

AFRICA PEACE TOUR  
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AFRICA PEACE TOUR TO VISIT 40 CALIFORNIA CITIES  
APRIL 10 - 28

SACRAMENTO, April 10. The Fourth Annual Africa Peace Tour will travel throughout California from April 10 - April 28. Using music, films, drama and expert speakers from Africa and the U.S., the Tour will cut through myths and stereotypes about the complex realities of today's Africa.

In Northern California the Tour will visit Davis, Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Salinas, San Jose, Oakland, Richmond, Concord, Vallejo, Santa Rosa, Garberville, Eureka, Arcata, Hoopa, Redding, Chico and Oroville.

Sponsored by Oxfam, Bread for the World and 11 other predominantly religious organizations, the Tour brings a message that needs to be heard: Peace in Africa is directly linked to problems and choices we face everyday. Californians will be challenged to examine the connections between our lives, our institutions, our government's policies and the day-to-day reality of peoples' lives in Africa.

The Africa Peace Tour offers an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with Africans and Americans who have indepth experience with health care, agricultural production, rural and urban development, refugees, mass communications, politics or a particular war zone as well as the roles played by U.S. interests in Africa.

The Tour will build support for changing U.S. Africa policy from one which focuses on military aid to one which supports human needs. It will visit 2/3 of California's legislative districts to support local advocacy efforts. Where appropriate, Tour participants will be emphasizing legislative actions to pressure U.S. corporations to change their Africa practices in conjunction with being more responsive citizens within the U.S.

# Africa Peace Tour opens in Las Vegas

By Marcla Austin  
Review-Journal

Racism and oppression, injustices in South Africa that Americans are challenged to think more seriously about, was a common theme of speakers at a news conference Sunday that kicked off the Africa Peace Tour.

The Africa Peace Tour, a coalition of informed African and American speakers, began the tour covering Nevada and California Sunday in Las Vegas at St. James the Apostle Catholic Church, 821 N. H. St. It will end Friday in Northern California.

Jerry Herman, chairman of the African Peace Committee and an organizer of the tour, said "We chose Las Vegas because we think it is one of the great places in the country and it hasn't had a lot of Southern Africa work done here."

Herman said since 1980 more than 900,000 deaths and about \$35 million in property damage are both results of direct or indirect aggression in South Africa. He held a landmine in his hand, and said the explosive charges have been used in South Africa to take 40,000 limbs.

"Americans should think more seriously and deeply about this destruction," he said.

## Quotable

**“We chose Las Vegas because we think it is one of the great places in the country and it hasn't had a lot of Southern Africa work done here.”**

**— Jerry Herman, tour organizer**

The tour, joined by organizers and educators, will make presentations to a variety of groups in churches, schools, universities and civic centers. Assisting the tour are Nevadan's Against Apartheid, Inc., a local organization formed to focus attention on the injustices of minorities in South Africa, in conjunction with the coalition for Peace and Justice.

The public is invited to hear speakers such as Marie Gublin from South Africa, Tessa Seyoum from Ethiopia, Abdul Babu from Tanzania, Rev. Ntoni Nzinga from Angola, Prexy Nesbitt from the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, and Jerry Herman of the American Friends Service Committee.

Speakers at the outdoor press conference stood in front of a replica of the South African Casspir Armoured Personnel Carrier.

Sandra Tjitendero, of Zambia,

said the bulletproof vehicle that resembles a tank, "is used against people in South African townships (who don't have guns) to transport soldiers and control crowds."

Because her husband, Mose, is a leader in the South-West Africa People's Organization, her family lives in exile from Namibia.

"Just because you don't see anything on the 6 o'clock news doesn't mean it (violence) has stopped," she said. "The horror of this (the Casspir) is that the citizens don't have guns. The people still throw stones. They're still courageous. Their spirit has not been squashed."

The African speakers put a lot of emphasis on there being a direct connection between what's going on in Africa and the United States.

"There's only one world and mankind is but one. The only dif-

ference is the geographic areas on the globe," said Mose Tjitendero.

"The African Embassy distortingly says that we, as oppressed people, are against economic sanctions," Mose Tjitendero said. "We support sanctions because it is the only practical way South Africans will be brought to their senses. The only other alternative (violence) nobody wants or supports. It can't be said that Africans will suffer with economic sanctions. We have already suffered. We speak for ourselves."

Annette Anthony, tour coordinator, said the Bantu system in South Africa is based on the United States reservation system.

Anthony Thomas, president of Nevadans Against Apartheid, said oppression and racism are parallels that exist in America and Africa. "We'll be hitting Indian reservations in Northern Nevada."

The speakers can be heard at 7 tonight in room 202 in the Moyer Student Union Building on the UNLV campus and at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium of the new Westside Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Other locations will be announced at those events.

The Casspir will be on display for a week.

*clarification* →

## AFRICA PEACE TOUR

### BACKGROUND

#### Africa Peace Committee

After witnessing the growing repression in South Africa and the massive suffering related to warfare, racism, poverty, underdevelopment and hunger experienced in many parts of Africa, a variety of organizations formed the Africa Peace Committee in January 1986. The purpose of the Committee is to sponsor Africa Peace Tours each Spring in different regions of the United States.

It is composed of the following national organizations (listed alphabetically): Africa Faith and Justice Network, American Committee on Africa, American Friends Service Committee (Southern Africa Program), Bread for the World, Church of the Brethren, Church Women United, Disciples of Christ, Maryknoll Missioners, Mennonite Central Committee, Oxfam-America, Presbyterian Peace Making Program, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Washington Office on Africa.

#### Types of Activities in 1989 Tour

Addressing high school assemblies, visiting classes 5-12, participating in roundtables and lecturing at community colleges and universities. Conducting media interviews with editorial boards and talk show hosts. Visiting projects from small-scale farms to homeless shelters. Talking with local and regional organizations representing union workers to refugees. Attending ministerial breakfasts, service club lunches and receptions. Speaking at community-sponsored events and forums.

#### Prior Tours

- 1986: New Orleans, Atlanta, and selected cities in the Midwest and Florida.
- 1987: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and North and South Carolina.
- 1988: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.



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April 10, 1989

TO: Public Affairs Editors and Producers

FROM: Miloanne Hecathorn 415-339-8841  
Northern California Coordinator  
AFRICA PEACE TOUR

SUBJECT: Availability of African Peace Tour Speakers  
for interviews

The Africa Peace Tour offers you the unique opportunity to interview African leaders who have real expertise on issues often appearing in the news. Each has a personal and relevant perspective that will help your viewers, listeners or readers cut through myths and stereotypes about Africans. They clearly demonstrate that the African peoples' spirits will not be broken in spite of what seem to be insurmountable problems.

We encourage you to attend at least one of the functions listed on the enclosed itinerary. Or call as soon as possible to arrange for a direct interview with the speaker(s) of your choice. We have noted with a red asterisk which speaker will be available in your area.

While the Africa Peace Tour schedule in each town is rather busy, we have open time for media interviews. Again, we urge you to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

#### Suggested Topics:

Will there be independence for Namibia, Africa's last colony?

Peace in Africa: how is it linked to problems and choices we face everyday?

Racism in the U.S. and in Africa.

The rôle of the superpowers in regional conflicts in Africa.

Has hunger lessened in Africa?

Has U.S. aid been a help or a hindrance to the development of specific countries?

And of course, personal stories about life in Africa.