

THE CHICAGO STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM
407 S. Dearborn #460, Chicago, Illinois 60605

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4/8/77

300 MARCH AND RALLY IN CHICAGO

Protestors demand an end to U.S.'s racist role in southern Africa.

On March 26, 300 people assembled at the Federal Building here in Chicago for a picket line and march to protest the U.S. role in supporting the racist minority regimes in southern Africa. The slogans raised by the protestors were: SHARPEVILLE-SOWETO, END APARTHEID NOW; U.S. OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, BLACK MAJORITY RULE NOW. The picket line was spirited as it assembled for the march through the downtown shopping district. The march ended at the Civic Center for a rally. Speakers at the rally included Prof. Zvogbov of Lewis College and representative of ZANU; Bill Hampton, brother of slain Black Panther leader, Fred Hampton; Abdul Bilal Kareem, Mathews/McKay Defense Comm.; Donna Stutts, National Alliance of Black Feminists; Saladin El Tabuk, Student Coalition Against Racism; Rev. Warren Day; Deb Brewster, of the Coalition for the Liberation of Angola Mozambique and Guinea Bissau; poet Jeoffrey Stewart; and Prof. Jose Lopez, noted Puerto Rican activist. The rally was co-chaired by Dolores Griffith of the Matthews/McKay Defense Committee and Judy Hagans of the Student Coalition Against Racism.

The March and Rally were sponsored by the MARCH 26 ANTI-APARTEID COMMITTEE and was endorsed by over 20 Chicago organizations and individuals.

The call for the day of protest was issued by the National Student Coalition Against Racism last November at its third national conference. Protests were held throughout the country. Major actions took place in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles. This has been the first major protest organized nationwide to protest U.S. involvement in southern Africa, since the murders of hundreds of Black student protestors in Soweto, South Africa, last June 1976.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As you already know, the Student Coalition Against Racism is a multi-racial student organization, which has set as its goal the fight against racism wherever it exists. The National Student Coalition Against Racism was founded in Boston in 1975 and played an instrumental role in mobilizing thousands to defend school desegregation. At our third national conference we raised our struggle to an international level and called for activities to protest the U.S.'s racist role in southern Africa. Since March 26, numbers of SCAR activists in Chicago have also tackled other issues, such as the campaign against the death penalty, desegregating Chicago's schools, the Hampton family suit, and the defense of black political prisoners.

This is the first issue of Chicago SCAR's newsletter which will be sent out once a month. By sending out this newsletter we hope to keep you current and informed about our activities around the city. The struggle against racism will require a broad and sustained effort and if you can help through your participation in our activities or a financial contribution it will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chicago SCAR

SOWETO STUDENT LEADERS TOUR CHICAGO TO BUILD MARCH 26 DEMONSTRATIONS

Tsietsi Mashinini, first president of the Soweto Student Representative Council and Khotso Seatlholo, Mashinini's successor, were both forced into exile after the South African government launched massive manhunts to capture them. Their crime was organizing a massive student movement which eventually gained the support of the black workers of South Africa. This movement began as a protest against the imposition of the Afrikaans language, the language of the white Dutch settlers. Through its own momentum the movement broadened into a challenge

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SOWETO STUDENT LEADERS TOUR CHICAGO (con't)

against the apartheid system of South Africa. Both Mashinini and Seatlholo toured the Chicago area last month to explain the horrid living conditions of the South African Blacks. They described how and why they organized the students of Soweto, the South-west Township Organizations, a series of black ghettos outside Johannesburg. Both speakers denounced the role of the United States government and the 350 U.S. corporations and banks which form the backbone of the racist South African government. These U.S. corporations reap billions of dollars in profit while black workers are forced to live on incredibly low wages and terrible living standards. Black families are forced apart by these conditions and black workers endure no personal freedoms.

The two teenaged student leaders toured the U.S. under the sponsorship of the International Defense and Aid Fund, a United Nations sanctioned refugee relief organization and the National Student Coalition Against Racism. They appealed to the American people to organize a massive movement to demand that the U.S. end all support to the racist minority governments of southern Africa and that all U.S. corporations withdraw from their country. Over 1700 people in Chicago heard Mashinini and Seatlholo during their separate tours here. Mashinini spoke to students at the University of Illinois, Circle Campus, and the University of Chicago. He and Dennis Brutus, the well known South African poet and activist, talked to Black Chicagoans on the popular Wesley South radio talk show. Mashinini also addressed a rally at the Shiloh Baptist Church and a poetry reading at the Kumba Workshop. Seatlholo electrified 800 high school students at Percy Julian High School and spoke to student at Kennedy-King college and Governor State University. Several hundred dollars were raised to aid South African students living in exile in Botswana. Hundreds of students have managed to escape the horrors of the South African government. Most now live in Botswana.

DEATH PENALTY TO BE RESTORED IN ILLINOIS

Since last fall right wingers in the state legislature have been trying to restore the death penalty here in Illinois. This spring these blood thirsty demagogues have achieved their first victory. Despite the fact that the death penalty was voted down by the House Judiciary Committee, the House as a whole voted to pass the death penalty. The Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty had been very successful in building a broad turn out for special hearings on the death penalty last February. The Student Coalition Against Racism, which is a member of the Coalition Against the Death Penalty, sent a representative to the hearings. The representative explained the racist implications of the death penalty to the legislators and the observers present. One fact was particularly striking, i.e. the more than half of those executed in the last few decades have been black, while blacks as a whole represent only 12% of the U.S. population.

On April 7th the Coalition Against the Death Penalty sponsored a picket line against the death penalty outside the Civic Center. Members of the Coalition were set to leave Chicago after the picket for a national protest in Atlanta, Georgia. The national protest, "A Witness against Execution", will be held on April 9th in Atlanta.

TO ALL INTERESTED IN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM
-There will be a general meeting on SATURDAY, APRIL 23, at 1:00 p.m.
407 S. Dearborn #460, for more info. 663-1894
