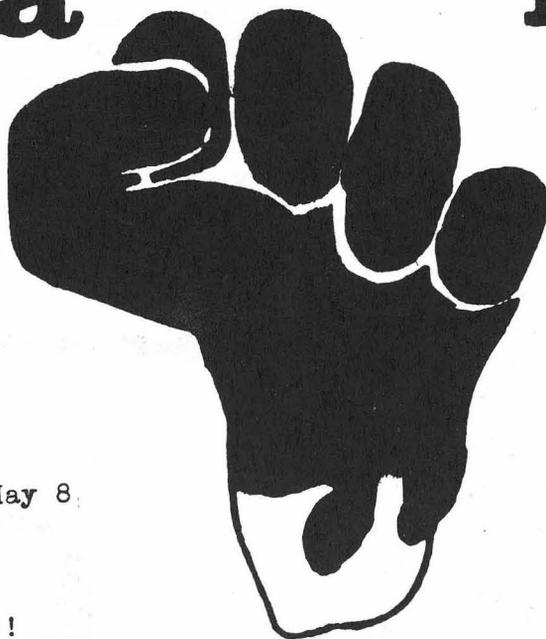


macsa

news



MADISON AREA COMMITTEE
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
731 State St.
Madison, WI. 53703

Next Meeting---Tuesday, May 8
7:30 pm in Pres House,
731 State Street.

Number 74 Spring 1979

ALL INVITED: PLEASE COME!!

REGULAR MACSA MEETING SCHEDULE

One of MACSA's most important tasks is to educate and inform people, and so MACSA is starting a regular discussion on current developments in Southern Africa which will meet the second Tuesday of each month, starting May 8. The meetings will be at Pres House, 731 State Street at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE WE COME FROM

MACSA was founded in the late '60's as a coalition of individuals in the wider Madison area who work together to inform the community of the oppressive conditions in Southern Africa, and to work with others to end U.S. support for the racist regimes in Southern Africa.

Our office is in the Pres House, the home of Madison Campus Ministries (MCM) which has very generously given us FREE office space for many years! We are grateful to them for the support they have given us, including the use of many rooms and facilities in the building in addition to the office space.

MACSA'S ACTIVITIES

- Information: films, speakers, literature, and the quarterly Newsletter.
- Research: on human conditions in Southern Africa, on U.S. government and private involvements in Southern Africa.
- Fund Raising: to aid refugees and those harmed by the war and violence of the racist regimes.
- Action: Pressure on U.S. Senators and Congresspeople, the Departments of State and Commerce, corporations in and out of Wisconsin, Universities, and others, to end support of oppression in Southern Africa.

On Thursday, April 26 at 8 p.m. David Truong, a Vietnamese peace activist, will speak at Pres House. He is facing a prison term of 15 years in the U.S. for his beliefs. His talk is sponsored by CALA, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Oppression, and MACSA.

South Africa - US scandal

United States ties with South Africa are now found to be much more invidious and wide-spread than heretofore believed. In what is now known as the "Muldergate" scandal (Connie Mulder is S.A. Minister of Information), a secret fund of \$73 million has been uncovered--money allocated to the South African Information Dep't used in the U.S. to influence public opinion, bribe Journalists and influence U.S. elections campaigns.

Eschel Rhoodie, former boss of South African information Ministry, admitted that the propaganda center had a slush fund of \$73 million with which to orchestrate articles sympathetic to the S.A. regime, as well as to bribe politicians in west-governments.

One attempt was to buy the Washington Star for \$11.5 million.

The New York Times has published S.A.'s ads paid for by an anonymous group known as the Club of Ten.

Another of Rhoodie's allies in this country known as an ultra-rightist is John McGoff, owner of the Michigan-based newspaper chain, PANAX. The Dow Chemical family helped set up the chain.

PANAX owns 43 weeklies in Michigan, Florida and Illinois in addition to Global Corp. (13 newspapers and radio stations in Hawaii) and is a major stockholder in the London-based UPIITN, a supplier of news films to eight countries. UPIITN also owns American Broadcasting Corporations' s Far East operation.

In South Africa, McGoff owns the S.A. printing chain, XANAP. It prints a newsweekly similar to Time, as well as a number of racist comics.

According to Rhoodie, McGoff was a key recipient of the secret funds. It was with their money that he attempted to buy the Washington Star. But he did succeed in buying the Sacramento Union.

In June, 1977, in Rye, N.Y., some 300 U.S. businessmen, industrialists and financiers were hosted by South African businessmen and government leaders.

Another such meeting was an economic seminar held in Houston, Tex., when Pres. Ford spoke and received \$10,000 from their secret fund through Sydney Baron.

This is how South African and U.S. business and political interests are trying to save a corrupt system whose legacy has been Sharpsville, Soweto, Steve Beko, Mahlangu--to name just a few of their atrocities against Black South Africans. In the words of Cornelius Mulder, S.A. Minister of Information, who took responsibility for spending secret funds: "When the survival of South Africa is at stake, rules don't apply."



**SOLOMON
MAHLANGU**

LEGALIZED MURDER

The hanging of Solomon Mahlangu, 23-year-old member of the banned African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, is one more act of terror against the people of South Africa and the Liberation Movement itself. Mahlangu was one of five who were executed and were among the 132 men who were hanged in South Africa within the past year. The world-wide protests against these executions are a part of the massive resistance that is growing against the apartheid government. We ask our readers to continue to demand that the U.S. break all ties with South Africa--economic, banking, cultural and diplomatic. Support of any kind only gives backing and strength to a repressive regime.

Blacks jolt S. African church

One of the pillars of South African society, the Dutch Reformed Church, has been shaken into awareness of the depth of black discontent in this country.

The revelation came in a modernistic concrete-and-wood church auditorium on a tree-shaded street here in the capital city of South Africa. For four days (ending March 16) leaders from Dutch Reformed churches across South Africa gathered for a "consultation" — the first such meeting in more than 20 years — to examine "the church and social justice."

What resulted was a virtual takeover of the conclave by black, "Colored" (mixed race), and Indian church leaders. They consistently outvoted white delegates and pushed through a wide range of resolutions that run counter to existing church and government policy.

The assembly called for an end to segregated education in South Africa, repeal of the prohibition on mixed marriages, and support of "that which is positive" in the Black Consciousness movement. In perhaps its most controversial move, it commended churches to "uphold the right of those who feel in conscience compelled to disobey a law in order to obey Christ and to support them with their prayers and the solidarity of their fellowship."

To many white South Africans, such ideas are heretical. But, while the meeting dashed hopes for a quick consensus on solutions to the problems facing South Africa, it did, in the words of the Rev. G. J. A. Lubbe, secretary for the consultation, "show the white churchmen that the black discontent they hear about is genuine, not just the product of English-speaking churches or the English-language press."

The assembly, prompted and underwritten by Swiss churches under the banner of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, ended with a resolution to bring the final declarations to the attention of the South African Government.

That sparked one white delegate to protest the "radicalism of the gathering." Another, who represented the largest white Dutch Reformed Church in the country, threatened to boycott future such meetings.

Ending as it did with a split along racial lines, the gathering underscored deep divisions within the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. A Calvinist religion brought to Africa by early Dutch settlers on the Cape of Good Hope, the Dutch Reformed Church

set about converting Africans with such zeal that black and Colored members now outnumber whites.

Nevertheless, the Dutch Reformed Church is considered one of the underpinnings of white authority in this country. By interpreting Scripture in a way that is sympathetic to the ruling National Party's policy of "apartheid" (separate development of the races), the church has given moral justification to government efforts to split South Africa into a cluster of separate black and white states.

Until now, leaders of the black, Colored, and Indian wings of the church have, for the most part, been low key in their criticism of church policy on racial matters. Now, all that has changed.

"I think this meeting marks the coming of age of black Reformed Church leaders in South Africa. It showed they were willing to openly state their opinion, not just listen to what the white leaders told them," says Mr. Lubbe.

There were early warnings that the meeting might disintegrate into divisiveness. The Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk (NHK), the most conservative of the white Dutch Reformed bodies, drafted a "memorandum" prior to the conclave which suggested that churches ought not to take political stands. The memorandum went on to endorse present government policies, blast Mozambique and Angola for their socialism, and lambaste Western nations for failing to support South Africa.

In many votes on controversial items, delegates of the NHK and the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk — the largest white Dutch Reformed group — found themselves isolated, and either voted against the majority or abstained. One NHK official even walked out during a heated debate on repeal of mixed-marriage prohibitions.

Some white leaders did endorse the idea of a "national convention" of black and white political leaders to discuss South Africa's future. But many black ministers came away unhappy with what they viewed as the intransigence of their white brethren.

"I must say I don't think there has been a very great shift in attitudes," observed the Rev. Samuel Buti, a black man. "We were trying to reconcile people with backgrounds of the oppressor and the oppressed, and some ended up maintaining the status quo."

(Christian Science Monitor, 3/19/79)



World Council General Secretary Potter

"The World Council of Churches has become an ecclesiastical United Nations, a place for power plays." So lamented a leading U.S. orthodox theologian, John Meyendorff, last week during a meeting of the council's 140-member central committee in Jamaica. What worried Meyendorff and some others was that the council's approach to Christian unity has become too political. The central committee reaffirmed the council's Program to Combat Racism, despite church protests over its \$85,000 grant to Rhodesia's Patriotic Front for "humanitarian programs." The front's guerrillas have been held responsible for killing a number of Christian missionaries, as well as black Rhodesian noncombatants.

The vote was an endorsement of the policies of the Rev. Philip A. Potter, 57, a West Indian Methodist who has been General Secretary of the council since 1972 and is an outspoken advocate of church action against "political and economic oppression." The Patriotic Front grant especially disturbed the huge Evangelical Church in Germany (E.K.D.). The West Germans carry special clout in the financially strapped W.C.C., since they provide up to 40% of the council's income. An E.K.D. spokesman warned in October that the violence issue was "liable to blow the whole ecumenical movement apart."

The Germans favored splitting off the administrative costs of the antiracism grants from the regular W.C.C. budget so that individual denominations could dissociate themselves from the program. Others wanted to end the grants. After lively debate, the central committee voted in favor of Potter's proposal for a long-term "consultation" over the antiracism program. Apparently left in force is a 1971 central-committee dictum that the W.C.C. does not "pass judgment on those victims of racism who are driven to violence as the only way left to them to redress grievances." Potter declared that most of the dissenters had come from "certain Western countries which are most heavily involved in maintaining the racist systems in southern Africa."

(Time, 1/22/79)

WISCONSIN ACTIVITIES

A group has formed at Carroll College to work on divestiture of that school's holdings in South Africa-related companies. They have had a good initial response from the student body, and will be mounting more and more pressure on the Board of Trustees. Carroll is in Waukesha.

In Milwaukee, things are happening! A resolution prohibiting the investment of pension funds in companies doing business in S.A. was introduced to the

Milwaukee County Annuity and Pension Board, which holds \$34 in S.A.-related companies.

Marquette University also has S.A.-related stock, and the Marquette Coalition for Divestiture sponsored a march and rally on April 10 to demand divestiture. We urge people to get in touch with the Milwaukee Committee on Southern Africa, (Box 01546, Milwaukee, WI 53205) to find out more about what can be done in the Milwaukee area to combat Apartheid.

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