
Educators Against Racism And Apartheid

Vol.8 No. 9 May, 1991

164-04 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432

Maintain Sanctions! Scrap Apartheid NOW!

The African National Congress has called on all freedom loving people to maintain sanctions until the basic pillars of apartheid have been removed. A number of countries have lifted sanctions against apartheid South Africa before any of the apartheid laws have been abolished.

The *New York Times*, in conspiracy with the multi-national corporations, so anxious to reinvest in South Africa, reports about President de Klerk's promises of reform as if they have already been implemented. South Africa has not scrapped the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts, the Internal Security Act, and the other laws which legalize apartheid. Black South Africans still cannot vote. The apartheid regime has not released all political prisoners or allowed repatriation of all exiles.

Some suggestions:

- * *Arrange a special assembly, with a film, student and adult speakers, a cultural presentation to provide more information to students.*
- * *Post information about this issue next to every pay phone at your school. List phone numbers of the local offices of your Congressional representatives. Students and staff can sign the paper after they have called their representatives demanding that Congress MAINTAIN SANCTIONS.*
- * *Set up tables for letter-writing to Congress persons. Or make a petition.*
- * *Paint a large mural or poster, KEEP THE PRESSURE ON! MAINTAIN SANCTIONS. Invite students, staff, and parents to sign their names. Present the sign to your Congressional representative. Be sure to call the local press.*
- * *Expand your boycott of Coca-cola and Kellogg's.*

Educators Against Racism And Apartheid calls on you mobilize a campaign at your school to KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE APARTHEID REGIME!

Release all Political Prisoners NOW!

From the start of the talks about negotiations, the gov't has consistently raised obstacles to block the release of political prisoners. Human rights activists identified over 3,000 political prisoners, 55 of them on death row, at the end of 1989. The de Klerk government refused political prisoner status to all but 600 of them. Thus one year later nearly 2,719 remain behind bars. Many have started hunger strikes to protest their imprisonment.

During 1990 President de Klerk unbanned political organizations, claiming to have "opened the door" to free political activity. But his government also detained 1671 people and prosecuted 697 political trials involving 3,894 people.

The gov't's record regarding political prisoners is indicative of its lack of desire to implement genuine reform:

- * It unilaterally appointed itself the judge of who qualified for indemnity.
- * In some cases it has revoked indemnity status.
- * It insisted that all prisoners applying for indemnity sign the equivalent of a complete confession.
- * The human rights community and the liberation movements have no say in the final decisions.

We ask you to join us in opening the jail gates and freeing apartheid's political prisoners. The gov't must be held to its commitments. It must learn not to play games with the lives of political prisoners. South Africa has appointed a new Ambassador to Washington. Let him hear from you that South Africa cannot expect to be trusted in negotiations when it fails to keep its promises on political prisoners and when it keeps opponents of apartheid, a system it says it is dismantling, in jail.

The Definition of a Political Prisoner

In negotiations with the gov't the ANC suspended all facets of its armed struggle in return for the release of all political prisoners. Now that the moment of truth is here, de Klerk has released only those political prisoners convicted of affiliation with or furthering the aims of a banned organization. In other words, those who have committed a crime against the state not involving violence.

This interpretation of the definition of political prisoners is entirely too narrow as it leaves out all those convicted under South Africa's internal security legislation, common law crimes, like treason, convictions under the state of emergency regulations and "unrest related" offenses. This has denied 2,719 people of political prisoner status and a chance for freedom.

The broader definition adopted by the African National Congress defines political prisoners as anyone imprisoned for fighting apartheid. This definition includes not only those incarcerated but also detainees, those awaiting trial or currently on trial and those liable for prosecution.

There is no universally accepted definition of political prisoner and in the unique context of South Africa, the definition should be as broad as possible in order to encompass the different types of resistance that took place in the face of violent gov't repression. Thus a SA political prisoner can be defined as an individual convicted of or charged with activities done in furtherance of the liberation of the African people; this includes both violent and non-violent.

Please discuss this vital issue with your class.

Send letters to or call:

Ambassador Harry Schwarz

South African Embassy.

3051 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington D.C. 20008 (202) 232-4400

Call President Bush to demand the de Klerk regime honor its promises and release all political prisoners.

Call (202) 456-1111 or fax (202) 456-2461.

From The Africa Fund. May, 1991

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS PAGE AND POST

Educators Against Racism And Apartheid welcomes your participation in a special meeting. We will begin work on a new curriculum for kindergarten - grade 12:

Combatting Racism: A Curriculum For Young People

**Thursday, May 23, 1991, 7:30 - 9:30 pm
Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Dr.(120th St)**

The curriculum will include historical background, facts, data, photos and other art work, and many, many activities. We call on unions, educators, parents, and all concerned people to contribute to this much needed curriculum. All contributors will be given credit - of course. This will be an inter-disciplinary, hands-on curriculum. Educators Against Racism And Apartheid is seeking grants to help fund the project and a publisher. If you have any suggestions, please write to Paula Bower. 625 Linden Avenue. Teaneck, NY 07666. (201) 836-6644.

Life Expectancy: A Math Lesson

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a report in April, 1991 indicating that "Americans generally are living longer than ever, but the life expectancy of blacks is continuing to shorten alarmingly."

Life expectancy for the nation in 1990: 75.2 years

Life expectancy for blacks in 1990: 69.2 years

Information from the New York Times. April 9, 1991.

Activities for students:

Put this information on a bar graph.

On the average, how many less years do African-Americans live in the United States?

Why? Can you think of reasons for the drop in life expectancy?

What can be done about it? (Please ask your teacher to attend the May 23 meeting!)

See the math lesson by Claudia Zaslavsky in [Apartheid Is Wrong: A Curriculum For Young People](#) for information about life expectancy in South Africa.

APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA CASHED IN ON THE GULF WAR - U.S. REWARDS REGIME WITH ARMS DEALS, WARM MILITARY RELATIONS

by Joseph D. Reilly

US-led forces in the Persian Gulf, which includes a disproportionate number of African-American soldiers, were shot at with apartheid South Africa's ammunition and equipment. Record-breaking shipments of 155mm shells were sent to Iraq by the apartheid defense giant, Armscor, long-after the UN-sponsored embargo on August, 1990, it was reported in the *Johannesburg Star*.



An advanced mobile cannon like those from SA

The shells are capable of delivering poison gas up to 42km, and posed a far greater threat to US troops than did Scud missiles. Huge G5 and GHN-45 mobile cannons were manufactured and sold by the apartheid regime. The cannons were sold by South Africans in large numbers in the 1980's. US officials under the Reagan Administration continually gave quiet approval to the transactions. (This took place despite the United Nations

sanctions!) Iraq had 100 GHN-45's and 200 G5's at the beginning of the war.

The Bush Administration is in fact rewarding the racist regime in numerous ways:

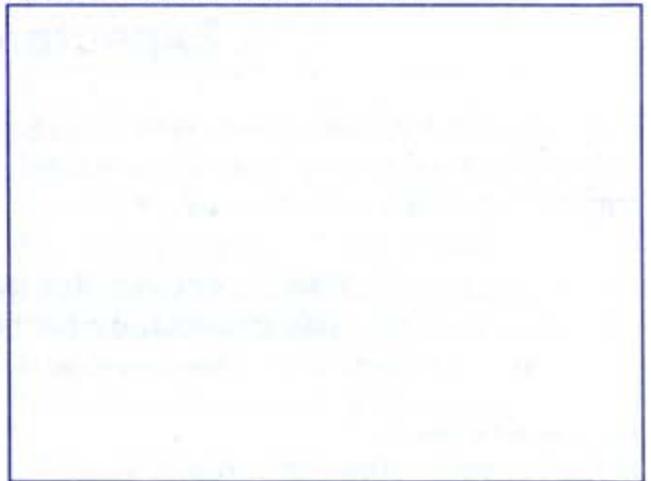
First, the US has purchased the entire 1991 supply of 155mm shells from the apartheid regime through Saudi Arabia, resulting in a hefty profit for SA.

The United Arab Emirates, a loyal US client state, ordered 50 G6 cannons from SA.

Secondly, the *Weekly Mail* of 18-24 January, 1991 quotes senior SA military officials, American defense contractors and writers from *Jane's Defense Weekly* saying that American forces must be consulting and even visiting SA defense officials for "advise on how the Iraqis would use the artillery we sold them."

...

As it stands, the US has Israel training a variety of destabilizing forces through grants of the US National Endowment for Democracy: the terrorist 32nd battalion - previously used indiscriminately against Angolans and Namibians....



Ask students to draw a cartoon showing the relationship of the US government and the SA regime.

Discuss the relationship of the US to the United Nations. (Re: South Africa, Iraq)

Progress!

The AMERICAN CYANAMID shareholder meeting in Portland, Maine on April 15 was quite a success. Before it began, anti-apartheid, religious, labor, and environmental activists staged a spirited protest.

One outcome of the on-going protests is that CYANAMID is currently land-filling its toxic mercury, instead of shipping it back to South Africa. (Of course, we don't know where they are land-filling it in the United States!) This does not represent a firm commitment not to ship it back to Thor in the future. CYANAMID is considering selling the part of its U.S. business that uses the mercury catalyst produced by Thor in south Africa.

The resolution for CYANAMID to cut ties to South Africa won the same vote as last year - 15.7%.

So, a temporary congratulations to those who participated in this struggle. It's not over. Please try to go to the planning meetings of Interfaith Center On Corporate Responsibility. Call Donna Katzin, (212) 870-2293.



EARA Board Member Speaks Out at Teachers Retirement System Board Meeting

by Joseph Edelman

After returning from South America, I spoke out at the April 18 TRS meeting, urging the Board not to ease-up in its commitment to divest. Here are excerpts from my speech.

1. The South African government is making a concerted effort through travel ads to get people from South America to visit South Africa.
2. The SA gov't planted articles which told of the wonders of South Africa.
3. Articles appeared in the South American press implying that apartheid had ended.
4. There is a danger, with the initiative of the British gov't, to lift sanctions against SA.
5. We must be vigilant against these tactics and not allow ourselves in the US to be sucked into the "lift sanctions" campaign when there are still political prisoners.
6. We abolished slavery in the 19th Century, and we don't want to see it supported in SA into the 21st Century.

Apartheid



Big Victory

J.P. MORGAN just announced that it is getting out of the business of handling South African ADR's (American Depository Receipts). They are the equivalent of stock in South African companies and are traded on the NY Stock Exchange. MORGAN has been hit with an ongoing campaign, including shareholder resolutions, lobbying, meetings, etc. by labor, religious and anti-apartheid groups. When the bank was informed it might lose an underwriting opportunity in Massachusetts because of its South African ADR's MORGAN took the hint! Bravo! Next stop: MANUFACTURES HANOVER TRUST, CITICORP AND CHASE.

Resources

American Committee On Africa

Unified List of United States Companies Doing Business in South Africa Third Edition by Richard Knight. Africa Fund, 1990. Individuals, \$10. Institutions, \$30.

Free All South African Political Prisoners Now Poster. Africa Fund, 1991. \$2.00

Mandela In America VHS video. Globalvision, 1990. 90 minutes. Documents Mandela's visit in 1990. \$20.

Make checks payable to American Committee On Africa. 198 Broadway, NYC, NY 10038 or call (212) 962-1210. ACOA has an extensive literature list.

Heinemann

361 Hanover Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801-3959
(603)431-7894

African Writers Series

Caribbean Writers Series

Send for their extensive catalog.

"Apartheid Is Wrong: A Curriculum For Young People is well-organized, creative, and beautifully packaged. You have every reason to be proud of a job well done."

*Olive Tomlinson,
Coordinator of Staff
Development*

IMPACT II, NYC Board of
Education

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A Curriculum for Young People.
Second Edition**

(Each copy: \$17.00 + \$5.00 for postage and handling)

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on orders of more than 10 copies.

Make checks or money orders payable to:
Educators Against Racism and Apartheid

Mail to:
Educators Against Racism and Apartheid
164-04 Goethals Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432

Count On Your Fingers African Style by Claudia Zaslavsky.
Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.
Thomas Y. Crowell, NY 1980.
See listings of Claudia Zaslavsky's
other books in future newsletters.
They are great for integrating math
into a multi-cultural curriculum!



Wow!

To: Educators For Social Responsibility/Metro

On behalf of J.P Morgan, I am delighted to tell you that we have approved a grant of \$100,000 to Educators For Social Responsibility for the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program.

This special grant is made to commemorate the ending of the war in the Persian Gulf. By contributing to your program with public school children in New York City, we believe that we are fostering peace in a sustained way.

We are happy to be able to provide our support and would appreciate a report about the things which this grant has helped make possible.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Hildy J. Simmons, Vice
President

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of NY

This newsletter is published monthly during the school year by Educators Against Racism And Apartheid.

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Claudia Zaslavsky

Contributions of articles or art work by adults or children are welcome.

Volunteer to teach in the Republic of Namibia.

The Mission of the Republic of Namibia has recommended that educators who want to volunteer to teach in Namibia contact WORLDTEACH. You can work full-time for one year at a public elementary, high school, or college. You will receive free housing and a small salary which will cover day-to-day expenses.

Write: WorldTeach

One Eliot Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

telephone (617) 495-5527

Job Available

North Star Fund

Call immediately for information about a position available as development director at the North Star Fund, which funds local progressive organizations.

Call (212) 460-5511.

Join Educators Against Racism And Apartheid

I want to join EARA. (Membership contribution is \$10.)

I want to make a contribution of \$_____ to help extend the outreach of EARA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ SCHOOL _____

*Please tear off and return to EARA.
164-04 Goethals Avenue. Jamaica, NY 11432*

Soweto Day March and Rally

**Monday, June 17, 1991
3:30 pm**

The event will focus on the current situation in South Africa and the need to keep the pressure on apartheid. It will connect the themes of promises broken by the South African regime to the future denied to youth - from New York City Soweto, South Africa.



*From Fighting Apartheid: A Cartoon History. IDAF
Remember Soweto! End racism and apartheid!*

Please plan to bring a large delegation of students, parents, and school workers. If you are not near New York City, please plan a Soweto Day event in your school and/or city.

See the next EARA newsletter for details of the march or call Immobilize Apartheid Coalition. (212)870-2928 or (212) 962-1210.

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

Free All South African Political Prisoners NOW!