

EMBARGO SOUTH AFRICA NOT NICARAGUA!

The Reagan administration abruptly imposes a trade embargo against Nicaragua, yet declares in the next breath that sanctions against South Africa "won't work." Why is the US so threatened by a nation of 3½ million people while it continues to back South Africa to the hilt? A lot has been said about the US's \$14 billion invested in South Africa and the corporate greed and search for profits. This motivation is very real, but US interests in South Africa go beyond the search for profit alone.

The US is not just a country; it is the headquarters of a huge empire that stretches from Latin America to Asia to Africa. To keep that empire strong they need profits, they need resources and they need military power to insure that they continue to get them. Southern Africa is extremely important to US imperialism. Chester Crocker, US Undersecretary of State for African Affairs and the author of Reagan's policy of constructive engagement, said, "A wide range of vital Western interests, and US interests in particular, are engaged in the southern Africa region." Southern Africa has been called "the Persian Gulf of minerals," ...uranium, diamonds, gold, cobalt, vanadium... the list goes on. Without these minerals, US bombers could not fly and its computers would grind to a halt.

South Africa is the military and economic power in the region, and it is the last bastion of white supremacy in southern Africa. The US backs South Africa not just for profits and resources and military power but also because the US and South Africa are partners in white supremacy. This country has always been rooted in white supremacy. It was built on stolen Indian land and slave labor. From the massacre in Uitenhage, South Africa last March to the massacre in Philadelphia this week we can clearly see a similar practice of disregard of Black people's lives. As we condemn apartheid in South Africa, we must also expose and condemn white supremacy here in the US.

When we begin to see the US as the racist empire that it is, the sanctions against Nicaragua and the support of racist South Africa make perfect sense. The US is working very hard to prevent any Third World people from gaining the consciousness and the power to control their own lives and economic destinies. Nicaragua is dangerous to the US because it is a living example to oppressed people everywhere that it is possible to overthrow a brutal, US-backed dictatorship and build a humane, decent society. The US is also fearful of the colonized Black population here and hopes to prevent any ideas of Black resistance from being rekindled inside the US as a result of a Black revolution in South Africa.

We have done a lot and we have a lot more to do. We need to build support for the people of Azania (the African name for South Africa) and for their liberation movements that will continue until they have won their freedom. FREEDOM RISING! Africa Solidarity Committee is an organization that has been building support for the freedom struggle in Southern Africa for five years. We have films, slide shows, speakers and literature that we want to share. Many people don't know that South Africa maintains an official government agency in San Francisco, their state-owned airline, South African Airways. We are participating in a campaign to shut down this racist airline. Join us.

A few weeks ago one of the speakers at Biko Plaza said, "When you support divestment, you aren't just washing your hands of blood money, you are taking sides in a war on the side of Black people in South Africa." For Black people in Azania are at war. They know that apartheid will never reform itself. They are engaged in a revolutionary struggle for national liberation. Daily, thousands of people are resisting racist schools, the police, forced removals, and inhuman working conditions. They resist in the streets through organizations such as AZAPO and the UDF and they resist through the liberation movements, *the* Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the African National Congress. THROUGH THEIR STRUGGLE AND RESISTANCE, AZANIA WILL BE FREE!

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