

Educators Against Apartheid

January, 1989

164-04 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432

Martin Luther King, opponent of apartheid

The following is excerpted from a speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. at a meeting at Hunter College, New York City, on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1965.

Africa has been depicted for more than a century as the home of Black cannibals and ignorant primitives. Despite volumes of facts contravening this picture, the stereotype persists in books, motion pictures and other media of communication.

Africa does have spectacular savages and brutes today, but they are not Black. They are sophisticated white rulers of South Africa who profess to be cultured, religious and civilized, but whose conduct and philosophy stamp them unmistakably as modern-day barbarians.

The South African government, to make the white supreme, has had to reach into the past and revive the nightmarish ideology and practices of nazism. We are witnessing a recrudescence of the barbarism which murdered more humans than any war in history. In South Africa today, all opposition to white supremacy is condemned as communism, and in its name, due process is destroyed; a medieval segregation is organized with Twentieth Century efficiency and drive; a sophisticated form of slavery is imposed by a minority upon a majority, which is kept in grinding poverty; the dignity of human personality is defiled; and world opinion is arrogantly defied.

South Africa says to the world: "We have become a powerful industrial economy; we are too strong to be defeated by paper resolutions of world tribunals; we are immune to protest and to economic reprisals. We are invulnerable to opposition from within or without; if our evil offends you, you will have to learn to live with it."

Increasingly, in recent months, this conclusion has been echoed by sober commentators of other countries who disapprove, but, nevertheless, assert that there can be no remedy against this formidable adversary of human rights.

Do we, too, acknowledge defeat? Have we cried everything and failed? In examining this question as Americans, we are immediately struck by the fact that the U.S. moved with strikingly different energy when it reached a dubious conclusion that our interests were threatened in the Dominican Republic. We inundated that small nation with overwhelming force, shocking the world with our zealotry and naked power. With respect to South Africa, however, our protest is so muted and peripheral, it merely mildly disturbs the sensibilities of the segregationists, while our trade and investments substantially stimulate their economy to greater heights. We pat them on the wrist in permitting racially

mixed receptions in our Embassy and by exhibiting films depicting Negro artists. But we give them massive support through American investments in motor and rubber industries, by extending some \$40 million in loans through our most distinguished banking and financial institutions, by purchasing gold and other minerals mined by Black slave labor, by giving them a sugar quota, by maintaining three tracking stations there, and by providing them with the prestige of a nuclear reactor built with our technical co-operation and fueled with refined uranium supplied by us.

When it is realized that Great Britain, France and other democratic powers also prop up the economy of South Africa — and when to all of this is added the fact that the USSR has indicated its willingness to participate in a boycott — it is prop-

er to wonder how South Africa can so confidently defy the civilized world. The conclusion is inescapable that it is less sure of its own power, but more sure that the great nations will not sacrifice trade and profit to oppose them effectively. The shame of our nation is that it is objectively an ally of this monstrous government in its grim war with its own Black people.

Have we the power to be more than peevish with South Africa, but yet refrain from acts of war? To list the extensive economic relations of the great powers with South Africa is to suggest a potent non-violent path. The international potential of non-violence has never been employed. Non-violence has been practiced within national borders in India, the U.S. and in regions of Africa with spectacular success. The time has come to utilize non-violence fully through a massive international boycott which would involve the USSR, Great Britain, France, the U.S., Germany and Japan. No nation professing a concern for man's dignity could avoid assuming its obligation if people of all states and races were to adopt a firm stand.

As this meeting testifies, there are many white people who know that liberty is indivisible. Even more inspiring is the fact that in South Africa itself, incredibly brave white people are risking their careers, their homes, and their lives in the cause of human justice. Nor is this a plea to Negroes to fight on two fronts. The struggle for freedom forms one long front crossing oceans and mountains. The brotherhood of man is not confined within a narrow, limited circle of select people. It is fed everywhere in the world: it is an international sentiment of surprising strength. Because this is true, when men of good will finally unite, they will be invincible. □

Apartheid is Wrong goes cable in Queens!!!!!!

Queens residents will be able to see the filmstrip, Apartheid is Wrong in video. (The video was made by Queens Cable Access. Thank you Al Crawford.)

The filmstrip, produced by EAA, is narrated by Ruby Dee.

January 31 3 pm and 7 pm

February 14 3 pm and 7 pm

Channel 35

Please call (718) 886-8160
or write: Queens Cable Access
4161 Kissena Blvd.
Room 2077
Flushing, NY 11355

to thank them for their assistance in bringing the anti-apartheid struggle into the homes of Queens residents.

APARTHEID IS WRONG

If you are interested in purchasing the filmstrip and cassette, Apartheid is Wrong for your school's Black History Month program, send your order TODAY.

\$15. + \$2. postage and handling
Make checks to Educators Against Apartheid. Send to E.A.A.


If you're interested in receiving an IMPACT II grant (NYC Board of Education) for adapting Apartheid is Wrong for your classroom, or if you would like a workshop at your school on "Teaching About Apartheid", call Paula Bower P.S 173 (212)927-7850. Apartheid is Wrong will be shown at the Impact II Conference on Social Issues For Teachers - to be held on Martin Luther King Day. Call Impact II. (718) 935-4310.



Apartheid Awareness Contest

Please encourage your high school students to participate in the APARTHEID AWARENESS CONTEST. They should attend the Feb.4 Conference at Washington Irving HS from 10 am - 3 pm. Call (718)935-4252. for details. The contest is sponsored by a number of groups including The NYC Board of Education, the United Nations Ass'n, For Our Children's Sake, and Educators Against Apartheid.

BOYCOTT ALL KELLOGG'S CEREALS!

Did YOU send your boycott Kellogg's coupon to the President of Kellogg's?
Did he answer you yet?
Most people who received answers were told how good Kellogg's is to Black people in SA. Kellogg's adopts schools, sponsors choirs, donates materials.
What they forgot to tell you is that Kellogg's:
Pays taxes to the SA government.
Sells cereal to the SA military.
Pays a differential to their workers who are conscripted into the SA military.

Support E.A.A.

Printing and mailing this newsletter each month is very expensive. Your contribution is really vital to our survival! Please join EAA today and send a contribution.

- Enclosed is \$10 for membership to EAA.
 Enclosed is a contribution for EAA.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ SCHOOL _____

Brooklyn, S.A. Water Unsafe

Brooklyn Resettlement Camp

The goats and dogs of the village of Brooklyn may drink from the communal wells only between the hours of midnight and three o'clock in the morning. At every other hour, the animals are chased away by crowds of women and children who wait, day and night, to fill their plastic containers with the murky water that slowly seeps out of hand-dug holes in the ground.

Brooklyn, a vast resettlement area on the slopes of the Lebombo mountains in the far eastern Transvaal 140km north of Nelspruit, is home to about 5 000 people evicted from surrounding farms in 'white' SA during the 1960's and 1970's. The settlement has never been supplied with pumps or boreholes, even though the residents have paid an annual water levy to the Lebowa authorities since they were moved there. Instead the villagers have used picks and shovels to dig about six wells — one for every 800 people.

For the women this is the overriding reality of being settled in a 'homeland'. About one third of their daily lives is spent struggling to collect and store a commodity that most urban residents take for granted. One of the women waiting at the wells was Selinah Mashile, a mother of seven who says she was born 'before the heavy rains of 1946'. Her water-collecting routine begins when she gets home from Geldenhuis, a sawmill some 40km into the foothills of the Lebombo.

The 10-hour shift ends at 5pm and the bus takes 45 minutes before it drops her 2km from her house. In summer Mashile arrives home while the sun is still setting; in winter it has already disappeared behind the mountain range. 'When I come home, I find the children are already in the queue for water and I just join them,' she says. 'Sometimes we take 10 containers so that we have enough for the whole week. We can wait until 11 or 11.30pm and when my time comes it takes an hour to fill the containers.'

Water seeps slowly into the wells and the women have to wait for the level to rise before they can scoop out substantial amounts. On some occasions, especially in winter when the underground springs are dry, the water stops flowing before everyone in the queue has had their fill.

'At about 11 or 12 o'clock I sometimes lose courage and go back home,' says Mashile. 'At three in the morning I come back down here to see if there is any water.' ... Mashile leaves the house at 5.30am, so that she can be sure of catching the bus at six. She makes a point of waking the children when she leaves. Her oldest daughter, Ratisi, must walk to the Maripi High School about 6km from Brooklyn the others, two boys and two girls walk about 5km to the Maotole primary school.

Mashile's job starts at 7am. 'I have to sort planks into different grades and sometimes load the trucks that come for the wood. It is a very tough job and we do the work that is also done by the men,' she says. 'Sometimes I slumber on the job and the planks pass without being checked. The danger of it is that if you slumber a plank can fall on you and

cause a deep wound — or you can lose your fingers.'

At 5pm a bell rings to say it is time for the workers to head for home, where soon after sunset Mashile will join the queue for water. Another 24-hour cycle in her life begins.

Jacques Modipane, chair of a local civic group called the Mapulaneng Crisis Committee, believe the tensions that build up around the wells in crisis periods could spill over into a confrontation with the 'homeland' government.

'Recently we called off a march to the administration offices in Bushbuckridge (about 30km away) because here in Lebowa the police can open fire even if you are merely calling for water,' he says.

In a bid to avert such a clash, Modipane and others linked to the civic organisation have made it a priority to raise funds so that the people of Brooklyn can have easier access to a commodity that urban dwellers get at the turn of a tap.

ANC Newsbriefing *Weekly Mail 19.8.88*
Vol. 12 # 33



This photograph is by Eli Weinberg. The water tap is typical of rural areas where Black South Africans live. Sometimes one tap is shared by hundreds of people! Brooklyn, SA does not even have water taps. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS A VERY RICH COUNTRY!

Brooklyn. Say no to apartheid.

Educators Against Apartheid calls on ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF BROOKLYN, SOUTH AFRICA. The people of Brooklyn, South Africa have paid their water levy. It is a crime and a disgrace that the South African government has not after 20 years provided wells so that Brooklynites can drink clean and safe water. That is why the United Nations has called apartheid a "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY". Many people call it genocide.

Educators Against Apartheid would like to urge all schools in Brooklyn, NY to get involved in this effort. Here are some suggested activities.

- * Have your students read copies of the article about Brooklyn, SA. Discuss it in school. Students can discuss the article at home, at church or in synagogue, and among friends.
- * Have students and families identify Brooklyn, SA on a map. You may find that most maps issued by the SA government DO NOT INCLUDE TOWNSHIPS OR RESETTLEMENT CAMPS, although millions of Black people live there. Imagine the U.S. government leaving New York City off the map because the population is predominantly Black, Hispanic, and Asian!
- * Turn the news article into a skit. Have one student be Selinah Mashile, the mother of seven children. Have students act out the skit, and then discuss it.
- * Invite the school nurse/doctor or a parent involved in health care to your class to discuss the life threatening danger of people drinking the muddy water from the same holes as those used by animals.
- * Half the Black children in the Bantustans and resettlement areas die before age 5! Have the students discuss this information. Students can do research about health care under apartheid using an excellent book The South African Disease, by Cedric de Beer. Africa World Press. P.O. Box 1892. Trenton, NJ 08607 or call American Comm. on Africa (212) 962-1210 to purchase a copy.
- * Have students develop some math lessons using the data in the article.

ACTION

- * Write to President Botha to call on the SA government to provide wells and safe and sanitary living conditions for the people of Brooklyn, South Africa. Send letters to Educators Against Apartheid. 164-04 Geothals Avenue. Jamaica, NY 11432. We will forward the letters.
- * Write to President Elect Bush and you Congresspeople to ask them to intervene. Send the letters c/o Educators Against Apartheid.
- * Have your school put together a delegation which would attend a meeting with the Brooklyn, NY Borough President where we will ask him to help.
- * Have students start a petition or letter writing campaign at school.
- * Art teachers can help students prepare posters or murals.
- * Students can write articles for your school or neighborhood newspaper.

If you are interested in working on this project at your school please contact Educators Against Apartheid. Call Paula Bower (201) 836-6644 as soon as possible. Please send copies of your students' work to E.A.A. Some will be published in the next newsletter. Students living outside of Brooklyn, NY are welcome to participate. Of course, your ideas for other activities are encouraged!

PETITION

END APARTHEID SUPPORT INTRO 1137

WE, WORKERS AND PARENTS FROM THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CALL ON THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY TO PASS INTRO 1137.

INTRO 1137:

- BARS THE CITY FROM CONTRACTING WITH COMPANIES THAT CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.
- PREVENTS THE CITY FROM PURCHASING FROM COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA VIA THIRD-PARTY VENDORS OR SUBCONTRACTORS.
- PROVIDES FOR A DESIGNATED CITY AGENCY TO KEEP RECORDS OF CORPORATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND TO MAKE AN ANNUAL REPORT MONITORING THE LAW.

Intro 1137 is an important way New Yorkers can SAY NO TO APARTHEID.

NAME	ADDRESS	SCHOOL	POSITION IN SCHOOL (TEACHER, PARAPROFESSIONAL, SCHOOL AIDE, CUSTODIAL STAFF, ADMINISTRATION, OTHER, PARENT)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

Please make copies of this petition. Send completed petitions to Educators

Educators Against Apartheid FORUM

Wednesday, January 25, 1989

7:30 pm

Interchurch Center

475 Riverside Drive

120th & Claremont Ave.

Namibia

UPDATE



A representative from SWAPO, South West Africa People's Organization will discuss the international agreement negotiated by the United Nations which will make Namibia an independent country. Please bring your students and coworkers to this historic meeting. There will be curriculum materials for teaching about Namibia.

This forum will be followed by a general meeting of Educators Against Apartheid.

Agenda topics:

Launching of the EAA children's letter writing campaign.

Expanding the Kellogg's boycott.

Support of the Shell Oil boycott - calling on the Teachers Retirement System to divest immediately from Shell Oil. Response from the UFT?

Progress of Apartheid is Wrong Curriculum - an update.

The Brooklyn Project.

Update on work with Educators For Social Responsibility - follow-up efforts on the Conference on Racism.

resource materials * filmstrips * books * refreshments * curriculum * videos

Educators Against Apartheid
164-04 Goethals Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432