

PROPOSAL FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA COALITION--BAY AREA
from members of the Southern Africa Collective

AUGUST 26, 1978

Introduction: Again we want to stress that the purpose of this coalition and the Nov. 17 & 18 actions should be to broaden and develop the base of the southern Africa movement in the United States. We want to reach out beyond the left to mobilize the largest possible number of people behind our two principles of unity:

1. End all U.S. military, economic and diplomatic support for South Africa and Rhodesia.
2. Support self-determination for the people of southern Africa. Support SWAPO in Namibia, the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe and the liberation forces in South Africa.

We want to create a broad coalition of black groups, trade union activists, church people and everyday folks who join forces with the students and southern Africa activists who are already in motion. At all times, we must be conscious of reaching out to a wide range of people--in our leaflets, speeches, radio appearances, etc. No rhetoric, no ultra-radical posturing. We are trying to build a genuine coalition that will be taken seriously--one that has political clout and can begin to make an impact in this country.

Rally: The rally in front of the Federal Bldg. should be well-organized, informative, clearly understood to all passerbys, entertaining and snappy. No long-winded, rhetorical speeches. The rally should combine speeches with music and possibly other cultural presentations (good poetry from someone like Maya Angelou or Ntozake Shange, or a skit from the S.F. Mime Troupe). We should have a main, well-known speaker, representatives from the liberation movements, and a few other speakers who are either terrific politically, are very well-known (and will draw people) or who represent major constituencies like labor. We definitely should not have a long list of short "endorsement" speeches from the groups represented in the coalition. That is one of the things that makes many left rallies too long, boring and alienating. Coalition endorsements should be announced briefly by the M.C. We propose:

Main speaker: Rep. Ron Dellums (alternate: TRANSAFRICA's Randall Robinson)
Why? Dellums has pretty good politics around southern Africa. He is well-known, has a definite constituency, is black, has spoken before at Africa rallies, and is an effective speaker. He will be taken seriously in the media as a political figure and a member of Congress (even if he is the extreme left-wing of Congress.)

Liberation Movement Reps:
from the United Nations

SWAPO's BenGuriab (a particularly good speaker)
Patriotic Front's T. Kangai or C. Ndlovu
South Africa (if not ANC or PAC from the UN, then maybe Black Consciousness Movement leader Sipho Buthelezi, who is a Marxist and has toured the U.S. earlier sponsored by the AFSC)

Stop Banking: national coordinator Prexy Nesbitt or local rep

Abalone Alliance: Daniel Ellsberg (this is important to draw attention to the very dangerous U.S.-S. Africa nuclear cooperation and to draw in the growing anti-nuke movement; it is important to try to make this link to build the southern Africa movement)

Coalition speaker

Student movement rep: SERGE or CUAA or Catalyst Project

Trade Union rep: someone like Leo Robinson of ILWU Local 10 or another person from the southern Africa trade union conf.

Church rep: a prominent local church activist or someone like Sister Janice McLaughlin, the American nun who was expelled from Rhodesia for supporting the Patriotic Front.

MC: Maya Angelou or Belvie Rooks of the Third World Fund/Zimbabwe Medical Drive

Music: Must be a well-known group or performer(s) who will draw a crowd and entertain people--obviously also politically sympathetic. Possibly:

Taj Mahal	Hugh Masakela
Gil Scott-Heron	Eddie Henderson/Julian Priester
Letta Mbula	
Miriam Makeba	Dollar Brand

Notes on speeches: As we said at the last meeting: No superpower, anti-Soviet, anti-Cuba raps allowed at the rally. To do so would be to go against the politics of the Patriotic Front (ZANU & ZAPU) and SWAPO as well as the ANC and many leaders of the Black Consciousness Movement. It would also confuse and misdirect many of the people we are trying to reach in this country, who are already anti-communist and anti-Soviet enough. Our task is to take on the U.S.--the main danger and obstacle to liberation in southern Africa.

The speeches should not be too long. Dellums is the main speaker. The other talks should be shorter.

Demands/slogans: All demands are under the two main principles of unity:

1. End all U.S. military, economic and diplomatic support...
2. Support self-determination...

We suggest such slogans as: Stop Banking on Apartheid, Ban the Krugerrand, No More Mercenaries to Rhodesia, Close the S. African consulate, End U.S.-S. African Nuclear Cooperation, Support full economic sanctions against S. Africa and Rhodesia, including an Oil Embargo, etc.

Outreach/other groups to involve in coalition: Black Scholar, Bay Area Coalition on Human Rights, NAACP, the S.F. supervisors who are into southern Africa issues, Black ministers group which organized the 1-day black student boycott of the S.F. schools, all the church groups associated with Stop Banking, African Film Society, Carlton Goodlet (Sun-Reporter), National Conference of Black Lawyers, Black Teachers Caucus (Yvonne Golden), People for a Free Southern Africa (UC Santa Cruz), NCOBD (Tim Marshall), Third World News Bureau, etc.

To build for the demonstration we need to form a publicity committee to write leaflets (clearly-written, straightforward, factual, non-rhetorical, brief, attractively laid-out, for a mass audience, no heavy armed struggle raps); PSAs for radio stations like KRE, KJAZ, KSAN, KDIA, KPFA, KPOO, etc.; press releases for newspapers like the SF Chronicle, Sun-Reporter, Examiner, etc.; posters (a dynamite, attention-grabbing poster!)

Money collected at the rally should cover our expenses first, then to liberation movement(s), and maybe some to keep the coalition going.