

SYRACUSE COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION
(SCOSAL)

SCOSAL has, in recent months, limited its work primarily to educational and informational areas; this includes our work relating to Angola and the victorious struggle of the MPLA. What organizing work that has been done in Syracuse around Southern African liberation, particularly Angola, has likewise been in the form of establishing information-distribution ties with media and local groups.

The one exception was our effort to meet with the area's Democratic Representative James Hanley (Republican William Walsh consistently votes on the side of imperialism), during the recess prior to the crucial Congressional vote on the Tunney amendment to the D.O.D. Appropriations Act. Though Hanley never arrived, preferring Florida sun to Syracuse snow, his aides were informed of our position, and those of various church and community people we recruited. Hanley voted in favor of the amendment.

SCOSAL was able to maintain a consistent Angola news dissemination (many thanks to the MPLA Solidarity Committee) via two area media outlets: 1) The monthly Syracuse Peace Council Newsletter (circulation 9,000) printed regular features, supplied by SCOSAL, on the struggle in Angola. Further, the SPC bookstore has greatly expanded its supply of African literature with our help. 2) WAER radio carried weekly news reports on Angola, prepared by the Third World News Bureau, which SCOSAL helped to create. In addition, we aired roughly five two-to-four hour radio specials between September and March.

Other local media exposures on Angola, besides the frequent wire service distortions, included a TV (WHEN-Ch.5) "Dialogue" program with Melba Smith of the MPLA Sol. Comm., and the printing of letters to the editors of the Post-Standard and the Herald-Journal (Newhouse publications) from SCOSAL.

During the past three months, we have conducted three main public educational presentations. On February 23, we presented the SPC's Monday Potluck with the film strip "People's War In Angola" and led a lengthy discussion group. On March 4, we addressed a group of Colgate University students, at the invitation of the Ralph Bunche Peace Center, again showing the film strip and answering questions. On April 5, we sponsored Ole Gjerstad, recently returned from Angola, as a part of the LSM tour entitled "Angola! When Bullets Begin to Flower." At all of the above we sold literature and buttons.

Finally, we have been meeting with the UN Association of Central New York, bringing them up to date on the events in Angola, and the rest of Southern Africa, and providing them with an anti-imperialist analysis.

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Addendum: SCOSAL did not work in a coalition per se on Angola. Syracuse is a small city and there are few people specifically interested in Southern African liberation work. The resources of SCOSAL were not sufficient to initiate such a coalition, either. We did, however, work with groups on a programmatic basis -- especially the Syracuse Peace Council, the Program of Foreign and Comparative Studies at S.U., and African student groups. An attempt to have one of the Angola programs in the Black community on the Southside failed to attract community people due to lack of previous work there on Southern Africa either by our committee or local groups. Through media work, especially radio and tv, we hoped, with our few numbers, to reach the largest number of people we could on the issues.