

AMERICAN-SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Opening Statement of Clarification

This association is a people-to-people friendship association which welcomes as members all individuals who are in accord with the objectives of the American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association. This Association supports the cause of all South African liberation groups who are determined to free the South African people from the oppressive, racist South African government and system. The Friendship Association will maintain cordial relations with all groups working for freedom in South Africa. However, the American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association (A.S.A.P.F.A.) is not affiliated with or under the direction of any other specific group. The goals of the Friendship Association are directly related towards building a people-to-people friendship and assistance.

Pledge

We will work in all ways to create and to express support between peoples of South Africa and the United States.

We join with all oppressed South Africans from all walks of life in calling for the right to determine their own future. We call for an end to exploitation and racism. We will work for a free and just South Africa.

Rationale

1. We are presently at a critical juncture in history. There is an immediate need for people-to-people understanding and cooperation. As stated by Robert McNamara in 1982, without real change South Africa will be "as great a threat to the peace of the world . . . as the Middle East is today."
2. There is a new level of confrontation in South Africa. On the one hand there are increased bannings, detentions, brutal torture, and deaths as well as intensification of the Bantustan policy whereby blacks are stripped of all citizenship rights in South Africa: political, economic, and social. (Black South Africans are being pushed into the already crowded and poverty-stricken native reserves or "homelands".) On the other hand many organizations in South Africa are stepping up the resistance to the apartheid system through violence and armed struggle. The American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association will offer a unifying and people oriented approach to combating apartheid in South Africa.
3. Many Africans and Americans believe the United States government (as distinct from American people) tacitly if not openly supports the policy of the South African government. This puts the U.S. on both the morally wrong and the politico-economic losing side. The U.S. should not be embracing racists, torturers, and murderers. The Friendship Association (A.S.A.P.F.A.) will work to have American people understand and demand an anti-apartheid position on U.S. relations with South Africa.

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Objectives

- to establish a nation-wide network of chapters called American-South African Peoples' Friendship Associations.
- to link all friends of the South African people in order to build a base of popular support for freedom in South Africa.
- to establish an organization which will promote educational, cultural, and social exchanges between South African people and American people.
- to advance the cause of human rights in South Africa; to make the struggle for human rights in South Africa a matter of highest priority and public concern in the United States.
- to aid in relieving the South African people from the oppressive apartheid system in South Africa; to work for the right of self-determination for the people of South Africa and for a system based on the will of all the people.
- to offer friendship to South African exiles and refugees who have had to flee from their homeland.
- to support African and Afro-American leadership and all groups which are sympathetic to the goals of the Friendship Association.
- to have all chapters of the Friendship Association (in addition to other tasks) be study groups in order that all members continue to learn about South African political, economic, social, and educational life which determines the human environment.
- to inform and educate people all over the United States and the world of the nature of apartheid with its intractable, unjust social, political, and economic order.
Educational means would include:
 - providing educational materials (films, kits, books, pamphlets) which present a South African Peoples' perspective.
 - setting up a speakers' bureau which will offer programs to organizations and groups interested in learning more about South Africa.
 - making contributions to the study of South Africa: charts research, writings, position papers, media work, etc.