

# NATIONAL STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

The United States affiliated member of the World Student Christian Federation and the Student Movement related to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

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March 7, 1966

Dear Friends,

The congressional hearings on South Africa of the House subcommittee on Africa have already begun; they will continue during the rest of this month and perhaps into April. If even any minor gains are made, it will be largely a result of whatever expressions of opinion the members of the House committee get from the country, as well as the opinions expressed by individuals in testimony. Therefore it is important at this time that individuals and groups express themselves. The NSA program guide enclosed has a listing of the members of the House committee, and a sample petition of minimum demands.

We received the program guides too late to hope that they will be of extensive use for planning during the March 14-18 emphasis week itself. We are convinced, however, that the suggestions and materials listed need not be, and really must not be, confined to one week during the year. For more information on the particular programs involved, the enclosed questionnaire should be returned to NSA directly.

We hope that the enclosed materials will be of use to you and that action is being taken -- on lines we suggest or on other ones. But in general we have very little feedback from you and don't really know whether our mailings just disappear into the blue (or the circular file) or are of actual help in mobilizing American concern about Southern Africa. Therefore, while continuing to send out materials, the committee is also attempting to get in closer contact with people in certain major strategic regions and to draw together interested individuals who may not have been in previous contact with each other. Our hope is to stimulate concrete study, action, and communication among concerned peoples -- that is to go beyond the individual contact level. If any of you feel that there may be real possibilities of this where you are, write us and we will be in contact with you and send you the names of others in your same area who have similar concerns.

The additional material in this packet focuses on Angola in particular, and we are enclosing copies of Witness to the Mozambique Revolution for those who have not already received them. For further information on the freedom movement in Southern Africa as a whole, we highly recommend Crisis and Change, a new periodical. (See enclosed subscription blanks)

As the Rhodesian crisis is making more plain to us, the struggle in Southern Africa is going to be long and hard. If the United States is not to end up as it has in Vietnam, it is imperative that Americans be concerned with Southern Africa now, even though it may not always be on the front page of the newspapers. Our

realistic goal can be to press for small changes in U.S. policy to commit it in the right direction --to expect it to change substantially unless forced to do so would be foolish optimism -- and to develop an informed and concerned minority who when the crises come can mobilize others to demand U.S. action against rather than for minority rule. If even this is to be possible, however, we cannot stand by while American tacit support for racialism increases in spite of our verbal condemnation, and then only protest once we are so involved that we can no longer pull back. We must act now.

Freedom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are stylized and connected, with a large "B" and "i" followed by "l" and "l".

Bill Minter

for the NSCF Committee on  
Southern Africa

EM; jm