

SAMRAF is pleased to introduce our first newsletter of 1983 with a report of some successful actions that have taken place in New York City. On Saturday, January 22nd, SAMRAF hosted its annual demonstration outside of South African Airways in support of the liberation struggle and resistance within the ranks of the South African military. This demo coincides more or less with the annual draft of young white men into the South African army. Approximately 100 folk turned out, representing a broad cross section of the progressive movement in New York City. People on the picket line heard messages of solidarity from organizations such as the National Black United Front, Black Veterans for Social Justice, Dykes Against Racism Everywhere, Harlem Fightback, Black and White Men Together, and others. Thanks to Youth International (otherwise known as the Yippies), we were able to be heard loud and clear via their sound system, which the cops still refer to as a health hazard. In fact, the protestors were even treated to a short statement by Yip Aaron Kay, noted pie thrower (among his victims have been Phyllis Schafly, Anita Bryant and Gerald Ford.)

Our ongoing efforts to fight white supremacy here and in South Africa were strengthened by the turnout at South African Airways. It was made clear to the enemy that there is support for the issue of military resistance and our hope is that this message reaches potential resisters in South Africa. As one comrade said, "Let's hope that one day we will be able to come downtown and dismantle institutions like South African Airways and get paid for doing it." We are grateful to all those supporters who weathered the cold at our third annual demonstration. We plan to make this a regular annual event until the goose is cooked in Pretoria.

On the next day, January 23rd, another significant action took place of similar politics but in a somewhat different environment outside Radio City Music Hall. Frank (Ole Blue Eyes) Sinatra was crooning to the rich at a benefit concert for cancer research. The demonstration was not in opposition to cancer research, but rather the fact that Sinatra has been to perform in South Africa. While playing at "Sin City" in Bophutstswana (a homeland), he was made a honorary chief of the indigenous peoples of that region. Sinatra in many ways set the ball rolling for big name U.S. entertainers to play for apartheid. He might be interested in contributing to the fight against cancer of the body, but he strongly endorses and supports the cancer of apartheid racism.

Chanting slogans like "Sinatra's greed don't bother me cos I know South Africa will be free," about 70 demonstrators let Frank and the high rollers who came to see him know the truth. Organized by the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and the Coalition to End Cultural Collaboration with South Africa, this event proved that some folk were not going to let Frank do things his way.

SAMRAF News and Notes will continue to be produced on a bi-monthly basis, and we hope to be able to increase its circulation, making it an informative resource for the movement. It is through this production that we will be able to inform you of our ongoing work and events of significance related to the liberation struggle in South Africa. We hope you find it useful and will write to us with any responses you might have.

## APARTHEID'S KILLER CANNON

The South African regime recently unveiled its latest lethal weapon, the G6 155mm artillery cannon. This unit is a more sophisticated version of the G5 artillery piece which the South Africans purchased from a Canadian corporation named Space Research. Despite denials from Space Research, South Africa and the U.S., it has been proven that Space Research violated the international arms embargo, and together with the assistance of official U.S. arms negotiators, supplied both the expertise and the weapon itself to South Africa.

The weapon was developed at Space Research headquarters in northern Vermont on the Canadian border, and was then shipped to the Caribbean island of Antigua, where Space Research corporation had bought a large piece of the island for the sole purpose of weapons testing. It was from here that the guns and shells were secretly shipped to South Africa. Merchant ships that were supposed to be sailing back to northern America or Europe made stops at Cape Town. Luckily, dock workers in Antigua and South Africa discovered the contents of the cargo and exposed the deal. The remainder of the story was then pieced together via progressive investigative journalists.

This is the history of the weapon which South Africa continues to insist is a 100% homemade product. The G6 howitzer is a mobile gun capable of traveling at approximately 100 km per hour. It can fire the entire selection of NATO 155 mm shells, including a U.S. nuclear warhead. Its range is devastating and it can destroy targets as far away as 30 kms.

Claiming this weapon to be the most sophisticated artillery cannon in the world, Piet Marais, chairman of ARMSCOR (the South African state armaments corporation) said that in the future, South Africa would be more aggressive in its arms sales policy and countries friendly towards South Africa would be able to buy the G6 for cash. There is an obvious need for the regime to export weapons in order to offset its current military expenditure. South Africa's entry into the international weapons market is also likely to open more doors for the regime and increase their opportunities to swop expertise and thereby seal more weapons deals.

Yet the main motivation for this weapon has to be seen in the context of how the South Africans will utilize it. It has the potential to be the main thrust in South Africa's heavily armed strike forces into Angola. It can be used to bombard cities and strategic targets, similar to the Israeli bom-



*The G6 self-propelled 155mm gun.*

bardment of Beirut. South Africa is not just fighting a guerilla bush war in Namibia. Its constant invasions into Angola have followed a conventional pattern, whereby towns are besieged, shelled and carpet bombed. It is in this context that the G6 will be used.

The greatest threat which the G6 presents is its ability to fire nuclear warheads. If any country in the world is likely to use nuclear weapons, South Africa is the one. Surrounded by independent African states, fighting SWAPO in Namibia, and beset by constant internal unrest, the apartheid regime is up against the wall. The regime continuously advocates its theory of Total Onslaught. A weapon such as the G6 is a reaction to this fear and is extremely dangerous in the hands of these menacing racists. Again, the world has allowed South Africa to add to its deadly arsenal. Thanks to the United States, the South African military machine is capable of wreaking more havoc and death. When the final tally comes, those who made such weapons as the G6 possible will not be forgotten. There will be too much blood on their hands to forgive them.

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### BREYTENBACH

In November, 1982, South Africa's leading poet/author in the Afrikaans language, was released from prison after serving 7 years of a 9 year sentence for his attempts to subvert the regime of South Africa. After spending two days with his parents in South Africa, Breytenbach left to rejoin his wife in Paris, where he had spent most of his years in exile. He was an important symbol of resistance for white South Africans and we are hopeful that his release will allow him to continue to play a meaningful role in the struggle.

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## NAMIBIA: THE LATEST STUMBLING BLOCK

Ongoing negotiations to seek independence for Namibia from illegal South African occupation have reached yet another stumbling block. The current objection being raised, primarily by the U.S. and South Africa, is the continued presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Both countries refuse to recognize the overwhelming popularity of SWAPO in Namibia, and the inevitability of its success if a free and fair election were ever to take place.

Cuban presence in Angola exists solely for the defence of Angolan territory from increasing South African military incursion. By the use of the term "linkage" to describe the relationship between the Cuban presence in Angola and independence in Namibia, South Africa and the Western Contact group are trying to divert attention from the primary issue at hand: the decolonization of Namibia and the demobilization of South African occupying forces in that country.

This current maneuver is indicative of the overall intentions of the Contact group. If one stops and considers the make-up of this group, it becomes obvious why negotiations continue to be a problem. Of all the countries in the world which might have been chosen to negotiate on behalf of Namibian independence, the representatives are the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. The absence of any independent African states or non-aligned countries is conspicuous and questionable. All of the powers which are part of the Contact group have investments in South Africa and see South Africa as a strategic ally on the African continent. For these reasons, we have little faith in the integrity of such a group.



Thus, the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, face enormous odds not only at the negotiating table, but also on the battlefield. Despite this situation, SWAPO has been able to continue its struggle and is indeed the voice of the people. Stalling tactics such as these by South Africa and its allies can only be seen as an attempt to buy time in order to set up an alternative to a SWAPO-led government, and to further allow South Africa to continue its violent repression against the Namibian and Angolan peoples.

The intention of South Africa was clearly summed up in a statement made recently by the so-called prime minister of South Africa, Piet Wapen Botha. At a gathering of over 1,500 white Nationalist supporters, he said: "Although we have given the people of South West Africa the right to decide their future for themselves, we will not allow the barrel of the gun to decide what Red Flag will fly in Windhoek."

There will never be true self determination in Namibia as long as South Africa sets the terms. There will never be independence in Namibia as long as South Africa continues to occupy that country via the "barrel of the gun." There will only be freedom in Namibia when SWAPO raises its own flag and if Piet Wapen thinks he can stop that from happening, he may as well try and stop the sun from rising in the East. Victory is on the horizon for SWAPO and support from all progressive people is crucial at this time to help expedite the end of South African terror in Namibia and the creation of a free and independent Namibia.

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### SWAPO WAR COMMUNIQUE

Dated January 11, 1983, the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) released some statistics of the armed struggle being waged for national liberation in Namibia. Altogether 2,865 enemy soldiers have been put out of action, 79 SADF trucks and 37 SADF armoured personnel carriers have been destroyed, 18 SAAF aircraft, 14 helicopters and 2 reconnaissance planes have been downed, in 802 armed actions against South African forces.

This valuable information is not going to be found in the western press, where South Africa's statistics are regurgitated straight from Pretoria without any reference to SWAPO's position. It is also clear that although the South Africans continually invade Angola to destabilize SWAPO, these aggressive tactics have failed to have the desired effect.

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KOEBERG: DISARMAMENT THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN WAY

Like many concerned groups and individuals internationally, SAMRAF has consistently voiced its opposition to South Africa's nuclear capabilities. We have been a part of an ongoing struggle within the U.S. disarmament movement to highlight the dangers that outlaw states such as South Africa represent. We have also encouraged the movement here to address the issues of non-intervention and support for Third World liberation, as an essential ingredient in their program for peace.

It is no secret that the disarmament movement in the U.S. is split between those who support the above mentioned perspective, versus those who see nuclear weapons as a single issue divorced from other social evils, such as institutionalized racism, national oppression and economic blackmail.

The entire nuclear industry in South Africa has to be seen as part of the regime's defense system, and in that regard, must be viewed as a threat to world peace. Thus, it was a strategic boost, not only for the national liberation struggle in South Africa, but also for the disarmament movement worldwide, when on December 18, 1982, freedom fighters from the African National Congress (ANC) successfully infiltrated and partially sabotaged South Africa's only nuclear power plant.

The Koeberg plant is situated about 40 km. from Cape Town. This project, manufactured mainly by a French firm, Framatome, is estimated to have cost the regime well over \$1.5 billion. The plant was due to have gone into operation at the end of '82, but construction delays have postponed start-up until later this year. Such an installation has to be heavily guarded as it is no doubt deemed a high security area by South African authorities. The underground movement of the ANC has again proven its ability to infiltrate apartheid's most protected installations.



Piet Wapen's Polka

SAMRAF has always argued that the liberation movements in Southern Africa are the disarmament movement. We believe that this recent action gives credence to this position. In order to eradicate South Africa as a nuclear threat, the system of South Africa has to be dismantled. The attack on Koeberg is not only an attack against nuclear power, but is also an attack against white supremacy and the system of apartheid.

All too often, the anti-nuclear movement in the U.S. appears to operate in a vacuum, unwilling to recognize significant actions which speak to peace and disarmament. Those who hold nuclear weapons at their disposal are a serious threat to humanity. We should give credit to those movements and individuals who, under the most repressive conditions, are prepared to use whatever tactics are necessary, in order to rid the world of such evils.

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THE NUCLEAR CONNECTION

THE MOROKA THREE

A petition of clemency is being lodged with the so-called State President of South Africa, along with an urgent campaign and an outcry from the U.N. to halt the executions of three ANC members, Jerry Mosololi, Simon Mogoerane and Marcus Motaung. The three accused men have not appealed their sentences, deeming the trial a mockery of justice, which no doubt it was. When suggested by the defense that the alleged "confessions" of the accused were extracted via methods involving non-stop interrogation, suffocation with plastic bags, electric shocks, attacks by dogs, and threats of torture to the defendants' families, these facts were again dismissed as obstructive to the trial, with the judge making clear that he "did not have time to waste." Lives yes, time...no.

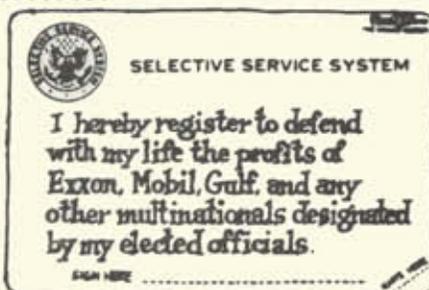
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## SAMRAF'S PARTICIPATION IN C.A.R.D.

SAMRAF has always felt the need to be involved in and supportive of efforts here to fight the draft. Currently, we are active in CARD (Committee Against Registration and the Draft), serving both on the Steering and Executive committees of this body.

Our participation in CARD grows out of an analysis which sees the U.S. war machine as a threat to progress throughout the world, one which will only be used for wars of exploitation. Similar to the apartheid regime's predicament, the U.S. has to depend on the will of its people to be able to carry out its master plans. As the U.S. sees such outlaw allies as the junta in El Salvador, or the white power structure in South Africa, being threatened by movements of national liberation, it is compelled to give financial and military support to its dictatorial friends. If the U.S. wants to maintain its position as a superpower and continue to control the natural resources of Third World countries, it will eventually have to commit itself militarily and openly combat national liberation movements. Thus, fighting the draft here not only destabilizes these efforts, but also presents an opportunity to build a movement which opposes U.S. worldwide control.

SAMRAF sees fighting the draft in South Africa as a way to further develop progressive consciousness among whites. Draft resistance in South Africa should not only be seen as a way of weakening the regime's armed forces, but also as an effort to recognize the aspirations of Black people and injecting a pro-liberation sentiment among those questioning their military obligations. If its Principles of Unity are adhered to, CARD represents a potential for building a similar sentiment in the U.S. These Principles contain anti-racist positions and recognize the need for Black and Third World leadership. They also contain an international perspective that recognizes the threat of U.S. intervention, particularly in the Third World. CARD's ability to build itself as a movement which identifies with the righteousness of liberation movements internationally will enhance its chances of success.



Recognizing this potential within CARD we participate to help build the kind of anti-draft movement which deals with these important issues. As has been seen in the disarmament movement, the effectiveness of the movement as a whole is seriously limited by a single issue approach to anti-draft work. One cannot concentrate on registration solely as a violation of civil liberties and not also confront the larger ramifications of compulsory military induction, such as the poverty draft, racism, U.S. imperialism and military intervention in the Third World.

It is extremely important that we be able to link our efforts and lend support to each other's struggles. SAMRAF hopes that at some point CARD might develop more strategic and coherent positions on how to support liberation in Southern Africa. We are also hopeful that we will be able to assist CARD in its ongoing struggle against the draft in the U.S. and for liberation.

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## PUPPET LOSES HIS JOB

Dirk Mudge, white rancher and leader of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), a laughable alternative to the massive SWAPO popularity that exists in Namibia, has resigned. South Africa as a result no longer has a puppet go-between and will resume direct control over Namibia. This is largely due to the minority represented by the DTA having no relationship to the demands of the Namibian people. In the event of an internationally supervised election, it is clear that DTA would represent no threat to a SWAPO victory.

Another possible reason for such a maneuver is that South Africa wants to portray Mudge and his gang of thieves as a body independent of South Africa, with their own grievances against continued South African control. This would put Mudge in the category of "Namibian Nationalist" which might win him more support.

Whatever the reasons, the regime seems to be finding it impossible to create an alternative to SWAPO and are now resorting to their original strategy of direct control. This really does not make much difference as it always has been South African institutions like the SADF and the SA police which rule by force in Namibia. Options are running out for apartheid in Namibia. SWAPO is the only alternative, a fact which racist South African will not accept.

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS: THE WINGS  
OF APARTHEID

Texas, the state which just demonstrated a new way to execute a human being by way of injection with lethal drugs, has just opened its doors to South African Airways, granting them landing rights in Houston. Already there is motion against this and a group called the South African Task Force has demonstrated at Houston Intercontinental Airport. This group has not only targeted South African Airways, but also Pan Am because it is leasing gate space and providing ground service for South African flights

Apartheid South Africa also has a consulate office in Houston and this too will be a target of the Task Force. In May, 1981, 2 men were arrested at Houston airport in connection with a shipment of arms which was being loaded onto a Boeing 707 heading for South Africa. At the time, U.S. customs agents said it was the largest haul of illegal weapons confiscated in the U.S. The two have already pleaded guilty and their sentencing is set for July 8th. It is more than ironic that Houston now becomes a landing center for South African Airways.

As the campaign to fight South African airways landing rights continues in Houston, SAMRAF encourages our supporters to continue calling in to South African Airways (as advertised in our last Newsletter).

South African Airways represents apartheid's direct connection with the outside world at a time when the regime should be increasingly isolated, as exemplified by the fact that the majority of countries on the African continent refuse South African Airways landing rights and the use of territorial airspace. South African Airways' presence in the United States is reflective of the alliance between the U.S. government and South African and is one which should be vigilantly struggled against.

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REVIEW OF A SOUTH AFRICAN PLAY  
POPPIE NONGENA

With:

Thuli Dumakude, Sophie Mgcina, Seth Sibanda, Tsepo Mokone, Fana Kekana, Selaelo Maredi, Maggie Soboil, Alex Wipf

Directed by: Hilary Blecher  
Adapted for the stage by: Elsa Joubert and Sandra Kotze

Located at: St. Clement's on West 46th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.

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A note by the author of "The Long Journey of Poppie Nongena"

"Poppie Nongena is based on the actual life story of a Black woman living in South Africa today. Only her name is invented. The facts were related to me not only by Poppie herself, but by members of her immediate family and her extended family or clan, and they cover one family's experiences over the past 40 years."

Elsa Joubert

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The director and company of this production clearly and energetically portray exactly what the playwright intended. The use of 'theatre in the round' added to Poppie's story, by helping the audience to feel part of the event, which is in fact a societal truth. In this sort of physical setting, we are not alienated from her problem, but are instead drawn even closer, and included in it. The staging of this play is fluid, vibrant and candid. We see actors setting up and striking props. The audience is witness to a lot of action that is normally kept behind the scenes in traditional theatre. This is people's theatre.

The play itself manages to convey a true reflection of the South African way of life. Along with Poppie and her family, we are guided through some of the main historical turning points of the past 40 years as well as the ramifications of the inhumanity of the South African regime on the lives of Black people. Conversely, we observe with horror, the priorities of whites in their investment in having the situation in South Africa remain just as it is.

Brutality and insensitivity are the order of the day. For those of us who lived for many years in South Africa, these were like ghosts come back to haunt us in the form of the SAP (South African Police) officer in his dark blue fascist uniform: symbol of repression and hate.

There is insight and understanding available to the audience by way of the performers who have first-hand experiences of the situations that they portray. An addendum to the original script now includes the Soweto riots of 1976, signaling a 'new age of resistance' for the Black people of South Africa. This was an essential component of the play, lending a contemporary socio-political vision, communicated to us via the changes in consciousness and direction of the characters in the play.

This sort of material is extremely valuable for viewing by U.S. audiences, in that it serves to inform as well as entertain.

The acting of each cast member is refreshing and of a high standard. The beautiful singing and the little bits of dance are authentic and indigenous. "Nkos'i Sikelel'i Afrika," anthem of the liberation forces of South Africa, sung by the performers and certain people in the audience, was a strong and dignified finale. A fine ending to a fine show.

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*SAMRAF News & Notes*  
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#### POLITICAL ASYLUM APPLICATION DENNIS BRUTUS

The U.S. State Department has issued its advisory opinion on the asylum application of Dennis Brutus, the world acclaimed Black South African poet and anti-apartheid activist. True to form, the Reagan administration has denied asylum in the U.S. to Brutus.

Since the State Dept. continues to hold up any decision in the asylum case of South African military resister Dominic Holzhaus, the Brutus decision reveals once again the high level of U.S. government antagonism toward opponents of apartheid at the same time as increased support for the apartheid government of P.W. Botha.

The decision in Dennis Brutus' case was made at the highest echelons of the Reagan administration. Many documents related to the decision have been classified as secret for "national security reasons" by the State Dept. Thus, the U.S. government is refusing access by Brutus and his lawyers to all the evidence as they prepare their appeal of the government's politically-motivated decision.

SAMRAF encourages everyone who supports the right of political asylum for leaders of the liberation struggle and all opponents of apartheid to write a few letters: one to Judge Irving Schwartz, Immigration & Naturalization Service, 219 S. Dearborn, Chicago, IL. 60604 and the second to Allen Nelson, Commissioner of Immigration, Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C. These letters should urge that Dennis Brutus be given the right to review all evidence in his case and be granted political asylum.

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#### INVASION OF LESOTHO

On December 9th, in a predawn attack, South African military forces invaded the independent country of Lesotho. For 2-1/2 hours the SADF occupied the capital city, Maseru, killing approximately 37 people. (This is an official figure and it is possible that the death count is much higher.)



The apartheid regime, using this latest invasion as an excuse to attack ANC members, has again proven its complete disregard for state sovereignty. Perhaps the most important lesson from such a raid can be found in the justification presented by apartheid officials for the action. The SADF claims the ANC was planning attacks against South Africa during the holiday season, and thus this raid was pre-emptive. General Constand Viljoen, chief of the Defence Force, also claimed that ANC was regularly receiving advice from the PLO.

There is an important parallel to be drawn here. The world recently witnessed Israel's invasion into Lebanon, in its effort to completely dismantle the PLO. Israel received little or no criticism from the western powers for this action. A precedent having thus been established, South Africa now is merely exploiting it and using it to its advantage. Israel's attacks on the PLO and South Africa's attacks on the ANC both have a common theme. Premised on the regimes' claim that they are fighting movements which are committed to overthrowing their respective governments, they thus legitimize the violation of international boundaries and the use of terror tactics. The fact that the west, particularly the U.S., refuses to criticize and endorses such actions serves as continued encouragement for both outlaw states to invade at will.

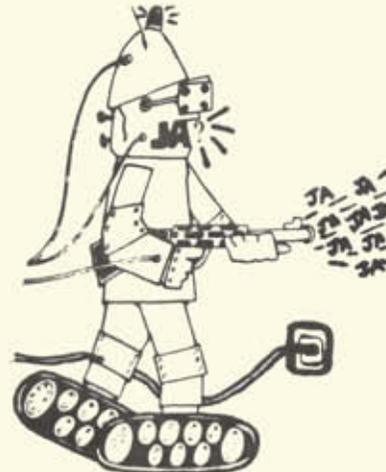


What is being witnessed here is a development of South Africa's overall strategy to maintain white power. Lesotho is a defenceless country, completely surrounded by and dependent upon South Africa. South Africa is perfectly willing to ignore Lesotho's independence in its efforts to combat the liberation struggle. This raid also indicates the effectiveness and extent of the South African intelligence network. The fact that the military forces knew house addresses and even car registration plates speaks to a level of state surveillance which must be taken seriously.

This raid is similar to a previous one undertaken by South African forces into Mocambique last year. In both raids ANC freedom fighters were the targets of South Africa's aggression. The Lesotho attack claimed the lives of at least 30 ANC members. SAMRAF deplores such attacks and stands in solidarity with the comrades and families of those freedom fighters murdered by the racist aggressors.

The South African military is the tool for actions such as these, and it is imperative that the world recognize the need to dismantle this terror force. As long as South Africa remains a powerful military might, the entire region of Southern Africa is threatened. The welcome sign into Lesotho reads "Tena ka Khotso" which means "Come in peace." Clearly peace will never be attained as long as apartheid's armed forces are given a free reign and the true representatives of freedom are denounced as "terrorists."

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#### DRAFT RESISTER BILLY PADDOCK

The latest war resister to be court martialed by the SADF for refusing to fight an "unjust war," is Billy Paddock, an Anglican in his mid-thirties. He has been sentenced to a year in a civilian jail after which he will be dishonorably discharged from the army. Paddock explained at his trial that he was not only a conscientious objector, but that he had an "obligation to resist apartheid and exploitation in all its forms."

When asked about his stance as a pacifist, he had the following to say: "I abhor violence, but I accept that people come into conflict situations which cause violence. Within South Africa at this point, I believe violent revolution is inevitable, and while I personally at this stage cannot take up arms, I nevertheless support the overall goal of freedom that the liberation movements are striving for, and I respect the choice of those who have had to make the agonizing decision to take up arms. For myself, because the whole system is unjust and oppressive, I refuse to do national service which is there to protect and uphold the status quo. I also believe that because the undeclared war that South Africa has been waging for the past few years against SWAPO of Namibia and ANC of

South Africa, is unjustified, I cannot take up arms against them. As a Christian therefore, it is not permissible for me to join the army."

Billy Paddock's reasons for putting up with all the harassment and ostracization by government, church and family are captured in this statement: "I love South Africa. I love its people. I believe that I can contribute more to South Africa from within the country than from outside. I believe the struggle for liberation must be waged from both fronts-- from within and from outside the country. I respect those who go into exile to carry on the struggle there. I do not believe that my solution is to leave the country."

SAMRAF supports Billy Paddock in his stand against apartheid militarism.

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#### CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

SAMRAF's city council resolution in support of South African military resisters and their right to political asylum in the U.S. has continued to win approval. On November 16, 1982, the District Council of Washington, D.C. adopted the resolution by unanimous consent. Partly because Washington is the U.S. capital city, the event received wide news coverage in South Africa.

The resolution was recently passed (January 25th) in the city of Santa Monica, California by a 4-2 vote.

In Atlanta the process has been very drawn out. The resolution was formally introduced in early November and was passed with one minor change by the Executive Committee of the council on December 6th. But objections were raised in the full 19-member council. Hopefully, these objections can be overcome by the time it comes up for consideration again-- February 6th.

For those who would like to register your support for the effort in Atlanta, please write to John Lewis, Atlanta City Councilman, 1520 Pinehurst Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30311. Say simply that you support the resolution welcoming refugees from apartheid in South Africa and recommending that the U.S. State Dept. grant asylum specifically to South African military refugees. Make a couple of copies of your letter and send them to the Council President, Marvin S. Arrington, and the Chair of the Executive Committee, Barbara M. Asher, at 100 City Hall, Atlanta, Georgia 30335.

Other cities currently targeted are Minneapolis, Baltimore, and Sacramento. We'll keep you posted. We hope the South Africans receiving our newsletter will discuss this resolution with their friends and family back home where the news coverage has been fairly extensive and, of course, counts the most.

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#### ATTACK ON PROGRESSIVE CHURCH NETWORK

For a number of years, SAMRAF has been a member of a progressive church network entitled the United Methodist Voluntary Services (UMVS). The UMVS program seeks to assist various progressive and grass roots organizations throughout the U.S. whose emphasis is on anti-racist organizing. SAMRAF's participation within UMVS has allowed us access to resources and an ability to further our outreach to other sympathetic and progressive forces.

In the last year, UMVS played a significant role in the defence of Eddie James Carthan, the Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, who was framed by the white power structure and faced the death penalty on trumped-up murder and other related charges. Eddie Carthan was the victim of a racist attempt to maintain white control in Tchula. In late November, Eddie was acquitted on the murder charge, however he remains in jail due to the Mississippi Supreme Court's refusal to release Mayor Carthan on bond while the appeal is pending on his simple assault conviction. The national support given to his cause by the Black community and concerned organizations and individuals was largely responsible for the acquittal, and for continued efforts to obtain Mayor Carthan's release from prison.

Following this campaign, UMVS came under fire from the Methodist Church in Mississippi, where white Methodists are critical of UMVS for its actions in support of Mayor Carthan. The National Division of the Methodist Church has acquiesced to the criticisms put forward by these racist forces and it has suspended both Sheila Collins and John Jordan, UMVS staff people who have played pivotal roles in building UMVS.

SAMRAF vehemently opposes these suspensions and views the action as a right wing maneuver premised on racist intent. We stand firm with the other UMVS projects in the demand to reinstate John Jordan and Sheila Collins. We are deeply concerned that a positive force within the church structure is being silenced by that structure itself. Such a situation can only benefit white racism.

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MORE INFORMATION ON ENTERTAINERS'  
BOYCOTT

(Re-printed from the Village Voice)

-11-16-82-

Dear Editor:

As a South African actively opposed to apartheid, I would like to acknowledge my strong appreciation for Michael Beaubien's article entitled "Singing for Apartheid" [Voice, November 9]. As an ex-Johannesburger, it is interesting to note the use by the Pretoria regime of visiting black American entertainers to legitimize their attempts at creating a black middle class to act as a buffer against a more radical restructuring of that society. Certain theaters (previously for the exclusive use of whites) in the wealthy downtown white area of the city are the venues hosting these artists. Surrounding these "islands" are restaurants where Sowetans or blacks from other townships cannot have dinner before or coffee after a show—except in expensive hotels declared "international" by the government. A totally untrue representation of that society attempting once more to project itself as "liberalized" for all the world to see. And although there is an opportunity to see foreign showmanship, after the show is over the blacks return to the reality of Soweto or Alexandra and the whites head for the unreality of white South African suburbia.

I would like to add that Sun City is not merely "an old African kingdom," as quoted by the writer, but was in fact the site of a black ritual graveyard. On this same land, the indigenous people are now being offered in exchange a culture which is *alien*, forever inaccessible to the vast majority and quite irrelevant at this point in their history. Is this structure, therefore, not the ultimate in concretized insensitivity and disregard? A monument to the plundering of the heritage and human dignity of the local inhabitants?

—Maria van Tonder  
West 110th Street

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## SAMRAF and Our Program

SAMRAF is a political organization made up of white South African military resisters, political exiles and American supporters. SAMRAF's goal is to contribute toward the creation of an independent South Africa, free from white supremacy and foreign exploitation. To do this we encourage resistance within the almost all-white South African army, in order to weaken its deadly effect and to help create a pro-liberation sentiment within certain sectors of the white community, particularly draftees. We believe this provides concrete support to the national liberation movements both in Namibia and South Africa.

Our program to support war resistance includes the following:

- \* Producing and distributing propaganda which encourages resistance to apartheid military service.

- \* Providing services for genuine South African war resisters who flee South Africa and arrive in the states, especially those who are seeking political asylum.
- \* Initiating actions, such as campaigns and demonstrations which will send signals of our call for resistance into South Africa and make our presence known to those who are considering alternatives.
- \* Contributing towards involving women in war resistance work.

The U.S. government and multinational corporations are a serious enemy to both the peoples of South Africa, and Black, Third World and working people here. Racism in the U.S. is one of the major stumbling blocks in building a viable movement which challenges U.S. collaboration with apartheid South Africa and fights for people's liberation here. SAMRAF believes we must be involved in the struggle in the U.S. not only because the U.S. is a threat to liberation in South Africa, but also because we have a responsibility to fight for social change here.

Our program to support this struggle includes the following:

- \* Participating in the Southern Africa solidary movement, thereby raising political and material support for the national liberation movements.
- \* Participating in other social movements such as the disarmament movement, the anti-war movement, etc., raising the issue of South Africa and the need to combat racism.
- \* Creating an awareness of the need for white Americans to combat white supremacy by participating in anti-racist work here.

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