

Southern Africa Program

Conceived as a means to support and listen to those pursuing justice and peace in southern Africa, and as a means to illuminate the issues and kindle active interest among Americans, the Southern Africa Program has two parts: one in Africa, one in the United States. Central to the Program is an AFSC Southern Africa Representative, who spends time in both places.

In Africa the role of the Representative — currently based in Lusaka, Zambia — is to be in close touch with leaders of liberation movements and others concerned about the futures of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South West Africa), South Africa, and the countries emerging from Portuguese colonialism; to explore ways of supporting people in their efforts toward justice and peace; and particularly to investigate, encourage, and support the development of non-violent options where they can be found.



Outside Africa, the Representative's responsibilities involve sharing information to sensitize and deepen the understanding of Americans to the issues. Here the task is to report on the gathering crisis in southern Africa and the American role there at meetings with media representatives, decision-makers in government, business, and nongovernmental organizations, students, church congregations, and community groups — especially where there are possibilities for encouraging ongoing local activities on southern Africa. (Some examples of such activities appear below.) In the fall of 1975, the Representative travelled to two-dozen U.S. cities, speaking in college seminars, appearing on TV and radio talk shows, taking part in three major conferences, and meeting with workers' and Friends groups.

Meetings in East Africa, with British Friends and the Friends Service Council, individual Friends in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and with U.S. Friends travelling to southern Africa.

Bill Sutherland, appointed Southern Africa Representative in December, 1974, brings to the job a long-standing involvement in the non-violent struggle for human rights. An American by birth and education, Bill has lived for years in Africa, and is now a resident of Tanzania. Since his appointment he has drawn on his numerous acquaintanceships in the area, including Namibian and Zimbabwean liberation group leaders, government officials, staff of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and others. In January, 1976 he attended an important conference on Namibia in Dakar,

Senegal, and the extraordinary meeting of the OAU on Angola held in Addis Ababa.

The American Friends Service Committee's interest in southern Africa is of long standing. Representatives were based in the central-southern Africa area from 1957 to 1967. Bill Sutherland finds that their presence and their work are still well-remembered. Several community service projects in Zambia from 1964 to the present day have also affirmed the AFSC concern for the future of this troubled region.

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For further information:

International Division
American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

(215) 241-7180

In a unique integration of work abroad and at home, the Southern Africa Program is supported by staff of the International and Peace Education Divisions. Involvement of AFSC regional offices is facilitated by the Peace Education Division.

A committee composed of individuals with experience in Africa, or in education/action programs, guides the Southern Africa Program.

The political realities of southern Africa make it unlikely that one individual would be able to visit people in the white-dominated countries as well as to maintain contact with liberation movement leaders. The Program's scope, however, includes the full range of positions in the area. Therefore the Southern Africa Committee keeps in touch with Friends



Resources: Organizations

American Committee on Africa, 305 E. 46th St., New York NY 10017. Public education, reports.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 566, New York NY 10027.

Washington Office on Africa, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington DC 20002. Legislative info/act.

Resources: Publications

AF Press Clips, AF/P, Rm. 3509, Dept. of State, Washington DC 20520. Weekly reprints.

Objective: Justice, United Nations Publications Rm. LX-2300, New York NY 10017 \$3 quarterly.

Southern Africa, 244 W. 27th St., 5th floor, New York NY 10001, 10 issues yearly, \$6 indiv.

Intercom #70 Southern Africa: Problems and US Alternatives, A Guide to Discussion, Study, and Resources; Intercom, 218 E. 18th St., New York NY 10003. 1-9, \$1.50 each; 10-99, 20% off Lists groups, films, printed resources.

Program Resources, Peace Education Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia PA 19102 carries some reprints on southern Africa.

Ways of Responding

Available from Program Resources, Peace Education, AFSC, is an "Action Guide" on southern Africa for use by groups wanting to mount education/action efforts locally around support for:

- * End to recruitment of mercenary soldiers.
- * Discouragement of tourism in Rhodesia.
- * Rhodesian sanctions.
- * Boycotts of South African goods, like coal.
- * Observance of South African arms embargo.
- * Withdrawal of U.S. investments in Namibia.
- * Ending U.S. bank loans for investment in S.A.
- * Political prisoners in S.A., Namibia.
- * Operation Namibia, a nonviolent action voyage carrying banned books to Namibia.
- * Discouragement of South African gold "Krugerrand" sales through U.S. banks.
- * Stockholders' actions targeting U.S. firms investing in South Africa.
- * End to Western assistance in developing South Africa's nuclear capacities.
- * Responses to South African P.R. efforts.
- * End to U.S. - South African connections through NATO and intelligence establishments.
- * Halting Export-Import Bank loans for S.A.