

macsa

news



IMPORTANT: Please mail the enclosed POSTCARD today! It could help save a young life.

MADISON AREA COMMITTEE
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
731 State St.
Madison, WI. 53703
Number 72, Summer 1978

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 12
7:30 PM
Pres. House basement

COMING EVENTS

Film and Poetry Reading, Aug. 29th

MACSA's first event of the new school year will be a showing of the film The Rising Tide, along with a poetry reading by Prof. Daniel Kunene.

Prof. Kunene is an exile from his native South Africa, and has for the past 2 years been chairman of the African Languages and Literature Dept. at the University of Wisconsin. Both he and his wife Selina have been active in MACSA and other groups, working to support the cause of liberation for their people. In September, they will be leaving Madison for a year's sabbatical in Lesotho-- we will miss their presence very much, but sincerely hope that the coming year will be a good one for them and their family. We hope for a safe journey for them, and for a safe return next year.

This will be the last chance to hear Prof. Kunene's poetry for at least a year, poetry which vividly reflects his roots in the tear-soaked soil of his native land. Not only is the poetry excellent, but his reading brings to life the sufferings of people oppressed by apartheid.

The Rising Tide is a montage of documents ranging from the stone age paintings to the Soweto events. It describes the differences between life in South Africa for the Europeans and life for the African. The film focuses on the relationships of South Africa to Zimbabwe, to Namibia and to Angola. It describes the role of multinationals in South Africa- South Africa's foreign trade, it's arms build-up and its role at the United Nations. The soundtrack has numerous interviews with African leaders and with people in the streets, nationalistic songs and a commentary.

The film and poetry reading will not only be a chance to hear excellent poetry, see a good film and have a chance to say "goodbye" to the Kunenes, but will be a coming together of people concerned about a common issue. There will be light refreshments and time for informal discussion afterwards. Bring your friends!

DATE: Tuesday, August 29th

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Pres. House Main Lounge, 731 State St. (across the mall from Memorial Lib.)
Refreshments provided.
Free.

Swimming and frolicking
in primordial waters
The Embryo
soon will cry Oh, this beautiful this harsh world

Opening eyes
opening nostrils
hearing harmonies and confused noises
sermons of love drowned by bursts of hate

Umbilical cord snaps
the waters now recede
and The Embryo emerges
crown, forehead, ears,
eyes to see for itself
this beautiful this harsh world
Then shoulders and chest
and waist and loins
thighs, knees, calves, ankles
and feet to tread upon this
soft as down
earth this
gritty as gravel
earth

Sing for me a lullaby mother
a lullaby mother a lullaby mother
Sing for me a lullaby mother
and let me rest in the warmth of your lap

Sing for me a war-song comrades
a war-song comrades a war-song comrades
Sing for me a war-song comrades
let's rush to the field of the circling crow

Then one hand upon the tender breast
the other flinging stinging barbs

And in the Deep South
the apartheid monster limps
and the pavillion shouts
"Yebo! Mgwaze! Yebo! Mgwaze!"
seeing the barbarous monster tottering

In this harsh
this beautiful
world

They Shoot Children Don't They?

by Vernie February

They shoot children don't they?
 Repeat performance
 of the slaying of the Innocents.
 See, Chapter So and So,
 Verse So and So,
 Of the Old or New Testament.
 l'histoire se repete -
 The story of that Ancient hide and seek
 reads like a fairy tale.
 No stone chucked by a child
 has ever stopped a bullet though.
 They maim children don't they?
 because the high-priest of the clan
 has let the word be spread
 that bullets rat-a-tat to stop
 each black child's stone.

They shoot children don't they?
 in the fairest, fairest South.

* * * * *

NEWS BRIEFSChildren Imprisoned on Robben Island

One child aged 14 and five aged 15 have been jailed for 5 years on Robben Island. They had been found guilty of so-called "Sabotage". Two more children, both aged 15, are serving sentences at St. Albans prison in Port Elizabeth. Summary trials and imprisonment of our children are becoming a common feature in apartheid South Africa. In April this year a police station in Alagoa Park tried four boys aged 14-16 for alleged arson and sabotage. Two of the boys had no lawyer to defend them- they were found guilty and sentenced to the minimum of 5 years. Two of the children testified that they had been assaulted at the charge office by police and that after being beaten they signed statements of guilt before the magistrate. It was estimated by the Institute of Race Relations that at the beginning of 1978 almost 200 children under the age of 18 were being held in detention under security laws. The real figure is much higher.

Their plight and those of their brothers who are now facing long sentences in Vorster's jails must be raised at every level by the international community.

(Source: Political Prisoners Bulletin, July 1978, issued by ANC (SA))

Nelson Mandela, head of the ANC (SA), turned 60 on July 18th, 1978. This is his 16th year as a political prisoner, and he exists in almost total isolation on the infamous Robben Island, off Cape Town, SA.

Sanctions against Rhodesia may be lifted by the end of the year. In separate actions, the Senate and House recently adopted different versions of an amendment which would end U.S. enforcement of sanctions against Rhodesia. The compromise, which is expected to be endorsed by both Houses, states that sanctions cannot be enforced after December 31, 1978, if the President determines that two conditions have been met: "the government of Rhodesia has demonstrated its willingness to negotiate in good faith at an all parties conference held under international auspices on all relevant issues"; and "a government has been installed by free elections in which all political and population groups participated freely with observation by impartial internationally-recognized observers." (Africa News, 8/14/78)

BOOK REVIEW: In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story. By John Stockwell. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978. Pp. 285, \$12.95.

Stockwell begins by telling why a successful CIA career officer (He was chief of the CIA Angola Task Force) resigns: 1) His oath was fraudently solicited; 2) His loyalty to the US Constitution took priority over illegally obtained commitments to the CIA; 3) Americans have the unequivocal right to know what American leaders are doing in our name and with our tax dollars; and 4) His constitutional right to freedom of speech were being violated.

The body of the book deals with two major issues: First, how and why our Angola intervention was ill-conceived and poorly carried out; and second, why the CIA's clandestine operations should be abolished in all parts of the globe.

On the Angolan debacle, which he reluctantly led after returning disilluminated from CIA operations in Vietnam, Stockwell describes how the U.S. actually spread the civil war there by arming the FNLA during the period pledged to "peaceful transition" until the elections of October, 1975. Washington's main purpose then was "to make an MPLA victory more costly." Because this was in violation of official American policy, the entire operation was a classified no-win, economy-size war carried out on a budget of \$24.7 billion; but it was "the only war we had."

Stockwell visited "the front" and provides intimate and illustrative insights into what was happening on the ground in Angola and Zaïre. Savimbi (UNITA), he concludes, was not a Marxist, capitalist, or black revolutionary. He was an Ovimbundu patriot willing to accept help even from South Africa for his cause. Savimbi "embarrassed the U.S. by sending feelers to the MPLA for a negotiated peace. UNITA's army was better than the FNLA's and Savimbi was the most organized and courageous of the leaders. Stockwell notes that "in retreat, Mobutu's finest forces raped & pillaged in Angolan villages" until the Bakongo of northern Angola prayed for the early arrival of the MPLA and Cuban liberators."

On the CIA itself, Stockwell's book may prove to be even more important. With his own broad experience of the inner thinking of "the master chessplayers" (Kissinger, Colby, et. al.), he draws into his text parallel examples of past CIA bungling and illegal operations from all over the world. Everyone knew the chessplayers, but even CIA brass were not aware of any "master plan." Stockwell details how CIA propaganda infiltrated the world press (including the Washington Post); how the CIA hosted the FNLA in New York (on money laundered in Europe) and even wrote their position paper delivered at the UN. For the CIA, it was a great success—convincing even to black leaders like Roy Ennis of CORE.

In the humiliation of defeat and of disclosure of our collaboration with white South Africa's invasion of Angola followed by MPLA/Cuban victories, Washington switched to a "win policy." But it was too late to convince an angry Congress (CIA lies had been exposed) to appropriate more funds. A chapter is devoted to the friendly duel between CIA and Congress.

Stockwell concludes that the CIA's clandestine service is an unneeded "shadowy alter ego" and should be abolished because it is: 1) too costly; 2) a relic of the Cold War; 3) a surrender to the darker side of human nature; 4) jeopardizing all U.S. citizens abroad who become suspect; 5) killing people; and 6) the wrong game for a great nation. However, he points out that the CIA has a more or less free hand again in Congress for "national security reasons." What keeps the CIA playing its deadly games across the globe is the apathy and naiveté of most Americans. On this, Stockwell quotes Graham Greene in The Quiet American: "Innocence is a form of insanity."

- Henry H. Bucher, Jr.
University of Wisconsin-Madison

BOOK REVIEW: Secret Weapon in Africa. By Oleg Ignatyev. Published by Progress Books. Available from Gilman St. Books, 525 Univ. Av., Madison, 53703.

Secret Weapon in Africa is the timely book to read along with Stockwell's expose (see Bucher's review elsewhere in this newsletter). Oleg Ignatyev, Pravda's foreign affairs analyst, has given us a well-documented history of the determined efforts of the Western powers, especially the United States, to influence events during the struggle in Angola against the Portuguese colonial regime. Writing from an intimate knowledge of Angola and the liberation movement, the MPLA, he provides further amplification and verification of material on the CIA clandestine service cited in Stockwell's book.

Both Ignatyev and Stockwell bring home the important conclusion that no effort was or will be spared in the future, to minimize change in Southern Africa. Clandestine and covert intervention, the 'secret weapon' continues in Southern Africa. There is open intervention as well.

Attempts are still being made to destabilize the government of Angola with financial and military aid to the remnants of UNITA and FNLA. South Africa makes cosmetic changes in petty apartheid and poses as the last bastion of the "free world" in Africa, while at the same time repeatedly commits aggression against Angola, Zambia and Mozambique, to say nothing of her own citizens.

And there is continued and increasing effort on the part of the Western powers to create and support nationalistic, splinter or other "third force" groups within South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe in opposition to the allied liberation movements, the ANC (SA), SWAPO, and the Patriotic Front.

It is important that we who support the liberation struggle in Southern Africa recognize the "secret weapon" at work and combat its use and effects at home and abroad to ensure the downfall of the racist regimes and their replacement by a just and humane society.

* * * * *

SAVE THE LIFE OF SOLOMON MAHLANGU

MACSA URGES YOU TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE LIFE OF 21-YEAR OLD FORMER PRETORIA SCHOOL STUDENT, SOLOMON MAHLANGU.

On March 2nd this year, Solomon was sentenced to hang by the all-white court in Pretoria, after being found guilty of "common purposes" in the shooting of two white garage mechanics in Johannesburg City Centre last year. His co-accused, Mondy Motloung could not stand trial because he was so severely tortured by the police that he suffered irreversable brain damage and was declared unfit.

Solomon told the court that he joined the African National Congress soon after the uprisings of June 1976. He left the country to undergo military training and returned to South Africa with two others in June 1977.

He entered Johannesburg on June 13th, just three days before the first anniver-

sary of the Soweto massacre. He and his two other ANC companions were stopped and searched by a plainclothes police man in central Johannesburg. The three ran away and one of them escaped. The other two had run into a workshop where some white mechanics were having a tea break. The police ran after them and opened fire. Mondy Motlounge returned the fire of the police and two of the mechanics were killed. Mondy was overpowered and badly beaten with his own gun.

MAHLANGU, WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FATAL SHOOTING, told the court that he climbed the back wall of the garage and hid there until he heard Motlounge screaming. He climbed back into the garage to help his comrade and saw him covered with blood. He tried to hide behind a vehicle, but was arrested. They took him to John Vorster Square police station where he was threatened with death and repeatedly assaulted. He was given no water for the rest of that day and for several days after was given no food. He and Motlounge were held in solitary confinement under the Terrorism Act until they were charged on September 23. The trial opened on February 13.

SOLOMON PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO ALL CHARGES: He told the court how he was arrested and how he was assaulted by Captain Crowright and Lieutenants de Waal and Struwig. A Major told him to make a statement to the magistrate without mentioning the assaults. After he had fainted twice, the police said it was time they started killing him gradually. On several occasions two policemen on either side of him grabbed him by the thighs and flung him into the air so that he crashed down on the floor.

THE JUDGE ACCEPTED that Mahlangu had no part in the shooting but nevertheless convicted him of murder and sentenced him to death. As sentence was passed Mahlangu shouted "Amandla" and gave the clenched fist salute.

His leave to appeal against the death sentence was refused by the magistrate on June 15th of this year and only the final stage of petitioning Vorster's State President remains.

IT COULD BE JUST A MATTER OF WEEKS BEFORE THIS YOUNG ANC FREEDOM FIGHTER FACES THE APARTHEID EXECUTIONERS!

The African National Congress looks to all those who support the cause of oppressed people of South Africa to take URGENT ACTION to prevent this crime being perpetrated. For the imposition of the death sentence on the opponents of the apartheid regime is an attempt at dampening the militancy of the people and their determination to defend themselves against police brutality. By their action, the regime is challenging the decision of the international community and the United Nations which has recognized the right of the South African people to take up arms against the racist regime.

If this death sentence is carried out, it sets a pattern which will follow for political prisoners as the struggle for victory escalates and the South African regime finds itself more and more in crisis. Vorster must comply with the newly introduced Geneva Convention which states that guerillas captured in the war of liberation be treated as prisoners of war.

* * * *

"The apartheid regime bears the entire responsibility for a violent conflict in South Africa. The General Assembly has recognized the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people and their liberation movement by all available means, including armed struggle... The people of South Africa have not only the right but also the duty to defy the Terrorism Act and other racist legislation. The execution of Mr. Mahlangu would constitute an act of murder..."

Ambassador Leslie Harriman
Chairman of the U.N. Special Committee
Against Apartheid

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP THE EXECUTION OF SOLOMON MAHLANGU?

- Demand that the U.S. government take action to save Solomon's life. Write to President Carter, to your Congressperson, to Ambassador Young.
- Mobilize all democratic opinion-political parties, trade unions, student organizations, churches, etc., to join the campaign to stop the execution of Solomon.
- SEND THE ENCLOSED POSTCARD by merely signing your name and putting 21¢ postage on it. IMPORTANT ! Everyone should try to do this.



"If Mahlangu is executed whilst the murders of Biko, Mduli and the others who have died in detention go free, then the world will see more clearly there is no justice in South Africa."

**sentenced to death
for fighting apartheid**



731 State Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

JOIN MACSA! SUBSCRIBE NOW!!

NAME(please print) _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ phone _____

Enclosed please find my \$5.00 for newsletter subscription _____

Contribution to MACSA _____

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBSCRIBED, PLEASE PASS THIS FORM ON TO A FRIEND

(This form may also be used to report a change of address. Please include an old address label.)

Send contributions to:

MACSA
731 State Street
Madison, WI 53703

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
Bulk Mail Permit 1706
Madison, Wisconsin
Postage Paid

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED