remain as they are. Because 80% of the other section are migrators. They have got no rights in towns. In fact they are "foreigners" in South Africa, more or less.

Now, it's building up a second group of elite workers. There's white elite which doesn't want to unite with African people. And then they form up another elite group that is going to be anti-80% of the other people. And then, of course, coming back to the mines. The mines will never have any union because all the workers that are there are migrators. They are recruited from the rural areas, from even outside of South Africa - Lesotho, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rhodesia. Those are not entitled to anything like that. So it means the mines are safe from all these maneuvers.

And then there is another serious thing. The land of South Africa is divided up into 87% belonging to 4 million whites and 13% belonging to 22 million Africans. And then the Africans are divided into 10 ethnic group-

ings. They want to divide that 13% into 10 states. Now they have already declared 3 independent. It means even if you are urbanized, you qualify and if you live in town, once they declare another ethnic grouping as an independent state, then you become a foreigner in South Africa. You are out of that recognized union that we are talking about. In fact, it's another way of divide and rule.

For more information about how to support the South African Congress of Trade Unions, contact:

SACTU Support Committee
408 N. Avenue 65
Los Angeles, CA. 90042
Tel: 257-6771

BRITISH SETTLEMENT ON ZIMBABWE RHODESIA

From the beginning of the talks in Lancaster House in London it became clear that keeping Muzorewa in power by legitimizing his government was Britain's concern.

The British onesidedness in the proposals for settlement was revealed time and again. At some points it was so obvious that Britain's Lord Carrington was stacking the cards in favor of the Salisbury delegation headed by Muzorewa and General Walls, that even the US observers had to criticize. At one point the British even pulled out a document that they had worked out privately with the Salisbury clique and only afterward showed to the Patriotic Front (PF).

Cease-Fire Arrangements

This collusion of the British imperialists and their allies with their stooges, black and white, in Rhodesia, comes out clearly in the cease-fire proposals Britain has imposed on the PF. The PF is to be gathered into well-known assembly points where they will surely become more vulnerable to attack.

No provision is made for restricting the Rhodesian forces to their bases, only their movements are to be watched.

General Walls, Commander of the Combined Operations, and co-delegate with Muzorewa to the talks, in an interview admitted that the PF was not being made equal in status to his forces, and that he would continue to discharge his duties under the cease-fire arrangements. Moreover, it is an established fact that South African regular troops operate with the Rhodesian forces in Rhodesia as mercenaries. No provisions have been made for disbanding these forces and sending them back to where they came from.

Peace-keeping Forces

In early December sources reliable to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) reported from Pretoria and other western capitals that the

British government and its allies were sending arms and mercenaries into Rhodesia under the cover of advanced groups for the peace-keeping forces.

As it is, the "peace-keeping forces" themselves were never expanded to include other Commonwealth countries as the PF and its allies requested.

Australia and New Zealand, also centers for British-manufactured racism, are already a major source for the mercenaries, not only those recently entering Rhodesia, but all along they have been important in the number of mercenaries that fight in Rhodesia. Fiji is such a place that it's Prime minister actually offered asylum to the deposed Shah of Iran. Kenya, in its government newspaper, consistently has shown no solidarity with the PF, repeatedly accusing the PF of stalling in settlement. It is no accident that when Muzorewa stopped in Nairobi in mid-November he said he welcomed a Kenyan delegation to watch the

forthcoming elections, since he saw them as an ally. Infact, only those countries that support the British and Muzorewa are being allowed to come in openly with their arms, ostensibly to keep peace, but in reality to try and wipe out the PF.

South Africa

Muzorewa also told the Kenyans that he would be pragmatic like them in the government he would continue to lead. Later, stopping in Johannesburg, Muzorewa again stated his intention to be "pragmatic." In the case of South Africa he said it is important to maintain cordial trade and other relations with South Africa.

There is no doubt that South Africa wants Muzorewa to continue in power and see the PF destroyed. South Africa has publically declared its intention to militarily, through overt action, back Muzorewa.

P.W. Botha, Prime Minister of South Africa, said one day before Muzorewa arrived there that "South Africa cannot afford chaos on its borders... (and) will ensure that South Africa's interests are protected if outside forces want to create chaos." Two days later Muzorewa declared in South Africa that there was "a lot of wisdom" to what Botha said. And Muzorewa added that he would welcome military intervention by South Africa or any other country if there is "Chaos."

"Chaos" to Muzorewa, as to South Africa, means the PF coming to power. They are not willing to allow this, elections or no elections.

The Democratic Countries and Sanctions

Margaret Thatcher is Prime Mistress of the clique that includes Carrington, Soames, and all of the other absentee landlords holding Zimbabwean land and uranium mines in Namibia. When she came to the US in mid-December to meet with Carter and announce the complete lifting of

sanctions, she said, "we (the imperialists) are concerned with keeping democracy in the heart of Africa.

We could ask, how does one keep something one never had? Or we can ask, what does democracy really mean to these British and American rulers?

What Maggie was really saying was that they are "concerned with keeping Muzorewa in power in Rhodesia. Muzorewa himself has said that the future government of Zimbabwe must be like the present one (he heads) if democracy is to continue there.

Even though the British have recently publically declared an end to sanctions, in mid-November they had already announced a partial lifting of these sanctions, which they had never honored in the first place, as was revealed in late 1977. This duplicity began in 1965 when the British allowed Smith to make the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI).

Even as Britian ignored the UN-written sanctions, so they also ignored the fact that they were binding until Black majority rule occurred; and furthermore, they ignored the fact that the UN has not lifted the sanctions.

US Involvement

The US now has most-favored nation trading status with Rhodesia because Carter has lifted sanctions. The US contributed the planes used for the airlifting of the troops and supplies into Rhodesia from the countries sending "peace-keeping forces."

Neither of these actions are strange because for a number of years the US-made Bell helicopters on a Rhodesian airfield he visited. And leftovers from the Vietnam War sign up every day for mercenary service in Rhodesia.

Forthcoming Elections

With this kind of duplicity





JASC

and connivance it is apparnet that there is no intention of allowing the PF to freely participate in the elections scheduled for early 1980.

The British had already lifted sanctions by mid-November, but it was not until mid-December that they made the Salisbury government lift the banning order against the PF. And then, immediately after the governor, Soames arrived, the police were allowed to raid the headquarters of Nkomo located in Salisbury, and sieze their documents. In this way, they hope to immobilize the PF in the cities, even as they hope to immobilize them in the rural areas by placing them in centers which they will find quick excuses for attacking.

As it is, given the British design, severe limitations were placed on the PF for the election process, which the British intend to complete in two months. The PF had asked for 6 months, and Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and other allies agreed with the PF that two months were not sufficient

Even requiring all parties to be registered by December 31 imposed hardships on the PF, even without the raiding of offices.

Only in mid-December was the PF given legitimacy, the first time since they were driven underground by being declared illegal in the 1960s, following UDI.

Muzorewa, who was once their front-man, is now the settlers' front-man. He came to power through the established apparatus of state and access to the communication lines. Certainly, Muzorewa retains an upper-hand in any election preparations that take place under British auspices.

It is the Salisbury clique that gained from the settlement, through the unabashed support they receive from the British, and indirectly from the Americans. As one Salisbury minister said, the delagation achieved what it set out

to do: convince the British not to renew sanctions and formulate plans for an early recognition of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

This latter is due to happen within the first two months of the new year with the holding of British-supervised elections.

Continuation of Chimurenga

Given all of the facts outlined here, if the PF is to freely compete for power in Zimbabwe they will only be able to do that through continuing the war of liberation, Chimurenga.

This great Sham Settlement designed by the British is only equalled since WWII by the 1954 collusion between the French and American governments to keep Ho Chi Ninh out of the elections even though they knew that he would win them. It is the same with the PF in Rhodesia.

If the PF is willing to continue the war it will have to do so with an intensification of support from its allies; the war will have to widen, as was already happening by mid-December.

There will have to occur an intensification of the struggle because once Muzorewa is legitimized by the imperialists, we can surely expect their running dogs, the South Africans, to more intensely show their support for Muzorewa's government.

**HAY! HELP WORK
ON THE
NEWS LETTER**

ASK FOR BRUCE OR STEVE

213) 662-5102 & 684-1892

Protestors Blast Standard's Oil-Running To Racist Rhodesian Government

On Tuesday, November 13, supporters of Zimbabwe's Patriotic Front barged into the offices of Standard Oil in downtown San Francisco, unfurling a huge banner from the third floor window. The thirty-foot banner read:



Stated the protestors, "We are demonstrating at the Standard Oil Building to protest the blatant violations of the United Nations embargo imposed against racist Rhodesia in 1966. Fully 2/3 of Rhodesia's oil is supplied by US corporations, most notably Standard Oil and Texaco (Caltex), along with Mobil Oil. This oil lubricates the Rhodesian war machine which is bent on crushing the Zimbabwean people's just struggle to regain their independence. The Zim-

babwean people lost their sovereignty ninety-one years ago when the British conquered Zimbabwe, turning the people into slaves in their own land.

Standard Oil's illegal activities continue because they are part of an overall United States government strategy to maintain western imperialist and white settler domination over southern Africa's vast mineral and human resources." The action was timed to coincide with President Carter's decision about whether to have the United States formally drop the United Nations sanctions on November 15 as mandated by Congress. (On the day after the demonstration Carter announced that the sanctions will be maintained until a further review at the conclusion of the current London Conference; however there is a continuing danger that the sanctions will soon be dropped, a move that would open the gates for a flood of new aid to Smith and Muzorewa's regime.)

At a picket outside Standard Oil, a spokesperson from the sponsoring organizations, the Southern Africa Anti-Mercenary Coalition and the Southern Africa Solidarity Committee, addressed supporters:

"Without the steady supply of oil, arms and white mercenaries smuggled to Rhodesia by the US and its allies, the fascist regime would have surrendered long ago. The Patriotic Front, recognized by the United Nations and the organization of African Unity as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Zimbabwe, would long ago have begun to rebuild the country in peace. The people's war led by ZANU (ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION) is so strongly supported that today 85% of the country is liberated or semi-liberated. The Rhodesian army is surrounded in the few large towns."

But the United States and Britain are attempting to prolong white rule by installing a neocolonialist government in which a small sector of Africans front for the old exploitative system. The Smith-Muzorewa regime was installed through a fraudulent election. At the current London Conference Britain and the United States have attempted to isolate the Patriotic Front as "intransigent terrorists". Meanwhile mercenaries supplied by the CIA and the US Army Special Forces are piloting Bell Corporation helicopters in raids against the Zambian capital, the main dam and agricul-

tural valley in Mozambique. Meanwhile South Africa invades Angola. All this is designed to punish the neighboring Front Line states into cutting off their historic support for the armed struggle. Now is a critical time for us to strengthen our political and material support for the people of Zimbabwe.

For more information on the campaign to stop mercenaries and build support for ZANU, call 863-3717.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE BANK OF AMERICA'S LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA FRIDAY, MARCH 21 - NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Friday, March 21, 1980, has been set as a National Day of Action against bank loans to South Africa. Groups in cities throughout the U.S. will be demonstrating against local banks who make loans to the South African government and companies. The same day has also been declared an International Day of Action Against Apartheid. People throughout the world will be demonstrating their opposition to South Africa's brutal racist policies.

March 21, 1980 is also the 20th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre in which the South African police fired on a peaceful demonstration of the Pan-Africanist Congress, killing 70 people and wounding over 150 others. Many people consider the shock of this outrage to be the beginning of the international outcry against apartheid.

Here in L.A., the South Africa Task Force of the Southern Africa Support Coalition (S.A.S.C.) is working with other groups to organize demonstrations against Bank of America's loans to South Africa. We want to see as many people as

possible picketing and leafletting local Bank of America branches on March 21st. We have reason to believe that the Bank of America is re-evaluating their South African investment policy and we need to keep up the public pressure.

At the same time, the campaign against bank investments gives us an excellent opportunity to talk to large numbers of people about the issues in southern Africa and the extent of U.S. support for South Africa. We also can make the connection between racist investment policies in South Africa and at home in the U.S.

On November 16, 1978, we demonstrated at two BofA branches. A copy of the leaflet we used is enclosed in the newsletter. It is also available in Spanish. We welcome your criticism and suggestions for improving the leaflet.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You or your organization can help in any or all of the following ways:

1. Organize a demonstration at your own local branch of Bank of America. We'll help you get the leaflets.
2. Schedule a date for us to come talk to your church, group, classroom, union meeting, or just a group of friends. We have a couple of good slide shows, including one on bank investments in South Africa and one on Namibia.
3. Withdraw your account from Bank of America, telling them you disapprove of BofA's policy of making loans to South Africa. Encourage your friends and organizations you belong to to do the same.
4. Contribute a small amount of money to help defray the costs of printing leaflets.
5. Join with the South Africa Task Force to help us plan the campaign.

Contact the South Africa Task Force
S.A.S.C.
P.O. Box 3586
Pasadena, CA 91103

213) 684-1892

NEWS BRIEFS



ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE APPEALS FOR ACTION REGARDING ANC PRISONERS

In a statement issued on behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, its acting Chairman, Serge Eli Charles (Haiti), appealed for urgent action by Governments and organizations to save the life of James Mange, under sentence of death in South Africa, and to secure prisoner-of-war status and treatment for 11 other members of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), who have been sentenced to long prison terms.

Mr. Charles said the Committee was shocked at the "savage sentences" imposed on the freedom fighters under the notorious Terrorism Act, and that escalating repression in South Africa underlined the need for sanctions against the racist regime.

United Nations/Press Release/Nov. 23, 1979



SOUTH AFRICAN EXILES TAKE LEAD IN ANTI-APARTHEID DEMO

January 12 is the date for coordinated national and international demonstrations against the apartheid regime in South Africa. The first worldwide protest to show support for thousands of youth resisting the war in South Africa is timed to precede the January 16 call-up of 30,000 South African soldiers.

Demonstrations at South African embassies and consulates in Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco and Chicago are being coordinated by SAMRAF (South African Military Refugee Aid Fund). SAMRAF is an organization of South African ex-soldiers, draft resisters, and Americans working to support the war resistance and liberation movements in South Africa.

SAMRAF and SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) co-hosted a November conference in Chicago which brought together anti-Vietnam War resisters--particularly GI and veteran activists--to learn more about the struggles in southern Africa, and to apply the lessons of their anti-war organizing to furthering support for the war resistance and liberation movements in Southern Africa. An enthusiastic and united conference laid the groundwork for the beginning of a national anti-mercenary campaign.

Demands for the January 12 demonstrations include a call for the end to the recruitment of mercenaries in the United States, asylum for South African war resisters, as well as demands relating to South African development of a nuclear military capacity and strategy, South African oppression of suspected homosexuals, and in support of 300 white South African soldiers who recently mutined, marking the largest mass walkout in South Africa's military history. Simultaneous protests will also take place in London and Amsterdam.

FREE PRISONERS OF APARTHEID



Shelter of mainland rifle and claw,
open house of torture and neglect,
washed and spiked by old sea salt,
it has always been used like that:
always a Dutch island of death.

Look now for similar means of murder,
and they are up everywhere intact;
at the centre of the lime quarry,
time's a wire-net of shovel and grit,
ash clinging to burnt-out dreams!

Knots of limping, chained fighters
bend under today's whip-crack sun,
tomorrow's yellow Atlantic mists;
failing eyes and lungs last out,
pickled tight in thick lime dust.

Dying men break stones, life's way,
as cold water seaweed and mud stitch
illusions as large as far-away ships
slowly grazing the sunset plumb-line
down from Table Mountain to death.

A keeper with a flat face of steel
smashes a breathless sand-carrier;
his Welcome Valley brother says,
„Makavane!" as low as a threshold,
and „Makavane!" comes back, an echo.

The hopes of the new men strike iron,
a sound heard inside Dimbaza, too,
confidence arcing like a raised axe:
„The struggle will always be ours!"
„We'll never forget we'll be free!"



Andrew Salkey

S.A.S.C. Principles of Unity

- 1) We oppose apartheid in Southern Africa and racism in the United States and see them as a common enemy of the peoples of the United States and Southern Africa.
- 2) We oppose all United States economic, political and military ties or intervention, direct or indirect, in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia which supports and strengthens the power of the white minority government.
- 3) We support the right of self-determination for the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia and seek to build support for the genuine national liberation movements now fighting for the liberation of these countries.
- 4) We give critical support to the newly independent Peoples' Republic of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and oppose any external attack or intervention in their internal affairs.
- 5) We see building a mass movement in the United States against all forms of oppression and exploitation as the surest support for the liberation movements in Southern Africa and elsewhere. As one step in this process, we seek to promote labor support in the United States for the Black Trade Unions of the apartheid states.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKS AVAILABLE

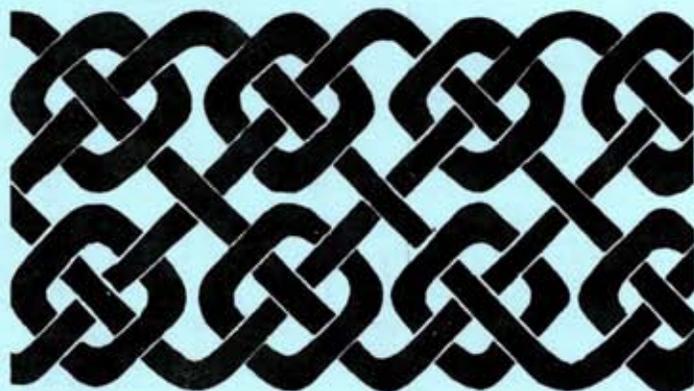
The Southern Africa Support Coalition now has books and posters for sale on the different liberation struggles in Southern Africa.

FUNDS NEEDED

In order to continue our educational work around the struggles in Africa, the Southern Africa Support Coalition is in need of funds. This newsletter needs your support! We also need people to help type, layout, and write articles.

WANTED - CRITICISM OF NEWSLETTER

We are constantly striving to improve our newsletter. If you have any suggestions, criticisms, or general comments, call us at (213) 684-1892. We welcome any comments from our readers!!!



The Southern Africa Support Committee has expanded into the Southern Africa Support Coalition, for the purpose of pulling together the different groups, organizations, and individuals who are doing support work around Southern Africa. We hope that you will respond with any information and/or articles concerning Southern Africa. We would like the Newsletter to be an outlet for you to the Public.

All Information Must Be Factual
For Information Call (213) 684-1892 or
send your Article and Information to P.O.
Box 3586 Pasa., Ca. 91103

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