

# End U.S. Support for South African Apartheid and End Racism at Home

On April 20, 1985 in San Francisco, Washington, DC and other cities across the country, hundreds of thousands of people will march and rally to protest policies of government which are destructive to human life. The Reagan Administration continues to erase past initiatives in favor of affirmative action and social justice. Those policy shifts represent a definite retreat from previous national commitments to equal opportunity and social progress and are especially negative in impact upon Black, Latino and Asian people. The Anti-Apartheid Contingent of the Spring Mobilization for Peace, Jobs & Justice reflects the unity of all who support rights to self-determination, political independence and social justice for the peoples of the world. Join the Anti-Apartheid Contingent of the April 20 March and Rally to protest U.S. support for apartheid in South Africa and racism at home!



## Background... What is Apartheid?

South Africa is a country of 30 million people; 4.5 million are white, 22.7 million are Black and 2.6 Indian and mixed race. Apartheid is an Afrikan word meaning separate development, and is a system of forced racial separation used by the white minority government of South Africa to control the Black majority.

Under the system of apartheid, the Black majority has no political or civil rights. Black people in South Africa have cannot vote, own land, utilize their own natural resources, decide where or with whom they will live, where they will work, and they cannot participate in the operation of the government in any way.

In South Africa, the "pass laws" deny Black people the most basic human rights *in their own country*. Every Black South African 16 years of age or older must carry a pass book at all times, and is subject to immediate arrest if it is forgotten or improperly filled out. The pass book includes an individual identification number, photo, fingerprints, date of birth and place of birth, tribe and "homeland." An average of 1,000 people are arrested every day for pass law violations! Pass book raids are a common occurrence in South Africa.

Bantustans are one of the central elements of apartheid. Bantustans are isolated areas that have been designated "homelands" for Black Africans. These areas, which comprise 13% of South Africa's territory, are being called "homelands" for all Black Africans, who comprise 73% of the population. The South African government has declared 4 of these bantustan areas "independent," therefore stripping 8 million people of their South African citizenship. It is the white minority government's intention to make all 10 bantustans independent, virtually making all Black African foreigners in South African, their own land. Only the Israeli and South African governments recognize the bantustans as legitimate nations.

The reality of living under this brutal system means being injured or murdered while participating in a funeral procession. It means an average monthly wage of \$260 if you're Black contrasted to \$1,395 for whites. It means a Black infant mortality rate of 300 per 1000 in the Bantustans with a white infant mortality rate of 13 per 1000 live births. It means a doctor patient ratio of 1 to 330 if you're white and 1 to 19,000 if you're Black. It means the government spends \$170 per year on your education if you're a Black child and \$1,150 if you're a

white child. These are some aspects, in human terms, of the system of terror and repression known as apartheid.

## U.S. Involvement in South Africa

U.S. corporations and banks have invested more than \$15 billion dollars in South Africa. The fact is that U.S. corporations take millions in profits from the slave wages of apartheid.

U.S. corporations now dominated several vital South African industries: transportation, energy and communications. U.S. companies control 79 percent of the computer field in that country. IBM alone controls nearly 50 percent of computer market share; of the 320 computer installations, 240 have been leased or purchased from IBM. These include installations at the Anglo-American Corporation, African Explosive and Chemical Industries, and Johannesburg Stock Exchange. One third of all IBM business in South Africa is done with the government. IBM along with Burroughs, Sperry Rand, Control Data and Honeywell supply computers used to implement pass laws, influx control of migrant laborers, coordinate information for police establishments and oversee nuclear power systems and weapons of the Atomic Energy

Board. Over 30 U.S. corporations report \$50 million or more in annual sales or 1,000 or more workers in South Africa. Some of them are: Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Bank, Chrysler, Citicorp, Coca-Cola, Exxon, Ford Motor Company, General Electric, General Motors, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Crocker National Bank, Texaco and United Technologies.

In the financial field, U.S. financial institutions hold 33 percent of all outstanding loans to South Africa. By 1983, U.S. banks had surpassed their English counterparts with a total of 4.5 billion in commercial bank loans to South Africa, representing an expansion of 332 percent within the last 15 years. The lion's share of U.S. bank loans have been made by Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Citicorp, Chase Manhattan, Bank of America and Morgan Guaranty. As Pretoria's largest lender, Citicorp holds 25 percent of the total U.S. claims against that country, with total loan liabilities reaching 200 million. By law, Citibank, as well as all foreign companies operating in the country, must retain 15 percent of their public assets in South African government bonds.

Political arrangements in South Africa which serve the economic interests of these U.S. firms are interpreted by many politicians and by the media as serving "the national interest" of the United States. However, the interests of working people, both in South Africa and in the United States, are not served by U.S. penetration of South African industry or by increasing the power of an apartheid society. Plant closings in the United States which coincide with the expansion of investment in South Africa illustrate the very negative consequences of this relationship. Already plants and the jobs of North American workers are being transferred from the U.S. to South Africa, where Black workers are paid about one-fifth of the white workers' pay.

U.S. support for the apartheid system, therefore, is not economically beneficial to the people of this country. In fact the "strategic partnership" of the Reagan Administration and South African apart-

heid regime is linked to high levels of unemployment, reduced social services, increased military spending, union busting, and attacks on affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act.

A terrible reality which threatens the peace of the entire world is the fact that the brutal South African apartheid regime now has the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. In 1957, the U.S. and South Africa entered into a bilateral nuclear energy cooperation pact, and this relationship continues. South Africa produced weapons grade uranium and cobalt 60, mined in Namibia and processed in South Africa. South Africa is one of the 25 countries in the world which are suppliers of cobalt 60, as a result of its illegal occupation of Namibia, in violation of League of Nations mandates and United Nations mandates. A nation in which access to resources is denied to people on the basis of race is conducting racial genocide, despite pious statements to the contrary. A nation in which a dominant minority imposes genocidal policies on an oppressed majority is not likely to exercise restraint in the use of nuclear arms in international relations. South Africa currently is violating national boundaries of neighboring countries with total disregard for world opinion.

### **In the Bay Area—Recent Actions in the Anti-Apartheid Movement**

Last November the people of San Francisco took a firm stand against apartheid when 63 percent of the voters approved Proposition "J," directing the City and County to withdraw some \$337 million dollars in pension funds invested in South Africa. This campaign for divestment featured an effective program of community education about apartheid.

Also in November, the San Francisco Longshoremen's Union, ILWU Local 10, refused to unload South African cargo. This action triggered the explosive growth of a mass movement in the Bay Area. A daily picketline was established during the noon hour in front of the Pacific Maritime Association building in Oakland, demanding that PMA stop

all shipments from South Africa, and that the U.S. government end all political and economic ties with the South African government. The movement scored a major victory when the Oakland City Council passed a resolution urging the Port Commission not to allow South Africa ships to dock in the Port of Oakland.

In January 1985, the San Francisco Central Labor Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning apartheid. A resolution was introduced at the Port Commission of San Francisco regarding action on cargo to or from South Africa.

Nationally, the Free South Africa Movement has been carrying out daily picketing at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. Many participants in these actions have been arrested, including members of Congress, national Black political leaders, artists, entertainers, trade unionists and members of the media.

Recent demonstrations in the Bay Area have included a picket in San Francisco to protect promotion of travel to South Africa, a protest against the presence at the St. Francis Hotel of South African ambassador Bernardus Fouri, pickets demanding the closing of offices of South African Airlines, and a symbolic burning of pass books by women in Oakland, in sisterhood with African women.

On March 15 in front of IBM headquarters in Oakland, to protest that corporation's role and presence in South Africa, a demonstration was held, organized by Children Against South African Apartheid. This development indicates that the level of consciousness about the Pretoria regime, particularly among Black youth, has been raised considerably by increasing mobilization of anti-apartheid protests.

The level of community outrage in response to the most recent killings in South Africa suggests that the momentum of protest activity will continue to accelerate during the second term of the Reagan Administration. End Apartheid! Free South Africa now!

# **South Africa—Historic Outline of Black African Resistance**

- 1652—First European settlement in South Africa. From that date colonization and wars of resistance raged for over 200 years.
- 1905—Formation of numerous African organizations which held mass meetings, demonstrations, strikes.
- 1906—Bambata Rebellion, an uprising against the imposition of a hut and dog tax and providing information for the census; over 4000 people were ruthlessly murdered by the British.
- 1910—Ratification by a white South African parliament of the South African Act of Union, which consolidated white rule.
- 1912—Formation of the African National Congress (ANC). That same year, the white Union Parliament passed a law prohibiting Blacks from buying or selling land.
- 1913—White seizure of the land put into law. The Land Act set aside a maximum of 13 percent of all land for Black African occupation. African women resisted the imposition of residential passes.
- 1915—2800 miners went on strike for better pay and working conditions.
- 1917—The first African industrial trade union, the Industrial Workers of Africa, was founded in Johannesburg.
- 1918—Over 150 striking sanitation workers were sentenced to 2 months of hard labor for breach of contract. An ANC campaign for their release began which turned into a campaign for a general wage increase under the threat of a general strike.
- 1919—70,000 miners struck against their already bad and deteriorating working conditions. South Africa troops killed 3 and wounded over 40 strikers. South African police and armed white civilians attacked a meeting in support of the striking miners, killing 8 and wounding over 80 Africans.
- 1924—General J.B.M. Hertzog becomes Prime Minister. He converts a system of white "trusteeship" to one of rigid segregation.
- 1936—The Hertzog government revoked the voting rights of Black Africans.
- 1943—The African National Congress Women's League and the ANC Youth League were founded.
- 1948—The Nationalist Party of South Africa is elected to power by the white minority under the slogans of apartheid.
- 1950—A general strike was called against all discriminatory laws and for full rights. South African police opened fire in the township of Alexandra, as well as in other areas. On June 26 the ANC called its first national political strike in response to these killings. June 26 is now known as South African Freedom Day.
- 1954—Date of founding of the Federation of South African Women.
- 1960—Sharpeville Massacre where 69 people were brutally murdered while peacefully demonstrating against the pass laws.
- 1961—Formation of the Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the armed sector of the ANC.
- 1963—ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, captured by the South African government for his role in formation of Umkhonoto we Sizwe.
- 1976—Uprisings in Soweto.
- 1984—800,000 Black South African workers boycott work for 2 days.
- 1985—South African police open fire on 4,000 Blacks marching in a funeral procession outside Lange Township on the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, and kill 19 people, many of them children. A multi-racial coalition calling for political democracy, the United Democratic Front, appears in South Africa; many of its leaders are arrested as a result of their anti-apartheid statements and actions. The courageous struggle to end apartheid continues. Free South Africa now!

# What We Can Do

*The growing movement against apartheid in the United States involves community groups, students and faculty, labor, religious leaders and their congregations, artists and professionals, as well as city, county and state governmental officials. Very important actions are being carried out daily by everyday people.*

**WEAR A RED RIBBON.** The red ribbon has been selected as a symbol of opposition to apartheid in South Africa, and indicates that the person wearing it has joined with thousands of others throughout the United States in expressing moral outrage at the continued existence of the apartheid system of racist oppression.

**LOBBY FOR NATIONAL AND STATE ANTI-APARTHEID LEGISLATION** now being introduced. Write or call your elected representatives to express your support for positive positions, and challenge public figures who are uncommitted on this issue.

**ADVOCATE DIVESTMENT ON ALL LEVELS.** Divestment means to withdraw investment in South African companies or in companies doing business with South Africa. Divestment can weaken the economic foundation which supports the political system of apartheid in South Africa. Applaud the states of Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Nebraska and Maryland and the cities of Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C., Wilmington, Cambridge, Berkeley and San Francisco, all of which have passed divestment legislation. Through organization and participation in community campaigns, press for the implementation of divestment programs.

**TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS** about apartheid.

**CONTACT THESE ORGANIZATIONS FOR INFORMATION, AND ACTION:**

African Resource Center 763-8011

Bay Area Free South Africa Movement 661-9492

San Francisco Anti-Apartheid Committee 465-6433

Campaign to Shut Down South African Airlines 561-9040

Stop Banking on Apartheid

Children Against South African Apartheid 821-1567

Artists Against Apartheid (SF) 641-9055 or 821-6545

(East Bay) 527-1401

and more!

**PARTICIPATE IN THESE ACTIONS!**

Sign and circulate a Free Nelson Mandela petition.

Join the cultural boycott of artists who have visited and/or performed in South Africa.

Organize or join a local campaign to end Krugerrand sales.

Join a picketline at a South African embassy.

Join a picketline to protest handling of South African cargo.

New actions are happening every week. Do you have a new idea?

**JOIN THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONTINGENT IN THE SPRING MOBILIZATION FOR PEACE, JOBS AND JUSTICE ON APRIL 20!**

**ATTEND THE SPECIAL BENEFIT** performance of "Homeland" on Sunday April 21 at Laney College in Oakland (9th & Fallon Streets) 8 pm. "A fine, funny, angry comedy of politics..." (Nancy Scott, *Examiner*) about a young woman's journey from domestic servitude in South Africa to self-discovery in Harlem.

Enclosure: "End U.S. Support for South African  
Apartheid and End Racism at Home"

To: Miloanne Hecathorn

From: Spring Mobilization for Peace, Jobs & Justice

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