



Bill Cosby Heads "Unlock Apartheid's Jails" Campaign

Bill Cosby, star of America's most popular television program, leads a campaign to free political prisoners jailed by the South African government for opposing apartheid. The American Committee on Africa and the Africa Fund are sponsors of the campaign, "Unlock Apartheid's Jails". With Mr. Cosby as honorary chairman, they will collect keys and accompanying protest messages from thousands of Americans and present them to the South African embassy. South Africa has jailed an estimated 30,000 persons in South Africa and Namibia in the past year, nearly half of them eighteen years old or younger.

On September 18, 1987, the mayors of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston, Washington, Kansas City and Hartford dramatically launched the campaign, presenting keys to their cities to Mr. Cosby and Nigerian Ambassador Joseph Garba, chairman of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, for delivery to the South African consulate. The keys demonstrate the commitment of each city and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to see political prisoners freed in South Africa.

Numerous religious leaders, including New York City's Roman Catholic Cardinal O'Connor and Rabbi Alexander Schindler of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, labor unions, anti-apartheid and civil rights groups, students and teachers across the nation have endorsed the campaign. Tower Video and Record stores nationwide will set up special displays to collect keys in coming months.

"Unlock Apartheid's Jails" is sponsored by the American Committee on Africa, the nation's oldest anti-apartheid organization, and the Africa Fund. The Africa Fund was recently responsible for distribution of over half a million dollars raised by the popular anti-apartheid anthem, "Sun City", for South African refugees,

political prisoners and their families. For more information and organizing kits, contact: The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038; (212) 926-1210. •

COSA Hit with Resignations by Staff and Directors

The Coalition on Southern Africa has been hit with resignations from the ranks of its board of directors and staff. Since September 1987 when COSA wrote to President Reagan and October 1987 when COSA wrote members of Congress criticizing sanctions against South Africa, five directors and one member of the COSA staff have resigned. COSA was founded in September 1987 as a

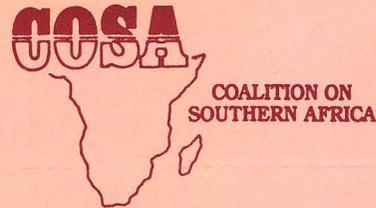
group of leading black religious leaders, businessmen and educators . . . to provide an independent base of private support for South Africa's majority population and to help foster a democratic, non-racial post-apartheid South Africa.

COSA wrote to President Reagan: "As an organization we are convinced that disinvestment by American corporations has been both a failed tactic and a practical disaster."

Congress was urged to "examine the hard evidence that proves that certain punitive anti-apartheid strategies have not worked thus far and are not likely to work in the future."

On corporate withdrawal from South Africa, COSA wrote: "The coalition would reject as counter productive any attempt by Congress to require disinvestment by American corporations."

Resigning from the COSA board were Rev. Gilbert Caldwell, pastor, St. Daniel's United Methodist Church, Chester, Pennsylvania, formerly a consultant to Pagan International on the Neptune Strategy (see ICCR brief, pages 3A-D); Dr. James Hutten Costen, president of the Interdenominational Seminary in Atlanta; Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr., president of the Council on Christian Unity of the Disciples of Christ, Indianapolis; Dr. Paul F. McCleary, president, Save the Children Federation, Westport, Connecticut; and Rev. Dr. David W. Preus, General President, American Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Resigning from the staff was Rev. Dr. W. Clyde Williams, COSA's General Secretary, who was on loan to COSA from The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church where he is executive secretary. •



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