

SAMRAF NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

October 14 - December 14

Don Morton

Personal Resume

Don Morton is a South African exile now actively organizing against Apartheid from inside the United States.

He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1940, the son of generations of Afrikaners. His grandfather fought against, and was imprisoned by the British during the war of 1899.

After working for several years in the gold mines, Don attended Rhodes University. He graduated in 1969 with distinctions in theology for which he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship. At the University Don was very active in student politics, serving on the national executive committees of various student movements.

Don served as a Methodist minister for six years. His outspoken views and activities against Apartheid led to increased harassment and intimidation. In 1971, after publicly disclosing police torture, the Security Police attempted to arrest him. He narrowly escaped and fled to London. He now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Since being in exile Don has testified before the United Nations as well as Senate and Congressional committees. He appeared on national television in Britain, France, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden and the United States. He has also been on several speaking tours in some of these countries.

Don has worked as a consultant on Southern African affairs for the National Council of Churches, USA, for the Program to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, and the Council for Social Action of the U.C.C. He has done extensive research and writing on Southern Africa for several European and American publications. Don has authored and co-authored several publications and books including: **Partners in Apartheid**, **The Oil Conspiracy**, **Towards a Theology of Liberation in Southern Africa**, **Torment to Triumph in Southern Africa**, and **Towards An Understanding of the Role of Whites in the South African Struggle**.

At present Don Morton is the staff co-ordinator for the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF). Other organizations working on the same issue have been formed in Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Great Britain. SAMRAF (USA) seeks to: 1. generate support within the USA for South African war resisters; 2. co-ordinate a campaign to establish asylum in the USA for South African war resisters; 3. provide legal and material support for refugees from the South African military; and 4. prepare educational material about resistance and the military in South Africa. SAMRAF can be reached at 138 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, New York 11217, (212) 789-8543.

California portion sponsored by STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID, 2160 Lake Street, San Francisco 94121

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Michael Morgan

Personal Resume

Michael Morgan is a 23 year old South African who deserted from the South African Army and has been living in exile in Britain since 1978.

He was born in Durban, South Africa, the son of British parents who had moved to South Africa after World War II. Mike was educated at a private Roman Catholic school and studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Durban.

In 1976 he was first drafted for a 12 month period. He finished this initial training in July of 1977 only to be drafted again in October of that year. While on this tour of duty he was stationed in the war zone of the Namibian border. During this time, Mike witnessed severe human atrocities and experienced the inhumanity of military service. This traumatic period in his life led to the irreversible decision to desert the Army, leave his home to live in exile and to fight, instead, in support of the black liberation forces.

Mike sees his experience as a South African war resister as part of a growing movement of South African youth who are refusing to fight for a totally unjust regime. Outside of South Africa very little is known about resistance within the military and very few countries are sympathetic to war resisters seeking asylum. Mike sees part of his responsibility as speaking out in overseas countries to gain support for South African war resisters.

Having formed a South African war resisters group in London (already over 30 ex-soldiers belong to it), Mike is seeking to contact South African war resisters who are in other countries. Mike is also co-editor of OMKEER, the first South African war resister underground newspaper.

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2 against apartheid

A highly personal war

It first came up in one of those brooding, flagstone gardens in the suburbs of Johannesburg, one of those that are heavy with hanging foliage and walled from the neighbors and the street and the world.

"Well, of course, we are not going to send him into the army to be killed," the man said of his son. "I mean, after all. Really."

Really, indeed. There is war going on along the borders of South Africa, a small war. A few deaths here and there. Military funerals, fallen heroes mourned. There are charges of atrocities on both sides, and they are almost certainly true on both sides.

But the war has not reached the cities, it has not really come home, and in that way it is vaguely reminiscent of America in the early days of Vietnam when our "advisers" were being killed in a faraway and not much thought about land.

The whites of South Africa are much more concerned with the terror bombings in their towns. It is a little more nerve-rattling to most if a bomb goes off in their department stores.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, to those whose sons are being drafted to fight the war. And in that way, too, it is like America was.

The man in the garden had a son of draft age. In South Africa, all men who do not have some sort of deferment serve in the army. Young men expect it as part of normal life.

In South-West Africa (Namibia), a huge country under South African control, a war is being fought. South Africa had agreed to give up its control of the country, but there is a dispute raging both in the United Nations and in pitched battles as to how much domination it will retain.

Like almost all things in this part of the world, the problems are racial, historical and extreme. Both sides are willing to fight to the death. Both sides are doing so.

In South Africa there are ways to leave the



Roger
Simon

fighting to others. Much of the population has ties to England and some will send their sons there.

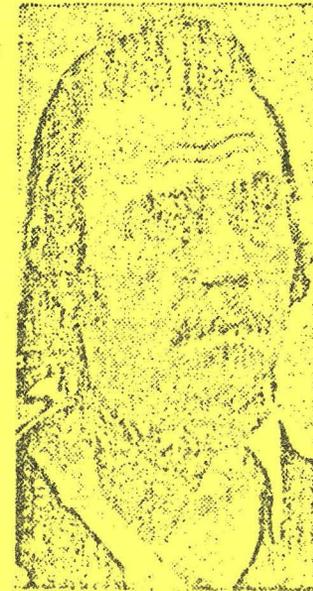
"SOUTH AFRICA IS my country," the man in the garden told me. "But sending my son to South-West to fight for apartheid is a horse of an entirely different color."

Apartheid—government approved and enforced discrimination—is the rock upon which life in South Africa is built. While some forms of "petty" apartheid have been abolished and officially do not even exist in South-West Africa, apartheid forms the social, political and religious framework for those who live there.

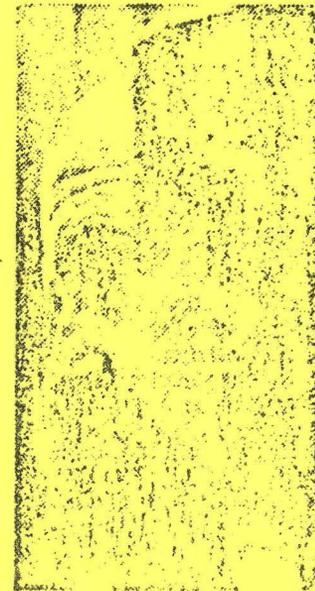
Michael Morgan, a 23-year-old South African army deserter, and Don Morton, a 38-year-old former Methodist minister who was forced to flee South Africa, are in this country to persuade Americans to strike at an institution that South Africa holds almost holy.

"We are trying to sow the seeds of resistance within the South African army, itself," Morton, who was once part of the ruling Afrikaner elite in South Africa, said. "More and more responsibility for upholding apartheid has shifted to the military and we believe that the military is apartheid's backbone."

Michael Morgan decided a few years ago that if that backbone needed stiffening, it was not going to come from him. He grew up in the seaside, resort city of Dur-



MICHAEL MORGAN
Should a soldier "die to support a bankrupt system?"



Sun-Times Photos By Richard Derk

DON MORTON

ban, was drafted and sent to South-West Africa where he served in the Caprivi Strip, a nasty little stretch of ground surrounded by Angola, Zambia, Rhodesia and Botswana.

"WE GOT ALL the propaganda, of course," he said. "How our enemies were frothing at the mouths, how they were Communists and terrorists."

"We were fighting both SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and Zambian soldiers. I was there when a patrol invaded 10 kilometers into Zambia and started mortaring an encampment."

"When I got out and then got drafted again four months later, I realized I was not going back. I realized that I was part of a white group committing atrocities against blacks to support an apartheid system."

Both men want the United States to give political asylum to South African army deserters and draft refusers, as countries such as Sweden and Canada accepted American war resisters during the Vietnam era.

"The average citizen of South Africa does not have to make very hard choices when it comes to apartheid," Morton said. "But the soldier has to decide whether or not he is going to die to support a bankrupt system."