

**"INVESTING A DOLLAR IN SOUTH AFRICA IS
ADDING A BRICK TO THE WALL OF OPPRESSION"**



MADISON AREA COMMITTEE
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
731 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Number 71, May 1978

macsa

news

FINANCIAL APPEAL SUCCESSFUL

Our last newsletter consisted of an appeal to our readers for funds, and we are glad to report that you were very responsive! Over \$100 was sent in, and we are now able to continue the newsletter. We will continue to need money, of course, and hope that enough money will come in on a regular basis to keep us financially solvent.

EXPLANATION OF ADDRESS LABEL CODE

"c"= complimentary

"i"= introductory; usually, this allows you several free newsletters, after which you should indicate whether or not you wish to continue receiving MACSA News.

A date next to your name indicates one year from the time of your last contribution, which is the "expiration" date of your subscription. We have a one year maximum subscription, so that contributions in excess of \$5 are considered a contribution to MACSA general expenses. If you contributed recently and yet your date is expired, never fear; we are not caught up yet with recent contributions.

NEXT MEETING : SOWETO ANNIVERSARY

We are planning an open meeting for Friday, June 16, 7:30 PM at Pres House, 731 State St. Refreshments will be served, there will be a short presentation of recent MACSA activities, and then time for general discussion. Mark it on your calendar!

APARTHEID'S VAIN STRUGGLE FOR JUSTIFICATION

With increasing external pressures for withdrawal of foreign support the South African government and its supporters have been carrying on a frenzied campaign to retain U.S. support. For example, in a letter to the Afro-American newspaper, 4/29/78 (reprinted from the New York Times), Johan Adler, Deputy Consul General (Information), South African Consulate General, denied that foreign investment helps to sustain the system of apartheid or that the present political and economic system "cause the premanent exploitation of South African blacks." He denies all this in spite of the fact that the white-Black wage gap has been increasing as foreign investments have increased--in spite of the fact that half of the Black Africans live below the poverty level (the government's own figures)--in spite of the fact that infant mortality (birth to age 5) is a staggering 50%! To support his position against withdrawal of foreign investment Adler drops the names of a number of Black puppets such as Chief Buthelezi and such "liberals" as Harry Oppenheimer (his vast fortunes have been made from cheap Black labor--and he is often referred to as the "diamond and gold king").

Even Polaroid with its sales of technical equipment (pass-book photography) was finally forced to pull out when their much-advertised "reform" experiment turned out to be a total failure. They discovered, among other things, that an elaborate scheme had been established to hide its sales to the government. Polaroid's "investigators arrived at a critical time in South Africa, shortly after the death of Steve Biko and the banning of even the most moderate black organizations such as the Association for the Educational and Cultural Advancement of the African People of South Africa, the group through which Polaroid had been providing its much vaunted assistance to African education." (Southern Africa magazine, Jan-Feb/78).

The South African Department of Information which spends millions in this country for propaganda purposes, carried a full-page ad in the Wall Street Journal, of March 9, in which they, too, struggle to "prove" that disinvestment would be harmful to the Black population. Can you imagine the South African Government suddenly worrying about the fate of Blacks? They quote one of their puppets, Dr. William Bergins, "a leader of the Colored people of South Africa..." as saying that "Disinvestment is absolute nonsense..." Change must come to benefit South Africans, not to benefit outsiders with possible ulterior motives." Yet it is these very "outsiders" with their capital investments who have become the major support for apartheid.

Daniel O, Graham, former assistant director of the CIA, writing in the Milwaukee Journal, March 13, considers South Africa and Rhodesia as "two of the very few governments in Africa where political freedom still exists..." (!) and these "white dominated societies... are more to be admired than condemned." Continuing with his distortion and confusion is his statement: "In Rhodesia I saw irrefutable evidence of the barbarity of the terrorism that US policy helps to foment. The guerrilla forces of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe --- whom Andrew Young insists must rule Rhodesia ---..." He concludes with the lament that because of Western economic sanctions the large numbers of Blacks volunteering for service in the Rhodesian Army can't be accepted due to arms and money shortages.

The entire propaganda campaign to support apartheid has been exposed by Southern Africa magazine, April, 1978. They state that "In March 1977, Ambassador Bowdler sent the State Department a long report analyzing in considerable

APARTHEID'S VAIN STRUGGLE FOR JUSTIFICATION (cont.)

depth black attitudes to US investment in South Africa. The report is cautious, and meticulously quotes all points of view. Yet in the final analysis the Ambassador is forced to conclude: '(It) must be expected that the role of American firms here will become increasingly controversial and rationale for continued Presence will seem less persuasive to growing numbers of blacks.' They state further: "The disinvestment rationale sees foreign investment as propping up South African economy and thus its social system, perpetuating apartheid in all its aspects. Foreign capital is viewed as an insurance policy for South Africa's survival, protecting against meaningful international sanctions, despite repeated censure by international bodies ..."

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Dennis Brutus Visits Madison

On April 29, Dennis Brutus very kindly came to Madison to help MACSA raise money and to share his poetry, recollections and insights into the anti-Apartheid struggle. He is a South African exile, poet, and currently Professor of English at Northwestern University. Thanks to him, we were able to raise over \$400 and thereby assure the continuation of MACSA, for the present at least. Our deepest appreciation goes not only to Dennis for his freely donated time, but to those who contributed and participated in our fundraising 'party'.

The evening began with Dennis reading several of his poems, which set the mood for the rest of the discussion. He then went on to emphasize three key areas crucial to the liberation struggle: (1) economic support of South Africa, especially from the U.S., must be stopped, (2) diplomatic relations between the U.S. and South Africa must be severed, and (3) a nationwide network of communication between groups working for liberation in Southern Africa should be established.

Dennis also spoke of his activities in organizing boycotts of South African participation in International sporting events, which have to date achieved more success than perhaps any other form of protest against Apartheid. Recently, the U.S. voted to expell South Africa from the Davis Cup after the mass demonstrations at the U.S.-South Africa Davis Cup match in Nashville made national headlines.

Another problem which Dennis reminded us of is the recruiting in this country of mercenaries for the Rhodesian army through a magazine called Soldier of Fortune. As much as 10% of the Rhodesian army is now thought to be composed of foreign mercenaries. The person leading the movement to expose and end this illegal trade in hired killers is Mario Salas, from San Antonio, Texas.

Following up some of Dennis' ideas, we are discussing plans for a nationwide conference being planned for the fall at Duke University, which might be a good place to lay the groundwork for a communications network between anti-Apartheid groups. A regional conference to be held in October at Northwestern University has been proposed, to rally the liberation support groups in the Midwest. MACSA hopes to participate in both conferences, particularly to share information and experiences about the campaign for divestiture on college campuses and at the local and national level, and to test out the idea for a large nationwide demonstration against U.S. support of South Africa which could be held in 1980 or 1981.

Zimbabwe Update

Recent events indicate a strengthened Patriotic Front (the national liberation forces of Zimbabwe) vis a vis the minority Smith regime. The widely publicized Anglo-American diplomatic initiative, though of great importance, should not be construed as the primary focus of the Zimbabwean liberation struggle: the Patriotic Front is engaging in negotiations solely to gain concessions that will further its aim of a truly independent Zimbabwe -- in diplomatic battle with American and British neo-colonial purposes. The United States and Britain continue negotiations with the Patriotic Front only because they realize the "internal settlement" cannot withstand the military strength and popular support of the Patriotic Front. In the end it is the success of the armed struggle waged by the Patriotic Front forces of ZANU and ZAPU that will allow Zimbabwe to pursue a course of national development.

That the Smith regime has found it necessary to censor foreign journalists' reports on the guerrilla struggle speaks well for the freedom fighters' efforts. This censorship came at a time when the national liberation struggle entered a higher stage: guerrilla raids had begun to reach the suburbs of Salisbury, and the Grand Reef Military Air Base west of Umtali, from which the Rhodesian army had launched several full-scale terrorist attacks upon refugee camps in Mozambique, suffered a major assault in which twenty aircraft and eighteen trucks were destroyed, along with numerous casualties. A New York Times article of April 19 spoke of a substantial semi-liberated area in the southeast of Zimbabwe where Rhodesian troops no longer dare go. ZANU reports that it has established schools and hospitals in this area.

The morale of the white Rhodesian army officers is reported to be very low, and with good cause. General Peter Wall, commander of the Rhodesian army, has publically stated that his army cannot defeat the guerrillas (Southern Africa, April, 1978). Smith's policy of "protected villages" (cf. the strategic hamlets of Vietnam), far from isolating the freedom fighters, has increased their popular support: these concentration camps have clarified the people's understanding of the oppressive Smith regime. The freedom fighters have thoroughly infiltrated the camps, and their unity with the people of Zimbabwe continues to grow. Imprisoned villagers welcome and assist guerrilla attacks upon the camp structures.

The Patriotic Front's **real** firmness in negotiations with Secretary of State Vance regarding their goal of true national independence reflects their strength on the battlefield. Thus Secretary Vance has redoubled longstanding efforts to split the Patriotic Front, leaking his intentions to the press. This effort to thwart the Zimbabwean liberation struggle is as doomed to failure as Smith's military efforts: ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo has repeatedly denounced such efforts. With internal bickering and international exposure as a charade of majority rule resulting from the Hove dismissal, the "internal settlement" may have suffered some loss of credibility in the eyes of the West as a plausible neo-colonial option. In any event, the continuing armed struggle waged by the Patriotic Front forces will undoubtedly continue to take its toll on the settler economy and morale, pushing the Smith regime deeper and deeper into crisis -- a crisis that makes possible the birth of a free Zimbabwe.

Sharpeville Commemoration Week

Madison's Annual Sharpeville Commemoration Week was held this year from March 31st to April 9th. Spearheading the coalition which organized the Week were the African Students' Union at the University of Wisconsin and MACSA, with funds granted by the UW Wisconsin Students' Association and the Multicultural Council. The week started with a very successful Fundraising dance, which raised more than \$200 for the ANC (South Africa). During the entire week funds were raised for the Southern Africa Program of the AFSC (American Friends' Service Committee) to be used in their refugee aid programs, and more than \$200 has been sent, with contributions still being received.

Speeches by the ANC and ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) Observers to the U.N. highlighted the week. The ZANU Observer to the U.N., Tirivafi Kangai, brought news of the Zimbabwean liberation struggle. He emphasized that ZANU and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union) are cooperating fully through the Patriotic Front. Both are strongly opposed to compromising with the Smith regime in any way. Kangai stated that semi-liberated zones encompassing one fourth of Zimbabwe have been established, and that military targets throughout the country face continual harassment. Answering questions about ZANU's program, Tirivafi pointed out that ZANU has already established educational and medical programs for people in the semi-liberated areas, and that supplies for these programs are urgently needed. He also emphasized that ZANU has no intention of expelling whites, but hopes to include all Zimbabweans of whatever color in the new society which will rise out of Rhodesia. The Patriotic Front is dedicated to 'self-liberation', and will not allow itself to be controlled or dominated by any outside power even though this self-reliance may mean a longer liberation struggle.

The 'Keynote' speech was given by Thami Mhlambiso of the ANC. He had encouraging words for the Madison community, praising the amount of activity that there has been here in support of liberation in Southern Africa, especially the recent Divestiture victory at UW and various legislative initiatives in various levels of local government which are now models for similar initiatives in other states. While we may feel almost helpless sometimes, Thami said that our support of the oppressed in South Africa is very important for their morale, and very much appreciated. People in South Africa get discouraged too, but knowing that other people around the world are working on their side helps them to keep struggling.

Thami countered the argument that U.S. investments in South Africa help black people by explaining that blacks are already suffering so much under apartheid that further economic deprivation would in no way be as detrimental as perpetuation of apartheid. Under apartheid non-whites can never have rights, and U.S. investments support apartheid financially and even more importantly, give it much-needed credibility. Thami echoed the growing consensus that there are virtually no black supporters of U.S. investment in South Africa except stooges in the government payroll such as Gatsha Buthelezi.

Other events of Sharpeville Week included films, a speech by Nelson Johnson of the African Liberation Support Committee, a public forum on recent activities in the Madison area relating to Southern Africa, a candle-light vigil for those killed by South African security forces featuring poetry reading by Prof. Vernon February, and a worship service sponsored by Madison Campus Ministries featuring Rev. George Riddick of Operation PUSH who spoke on "Black Theology and Liberation: Southern Africa and the U.S."



Trieste/ingate/ - Moware

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Enclosed please find my \$5.00 for newsletter subscription _____

Contribution to MACSA (we are desperate for funds to continue) _____

Contribution for the Sharpeville Commemoration Special Appeal
for South African refugees in Botswana _____

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