

DECISIONS ABOUT FALL CONFERENCE MADE AT JULY 19 PLANNING MEETING

GENERAL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The group agreed that the focus of the conference should be on "consolidating, strengthening and expanding local groups" working on southern Africa. This discussion should include both what our strategies should be (i.e. what issues are key) and what tactics can be most effective.

The "Basis of Unity" for the conference (listed on page 3 of the conference proposal) was agreed to by those present, but it was felt that it needed to be stronger. Two changes were made to reflect: (1) a need to be more explicit about the relationship between the United States and South Africa and the struggle in the two countries, and (2) a frank appraisal of the problem of racial polarization and predominantly middle-class leadership in anti-Apartheid work in the U.S. and a desire to overcome these limitations. The statement of unity was rewritten as follows:

1. and 2. are retained as written.
3. The African people of southern Africa have the right to choose such means as may be necessary, including the use of armed force, to achieve their liberation.
4. The U.S. government is in complicity with the present Apartheid regimes in southern Africa and shares direct responsibility for blocking majority rule there. This active American support is an inseparable part of United States imperialism toward the Third World. The struggle in southern Africa is the same struggle in which we are engaged in the U.S. against the forces of economic and political exploitation.
5. As groups we are committed to the goal of overcoming the racial and class divisions which have surrounded anti-imperialist struggles in this country. Thus we shall strive towards broadening the constituencies with whom we work and to whom we appeal.

The group decided that, although the principal focus would remain on the countries under white minority domination (South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia), developments in neighboring territories such as Angola and Mozambique are inevitably related to the struggles against the white regimes and should be considered in the conference.

AGENDA

The group considered the conference agenda (given on page 2 of the conference proposal) section by section.

I. Overview of current political situation

This will include three presentations and discussions on the following points:

- A. Significant political developments in southern Africa since the Portuguese coup.
First choice for speaker: Salim Salim, Chairman of the Committee on Decolonization and Ambassador from Tanzania to the United Nations
Second choice: Walter Rodney, historian at Cornell University
- B. Significant political and economic developments in the U.S. recently, by which both U.S. policy towards southern Africa and opposition to it are affected.
First choice for speaker: St. Clair Drake at Stanford
Second choice: Prexy Nesbitt

C. Current developments in U.S. policy toward southern Africa.
 First choice for speaker: Jennie Davis of the American Committee on Africa
 Second choice: Ben Magubane, University of Connecticut at Storrs, Conn.

Each presentation of about 30 minutes will be followed by discussion in randomly-selected small groups. Then the whole group will reconvene for questions and sharing comments. This pattern of speaker, small-group discussion, whole-group discussion will be used for each section, with different small groups coming together to discuss each presentation and how it affects their local work in different cities, so that people will start to get to know each other.

II. Local groups getting to know each other

This section of the agenda was cut out, for two reasons. First, groups can get to know each other better in the course of the discussions in section I and in discussions about local strategies in section III.

It was also decided that it would be better to share specific information about the composition, projects and activities of local groups by distributing before the conference written information prepared by local groups about themselves.

III. Sharing and evaluating local strategies

This will fill the bulk of the second day of the conference. There will be a dual focus:

A. Workshops on various tactics

- boycotts
- legislative action
- exposure of U.S. complicity with Apartheid through the media
- demonstrations
- liberation support work
- corporate action
- countering South African propaganda
- educational work and research

Other possibilities include:

- solidarity with campaigns in other countries
 (European and other anti-apartheid movements)

B. Panels on working with and appealing to different constituencies:

- workers and labor unions
- church groups
- civil rights groups
- progressive political groups
- groups in the black community

IV. Conclusion and possibilities of future collaboration

It was agreed that, for the most part, we would have to leave the planning of this section until after the conference has begun, since it is impossible to know now what level of unity there will be among the groups present.

Two questions which can be fruitfully considered, regardless of the level of unity, are:

- 1) What resources are needed by local groups which are not now available?
- 2) How can local groups keep better informed of what other groups are doing, and about current events that should be responded to?

The conference participants could also consider at this time various proposals that arise from the conference or before the conference about future ways to collaborate on specific projects or in new organizational forms.

/The group discussed how to handle the Anti-Apartheid Movement proposal being made by Louise Stack and Don Morton. It decided that it would be appropriate for the proposal to be distributed to potential participants before the conference so that it could be considered seriously. Distribution should be made, however, by Don and Louise themselves to local groups but without specific reference to the conference. This would avoid people getting the mistaken impression that the proposal is part of an unstated agenda of the conference to develop national organization rather than to strengthen local work. _/

Participation of liberation movements

It was decided that all liberation movements which have official representatives permanently in the United States should be invited to attend, and that there should be some organized way for them to share their expertise and perspective. These groups will include ZANU, ZAPU, SWAPO, ANC of South Africa, UNITA and MPLA. Representatives will not be asked to give formal speeches.

People agreed that we need to leave some free time for informal communication.

DATE AND PLACE

The conference will be held on the three-day weekend including Columbus Day, Saturday, October 11 through Monday, October 13. We will end by early afternoon on Monday.

The conference will be held in Madison, Wisconsin. The Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa will help with arrangements.

The following groups were represented at the Chicago meeting:
 Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa, Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea, the African American Solidarity Committee of Chicago, the United Church of Christ Task Force on Southern Africa of Chicago, the East Lansing Southern Africa Liberation Committee, the Congress of Afrikan Peoples, Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa, the Center for Social Action of the United Church of Christ, the American Committee on Africa, Southern Africa Committee and the Washington Office on Africa.