



The U.S. Must Support  
The United Nations Trust Fund  
For South Africa



**PRIORITY ACTION PROJECT NO. 1**

of the American Committee on Africa

**IN A NUTSHELL**

- U.S. investors in South Africa earned \$100 million in 1965.
- But the U.S. Government has refused to donate a cent to the U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa although funds are critically needed to help victims of apartheid . . . and the U.S. voted in favor of establishing the Fund.
- We urge you to join a campaign to change U.S. policy on this question.

**BACKGROUND**

In December 1965, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish a Trust Fund for South Africa. The vote was 95 in favor, one against (South Africa), and one abstention (Portugal). The U.S. was among those in favor.

The purpose of the Fund is to make grants to voluntary organizations having the means of distributing funds within South Africa, to governments of host countries of refugees from South Africa and to other appropriate bodies. The funds are to go towards: Legal aid to those charged under apartheid laws; relief for dependents of persons persecuted by the laws; education of prisoners, their children and dependents; and relief for refugees from South Africa.

The Fund was established because the scope of repression by the South African Government had widened against those who opposed its racist policies, while it had become more and more difficult to collect money for relief within the country. External private fund-raising was also unable to cope with the needs.

The network of apartheid legislation not only forbids effective anti-apartheid political activity but also vindictively punishes again and again those who have engaged in such activity as well as their families. Under 180-day detention law, for example, a person may be held without evidence and without trial as long as it may please the Government.

Today, some 8,000 political prisoners languish in South African jails. Countless others have been "banned" (consigned to civil death) and deported to "transit camps" in remote districts. Whipping is a legally sanctioned form of extra punishment, as are long periods of solitary confinement. It is not known whether torture by means of electric shock continues to be employed to convince persons to turn State Witness.

#### **NEEDS**

It is not easy to estimate exactly how much defense and aid funds could reasonably be absorbed annually in South Africa, but it is generally assumed that between \$500,000 and \$750,000 is a minimal amount. The most urgent specific needs which have come to the attention of agencies engaged in legal and relief work are:

**Legal defense:** A new form of political persecution has arisen; persons already in jail, many since 1960, are being charged again with a variation of the original offense or with more serious charges. The authorities are making it as difficult as possible for lawyers to see clients—accused are suddenly brought into court, then spirited away, and their lawyers are victimized. In one area alone, 290 men in jail are being charged again. The trials are expected to last a year and cost \$36,000.00

**Aid to families:** It is thought that at least 50,000 wives and children of men in jail, banned or "endorsed out" to special detention camps are in critical need of assistance. They have virtually no means of keeping alive—money for food, shelter or clothes. Their destitutions weigh heavily on the minds of prisoners. In addition, the children of these prisoners cannot continue their education without financial assistance to pay for school fees and supplies.

**Education of prisoners in jail:** Many prisoners want to continue their education. Some never finished secondary school, others were in mid-university career. In spite of the fact that many spend 10 hours a day at hard labor, large numbers have enrolled in correspondence courses. These courses are comparatively expensive.

### FUND TRUSTEES

A Committee of Trustees administers the U.N. Fund. It is composed of: Sverker C. Astrom (Chairman, Sweden); J. C. Iyalla (Vice Chairman, Nigeria); Javier Illanes (Chile); S. A. Pasha (Pakistan); and Dey Ould Sidi Baba (Morocco).

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Most grants to the Fund come from the governments of member nations of the United Nations. By May, 1967, the following contributions had been made or pledged by U.N. members:

COUNTRY	AMOUNT
Algeria .....	\$ 2,000.00
Bulgaria .....	1,000.00
Byelorussian SSR .....	1,500.00
Cambodia .....	1,000.00
Chile .....	3,000.00
Congo (Kinshasa) .....	5,000.00
Cyprus .....	1,278.00
Czechoslovakia .....	2,000.00
Denmark .....	28,886.00
Ethiopia .....	5,000.00
Finland .....	10,000.00
France .....	30,000.00
Guinea .....	1,000.00
India .....	3,333.00
Iran .....	5,000.00
Israel .....	1,000.00
Italy .....	2,500.00
Jamaica .....	980.00
Mongolia .....	1,000.00
Nigeria .....	2,800.00
Norway .....	10,000.00
Pakistan .....	5,000.00
Philippines .....	3,500.00
Sudan .....	1,500.00
Sweden .....	150,000.00
Tunisia .....	3,000.00
Turkey .....	1,000.00
Ukrainian SSR .....	3,500.00
United Kingdom .....	40,000.00
USSR .....	15,000.00
Yugoslavia .....	3,000.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$343,777.00</b>

In addition to the above, other funds were contributed directly to private agencies for defense and aid. These included: Denmark: \$86,300.00; the Church of Greece: \$1,000.00; Poland: \$1,500.00; and Sweden: \$115,000.00. The Trust Fund has also received \$5,000.00 from the Government of East Germany, and the sum of \$50,000.00 from a **private** American fund, the African Aid and Legal Defense Fund. **TOTAL: \$258,800.00.**

### **ROLE OF THE U.S.**

Conspicuous by its absence among the list of contributors is the United States. Although the Fund has been in existence for over a year, the question of contribution remains "under active consideration." In other words, Congress has not seen fit to initiate the appropriation of money for the U.N. Trust Fund.

It might be well to contrast this procrastination to donate with the returns which the U.S. economy in general, and private investors and traders in particular, receive from South Africa.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Please note that this is not a fund appeal, but a request for individuals and organizations to demand generous United States Government contributions to the U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa. To this end, we suggest:

1. Writing letters about this issue to;

The Honorable Arthur J. Goldberg  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
799 U.N. Plaza  
New York, New York 10017

The Honorable Dean Rusk  
Secretary of State  
State Department  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Joseph Palmer II  
Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs  
State Department  
Washington, D.C.

Your Congressman and Senators

2. Placing your organization on record as in favor of U.S. contributions to the Fund, and forwarding copies of the resolution to the above authorities.

### **For further information, contact:**

American Committee on Africa, 211 East 43rd St. (Room 705), New York, N.Y. 10017.

