

Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa  
c/o Washington Office on Africa  
110 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
(202) 546-7961

Dear Members of the Coalition,

This is a notice about the STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING on OCTOBER 9 & 10 in JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. I apologize for its coming out so late, but I hope it will not keep any steering committee representatives and other people interested in attending from coming. It will be a very important meeting.

Here are some particulars:

TIME Saturday, Oct. 9 at 12 noon - Sunday at 12 noon

PLACE Delta Ministry Office  
520 N. President St. in Jackson (across from state capitol)

TRAVEL INFO Three airlines service Jackson: Delta, Southern and Texas International. Ken will try to arrange for someone to pick you up if you let him know when you will arrive. Call Ken or Eddy Sandifer.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Ken Lawrence (601) 956-4096 (home) Eddy Sandifer (601) 372-3449 (home)  
969-7522 (office) 353-6447 (office)

Delta Ministry Office (601) 355-7495 Chris Root (202) 546-7961 (office)  
332-6812 (home)

COMMUNICATION If you are coming to the meeting, call Ken or Eddy Sandifer immediately to let them know who is coming and so they can make housing arrangements for us. If you can't reach either of them, call me.

This letter contains a very brief progress report on each of the projects that the Coalition has tried to undertake. If you are coming to the meeting, please come prepared with thoughts from your group on each of them that are still being formed, especially if you haven't already sent in comments. If no one from your group will be coming to the meeting, please call in responses on projects you feel strongly about. Call Chris or Ken at the numbers given above.

PROGRESS REPORT (in more or less reverse chronological order)

1. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL

An ad hoc group of 5 Coalition members and 3 others met in New York on August 15 to discuss a proposal sent out by the Philadelphia Coalition to all Coalition members. Minutes of the meeting went out in early September, requesting a Coalition vote on whether to send out a Call in the name of the Coalition to other local and national groups to demonstrate on southern Africa when Presidential candidates appear. Ten votes were received: 7 for, 1 against and 2 abstaining. Ten groups did not respond. No action was taken for lack of a majority affirmative vote. Now it is probably too late to get other groups involved, though distribution of the proposal might have encouraged some groups in the Coalition to take the action.

## 2. NAMIBIA MASS ACTION PROPOSAL

The following resources were prepared and sent to all Coalition members and some other interested groups and individuals following our May 31st meeting:

\*\* guidelines for a national mass action campaign, prepared by the Philadelphia Coalition

\*\* research on US corporate involvement in the Namibian fishing industry, prepared by Allan Cooper of MACSA

\*\* report on current research and actions against Del Monte, prepared by BA-NAG

All Coalition groups were asked to make recommendations on whether this project was worth trying to implement on a national level and, if so, to make concrete suggestions for strategy. Three groups made some response, although none of the responses contained a complete plan for a strategy. A subcommittee of Allan Cooper from MACSA, Marti Roach from BA-NAG and Paul Irish from ACOA was set up to evaluate the proposal thoroughly and draw up a strategy based on the input received. This group has not yet met, although they may get together in Jackson before the Oct. 9 steering committee meeting.

## 3. INVITING NEW GROUPS TO JOIN THE COALITION

How to broaden the Coalition was discussed at length at the February and May steering committee meetings. Thereafter, all groups were asked to suggest groups to invite to join. The Philadelphia Coalition prepared a list of names received and a letter of invitation. Letters were sent to groups now in the Coalition for them to send out to possible new groups in their vicinity asking them to join. I do not have a report on how many letters went out and how many new groups want to join the Coalition. We need to hear from all groups on this before the Oct. 9 meeting. There were also some groups suggested to invite which were controversial. We will discuss these groups at the Oct. 9 meeting to decide whether to extend invitations to them. We will also have to evaluate how effective this process has been and suggest ways to continue to try to broaden the Coalition in the future. One group, Ann Arbor Southern Africa Liberation Committee, joined the Coalition at their own initiative, having known about it from the original Madison conference.

## 4. TELEPHONE HOT-LINE

We decided in February to organize a telephone tree to use for hot news from southern Africa and to alert groups to upcoming events around which we might want to respond, collectively or separately. FIS and the Republic of Africa in Mississippi and the Washington Office on Africa co-ordinated the tree. We have used it at least twice: once on the possible US veto of Angola's UN membership and most recently to ask people to attend the Aug. 15 New York meeting on the Presidential campaign proposal. There may have been a third time, but I can't remember what it was. A few numbers on the tree need updating; I'll try to have that done by Oct. 9.

## 5. EXPANDING STEERING COMMITTEE; BA-NAG'S MEMBERSHIP

BA-NAG requested to serve on the steering committee at the May 31 meeting, and the steering committee recommended that the committee be expanded and that BA-NAG be added. Ballots went out with the May 31 minutes, but only 7 were received (all positive). No action has been taken for want of a majority. Please let us know about this by Oct. 9. Since then, the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa has requested to drop off the committee because they can't afford to attend meetings.

## 6. FINDING OUT ABOUT FILM RESOURCES

We decided at the May 31 meeting to find out what films each Coalition member group had access to that other groups might be able to use. We also wanted to

find out whether groups in the Coalition might want to purchase some films together. The Syracuse Committee prepared a questionnaire and got back responses, which are compiled and included with this letter.

7. COALITION NEWSLETTER

We discussed a possible newsletter at the February and May meetings. In May we decided on a limited, internal monthly newsletter put out by the Washington Office on the progress of Coalition projects. Letters went out in July and August, and this is a substitute for a September newsletter.

8. ZIMBABWE BIBLIOGRAPHY

We decided in February to prepare a bibliography on the politics within the national liberation movement in Zimbabwe. All Coalition members, some outside groups and representatives of the liberation groups were asked to contribute. ACOA compiled this information and sent it to all Coalition members, for internal use only. We don't know whether groups have found this useful, although ACOA and the Washington Office have received few requests for the materials that we made available through the bibliography.

9. EVALUATION OF COALITION WORK ON ANGOLA

We decided in February to ask each organization in the Coalition to prepare a brief evaluation of their work on Angola in local coalitions. CCLAMG coordinated the project. I don't remember the number of groups that prepared a report; I think it was about five. They were distributed within the Coalition at and following the May 31st meeting.

10. HOLDING A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

The 1975 Madison conference participants suggested having a conference annually. We decided in May to consider having a conference in the spring of 1977, but only if we had made significant progress on two things: a national mass action program and broadening our membership. We will need to discuss this again Oct. 9.

11. FINANCES

We decided in February to ask all groups to contribute \$15 annually for the costs of Coalition mailings and such. We have received \$180 and spent \$137, leaving us with a balance after this mailing of \$43.

I hope this summary helps us gather our thoughts about where we have come and to start thinking about what we need to do October 9 and 10 to move ahead from here. I did it hurriedly and may have left some things out, but I think it covers most everything.

Sincerely,

