

Letter from Bill Sutherland
To Dave Elder
March 1, 1975

Since I last wrote, I have had an hour's session with President Kaunda, a meeting with ANC (S.A.) representatives, lunch with Paul Hopkins of the Presbyterian Church who called me at the suggestion of Frank Loescher. Most of what I have to write will be general without specific quotes, but I can say the following specific things about the interview with Kaunda:

1. When I presented my credentials (card and letter (which he had photostated immediately)) K explicitly stated that he approved the IAD program and regarded the two programs (ISD) as necessary and complementary. He praised the AFSC as a religious organization of works and described the programs as two aspects of: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth...."

2. K. stated the recent moves with regard to Southern Africa are based on the Lusaka manifesto.

I am enclosing my own copy of the manifesto with points 12 and 22 marked for particular attention. This document is as conciliatory and as reasonable as any similar statement put out by national leaders and it is quite amazing that in the circumstances of Southern Africa it gained as much agreement as it did.

It is generally agreed that strong international pressure on South Africa and Rhodesia is very important and there should be no relaxation at this level. (Incidentally any information about specific actions e.g. campaign against IBM, Coalition activities, repeal of Byrd amendment would be appreciated). ANC (S.A.) are particularly anxious that the campaign for the release all political detainees be stepped up with emphasis on Abram Fischer who has become paralyzed. They also want to tie in the release of female political prisoners with international woman's year. They point out that while Vorster is urging Smith to release prisoners he is detaining more and more people himself.

The major questions surfacing are:

1. Will the non-white population inside South Africa be sacrificed by the so-called detente?
2. Will the present negotiations result in a neo-colonial solution for Zimbabwe with the whites in definite economic control?
3. Does a detente with South Africa mean a resumption of economic relations which, given the present economic balancepoints towards a vassal relationship for most of the black states?

Detente is causing some disruption in black Africa. Senegal and Ivory Coast are using it as justification for their stand on dialogue-Sekoutouré is opposing it for the same reason. Central Africa is approaching S.A. for economic support. There is some resentment by the liberation leaders because they think the leaders of state are playing too dominant a role. Lesotho has attacked Zambia for being "soft" etc. On the other side, Vorster is being attacked by his right wing and there is supposed to be a secret group planning to assassinate him. Vorster, on his part, is being more ruthless than ever in dealing both with students, the Black Peoples' Convention and his own right wing.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
Jim Bristol