

AFRICA RESOURCE CENTER

Stop Banking on Apartheid



RESOURCE CENTER

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The Africa Resource Center is a unique 501(c)(3) public education center specializing in information concerning the African continent. We have an extensive library of press clippings, periodicals, reference books and journals. We maintain a large stock of materials for public distribution. \$top Banking on Apartheid, operating within the Center, provides information on South Africa and California banking investment patterns and promotes responsible reinvestment which will benefit local communities and support social change in Southern Africa. The Center itinerates visiting African speakers and provides its own speakers and films on issues related to Africa.

As the only public outreach organization in California with these focuses, the Africa Resource Center is increasingly relied upon by a wide variety of individuals and organizations, including community groups, business organizations, churches, trade unions, and all levels of educational institutions.

In the past we have been able to operate on a minimal budget. Now, because of the expanding demand for our services, this budget must be increased. We have begun an Annual Giving Plan (a sample is enclosed). We have also re-organized our services so that we have programs which are designed to become self-sufficient. These are essential to the maintenance of an on-going funding base. In the meantime, we need interim support to assure our successful continuation.

We have approached a number of the larger, more conventional California foundations for project grants, but have been turned down for a variety of reasons--ranging from "not appropriate," to "we are concentrating on local social service agencies," to "our international funding is going to organizations focusing on Central America and/or nuclear issues." Disheartening though this has been, we are very

determined to continue our work--the requests we receive daily underscore this commitment, as does our support for the peoples of Africa.

Hence we are appealing to those individuals and foundations which have demonstrated their understanding of the importance of the African continent to U.S. citizens, and who have been willing to support those organizations effectively bringing a broader knowledge of African peoples to local communities.

There has been much enthusiasm for each of the following programs and projects. We hope you will feel the same way and be interested in assisting with their implementation.

SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES

The Sustaining Activities budget is essential to the existence of the Africa Resource Center and provides the basis for operating a publicly accessible outreach center on Africa. These funds allow the Center to maintain office space, coordinate volunteers, supervise projects and non-profit requirements, and distribute regular announcements of activities and acquisitions. The Center plans to increase general public use and knowledge of its services--thereby generating operating revenues--through expansion of its Speakers Bureau (honorarium) and development of a monthly film series on Africa.

BUDGET: \$13,870

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The Information Distribution Program is directed at increasing public understanding of current events and conditions in Africa. Its components have been dictated by the escalating demands for information available at the Center. This project will target educational institutions, media personnel, community organizations, the religious community, and concerned individuals. First, the Program will expand the occasional \$top Banking on Apartheid newsletter to a subscription bi-monthly newsletter. This newsletter will highlight news and events about South Africa and provide special focus inserts on key issues concerning the African continent. Second, current events reprints from African periodicals will be quickly distributed to media personnel so that the events and issues may be more broadly publicized in a knowledgeable manner. Third, the Center will approach educational, religious and community organizations that might desire to purchase tailored current information packets on Africa. Finally, this project will coordinate a phone-in calendar highlighting weekly local events relative to Africa.

BUDGET: \$18,140

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The High School Curriculum Assistance Program is designed to facilitate more indepth teaching about Africa in high schools. While Africa as a subject is generally included in 9th grade geography classes, many teachers try to include it as part of their social science curriculum for all levels. The Africa Resource Center is relied upon by many Bay Area teachers and their students for indepth, current information about Africa. The Center proposes to expand its resource services and outreach to this important constituency by:

1. surveying the materials designed for high school students and stocking those most appropriate either as samples or for bulk purchases;
2. developing curriculum units to augment those materials already published; and
3. promoting the Center's high school resources and speakers in a special mailing to high school librarians and social science teachers.

The first curriculum unit will focus on South Africa. This ten lesson unit will include a variety of student and teacher activities, and will be presented in the form of songs, poetry, plays, audio-visuals, fact sheets, and different types of learning exercises. Since this will be the Center's first curriculum unit, teacher and student response will be closely monitored.

BUDGET: \$32,145

LIBRARY RESOURCE PROJECT

The Library Resource Project will organize the Center's resources to facilitate indepth research, further analysis, and the distribution of information related to Africa. The library is being extensively utilized by high school, college and university students and teachers, community representatives, church members, trade unionists and the general public. This use has underlined the need to upgrade the organization of our materials to improve accessibility of topical information. Funding for this project would enable the Center to:

1. subdivide country files by date and special topics;
2. cross reference files and index periodicals;
3. systematize and broaden subscriptions to periodicals and newspapers;
4. review and purchase books for inclusion in our library;
5. develop a check-out and monitoring procedure for reference books;
6. archive out-of-date files and older periodicals;
7. better utilize library space by installing space-efficient storage and display cabinets; and
8. publish a catalogue of audio-visual materials, exhibits, resource individuals and organizations concerned with Africa in Northern California.

BUDGET: \$5,450 (2 months)

BAY AREA BANKING SURVEY

\$top Banking on Apartheid (\$BOA) has become the agency in California where people can obtain concise information about investment practices of banks and savings and loan associations. Hundreds of queries come from a broadening array of individuals and organizations--from community organizations to senior citizens to peace activists to city representatives. \$BOA has recommended those banks, savings and loan associations and credit unions with good local records as well as policies of no loans to South Africa. Yet the information upon which \$BOA relied to develop these recommendations is now three years old. In order to update this information and to respond to the increasing concern about local investment patterns, \$BOA has developed a nine-month project to systematically survey banks and savings and loan associations. The Bay Area Banking Survey will be conducted in nine counties by local residents trained by \$BOA and guided by district advisory boards. The survey concentrates on services offered, community loan practices, employment policies, and whether the institution makes loans to South Africa. The data gathered will be distributed in three formats: summary sheets for each district, a how-to-do-it handbook for communities not covered, and comprehensive data files available to the public. \$BOA is uniquely qualified to conduct this project. It has been operating since 1977 and has involved hundreds of volunteers in its work. \$BOA has contacts in all the Bay Area cities and has on-going projects working with religious, labor, municipal, academic, and women's communities and organizations. It has published widely-read materials--from basic leaflets to a detailed manual on conducting an initiative campaign.

BUDGET: \$23,282

\$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID'S WORK WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS,

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The inherent injustices of South Africa's apartheid system have long been a concern of religious organizations. Within the last 6 years, many national and regional denomination bodies--in addition to numerous congregations--have passed resolutions as one form of witness against apartheid and U.S. corporate involvement in South Africa. These resolutions have also been passed in the spirit of a world community gaining unity in its struggle to uphold the human rights of all while pursuing peace with justice. In many cases, the pressure to implement these denominational resolutions must come from local congregations.

In 1979 \$top Banking on Apartheid formed a Religious Focus Group to work within the different denominations at the local level. During the two years this Focus Group was active, our networking was widespread. Requests for resource materials, speakers, coordinated days of concern and contacts with South Africans substantially increased. As a means of solidifying our religious base and linking our common concerns, \$top Banking on Apartheid joined with four affiliated agencies of the Northern California Ecumenical Council to form the Department of Human Rights in 1981 (see accompanying brochure). Operating on an all volunteer basis and with minimal funding, \$top Banking on Apartheid found it difficult to adequately respond to all the requests made on it from individuals with different denominational affiliations. With the placement of a two-year intern from the World Council of Churches' Frontier Intern in Mission program, \$top Banking on Apartheid formed its W.I.T.N.E.S.S. (Working Interfaith Taskforce for New Expressions of Social Service) for South Africa. This formal program will enable \$top Banking on Apartheid to substantially increase its work within the religious community. The following are the current areas of focus.

General Education

\$BOA has developed a wide range of resource materials for use in the religious community. We have indepth files on denominational opposition to apartheid and provide speakers, audio-visuals, and organizing assistance to congregations, conferences, schools, denominational meetings, and media representatives interested in South Africa and Human Rights issues. We are expanding discussions with local congregations and increasing our participation in denominational meetings, ecumenical events, and mission conferences.

Direct Relations with Congregations in South Africa

Many resolutions have been passed condemning apartheid and its inherent racism, yet it's often hard to get beyond the words to an understanding of our commonality. In addition to \$BOA's primary focus on ending U.S. support of the apartheid system, we are committed to encouraging theological reflection and understanding of what it means to be a South African. To this end, we are setting up a program whereby Northern California congregations can develop one-to-one relationships with South African congregations. While these relationships will be contingent upon the particular congregations, we expect them to be a combination of mutual material and spiritual support. \$BOA is in touch with South African seminarians, congregation members and ministers who eagerly await implementation of this program. Likewise, a number of Northern California congregations have expressed interest. We are in the process of formalizing the program with the South African Council of Churches and expect to launch it in the fall.

Direct Relations with Congregations in Europe

Much of the economic support to South Africa comes from Western Europe, especially in the form of bank loans. Many European countries are dependent upon South Africa for strategic minerals, such as uranium and coal, which makes opposition to continued involvement in South Africa even more difficult. As a member of the international campaign opposing bank loans to South Africa, we've observed that in Europe often it is the church which provides the main avenues for widespread organizing and education around South Africa. We have developed many tactics, resources, and research data which would be very useful to Europeans--and they have done likewise. By forming links between churches in Europe and Northern California which have been active in the anti-apartheid struggle, we will be able to promote an exchange of this information and further joint expressions of common witness against the apartheid system and foreign involvement in South Africa. With the placement of our World Council of Churches intern--who is from West Germany and fluent in several languages--\$BOA is beginning this program.

BUDGET: \$37,476