

# UNITY IN ACTION

## Towards a Program to End Collaboration With the Apartheid Regime in South Africa

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### PRESS STATEMENT: UNITY IN ACTION PICKETS MAYOR BRADLEY

Unity in Action (UIA) is a two-year old coalition composed of groups and individuals with a common commitment of radically changing U.S. foreign policy towards Africa and developing a permanent support network for liberation movements of African people. The UIA coalition includes representatives from the following organizations: Southern Africa Task Force; Southern Africa Support Committee; Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Southern African Resources Project; African American Education Commission, the National Black Independent Political Party and the African National Congress.

While anti-apartheid protests have increased recently in the United States, a "storm of struggle" has broken out in South Africa. Unfortunately, media coverage in South Africa has been either censored or prohibited, failing to register in a serious way the protests in entire black areas - similar to the rebellions in Soweto in 1976. But one thing is clear, the oppressed peoples of South Africa are once again rising up to fight the inhuman system of Apartheid racism; students are boycotting classes and coal and mine workers have gone on strike. The catalyst for the present upsurge in the Southern Africa struggle against Apartheid was the so-called "inauguration of a new constitution" in October, 1984. This "constitutional reform" scheme was in reality a blatant attempt to split and divide the Colored and Indian people from the black masses. A boycott campaign, against the "Uncle Tom" elections, was successfully carried out, despite ferocious coercion by the illegal South African government. Less than 20% of those eligible Colored and Indian voters went to the Polls.

In support of the international movement to isolate the Apartheid regime in South Africa, the UIA coalition has picketed entertainers who have performed in South Africa in violation of the United Nation's endorsed Cultural Boycott, which prohibits all cultural visits as long as the apartheid regime exists. UIA gives support to the struggle to bring about "divestment" of all United States (city, state, federal and private corporate) investments in South Africa, and calls for the release of Nelson Mandella and recognition (and release) of all

other "political prisoners" held in South African jails and prisons. The UIA openly supports the armed struggle of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, the Southwest African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia, and the "liberation movements" in the Congo.

As part of its general campaign, and in support of other efforts, to close the South African Consulate in Beverly Hills, the UIA coalition has continually criticized Mayor Tom Bradley for giving the key to the city of Los Angeles to the South African Consul General in 1982. Unity in Action is gravely concerned about the recent decision by the NAACP to present its Spingarn Medal to Bradley. As pointed out by Randall Robinson in an article in the *Armsterdam News* (12-22-84): "When Tom Bradley appeared at the opening of the South African Consulate in Beverly Hills, the picture of him shaking the Consul's hand was included in every South African publication sent around the world. It doesn't matter what these Americans say, or how they feel; the pictures are worth a fortune in public relations value." In our opinion, an organization like the NAACP which prides itself on being in the forefront of the struggle for justice in the U.S. should not give its highest award to one who has accorded the South African Government "special treatment" in its efforts to white-wash its illegality and immorality.

For these reasons, UIA has decided to protest Bradley's receipt of the NAACP's Spingarn Medal. We have not only demanded that Bradley reaffirm his opposition to Apartheid but that he "take back the key from the South African Consulate." Until he decides to take the key back, he will be considered a "traitor to African people."

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