

MACSA cont.

previously involved in anti-war activities around a much broader program interlinking national and international relationships and contradictions. Still the anti-imperialist orientation appears more frequently in the form of slogan than in concrete activity. There is awareness that even community organizing around concrete problems should relate those problems to the larger system of interlinked political economies within which they are situated, but the actual drawing of the relationship is still often lacking.

MACSA has not had an explicit discussion of the organization's role within and through such existing and developing anti-imperialist orientations. Therefore at this time we cannot claim to have set up any strategy of action in this regard. Our role in the past has been one of directing information on Southern African liberation movements and of Wisconsin and US corporate involvement in maintaining Southern African minority regimes in as many places as possible in the Madison area, attempting to create and raise the level of general awareness of the Southern African situation and of its location within a system of world imperialism. We have been much less inclined to take the role of an organizing force in initiating broad scale anti-imperialist actions. But as a consequence of our presence and work here during the past several years we have found that political groups increasingly incorporate demands concerning Southern Africa on their own programs, increasingly utilize the example of Southern Africa when indicting the US on its imperialist activities and oppressive international presence.

Our group has never particularly been a mass one; it is composed of a number of individuals who have or are attempting to develop specialized knowledge concerning one part of the imperialist network. Our most useful role is perhaps to continue to generate and distribute knowledge and information concerning Southern Africa, to infuse this information into other organizations with different specializations, particularly those more capable in the immediate period of consolidating a broad base. This we can accomplish both by maintaining organizational ties in direct coalitions and by ensuring that members of our own group simultaneously participate, as part of the base, in the evolving round of political organizations in the area.

MADISON AREA COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA (MACSA)

The range, duration, and content of the anti-imperialist, anti-war activities which MACSA as an organization has been involved in have been largely a function of the dynamics of the political activity at the University of Wisconsin. This is not exclusively the case, as MACSA has important associations with groups and activities not directly related to the university. Even so, much of the initiative for continuing programs of action and for the formation of coalitions in Madison—a relatively small city with a relatively large university—has come from the student population.

In the past MACSA has related to anti-war, anti-imperialistic activities in a sustained but somewhat less than aggressive manner. We have been involved in various coalitions (increasingly more so as these have changed from explicitly anti-war to at least formally anti-imperialist); we have contributed speakers to programs and rallies we have been present at many meetings, though perhaps few strategy sessions. We have, however, adopted a general policy of bringing in or joining with other groups in most of our own major activities, particularly in fund raising projects. This policy has been in part introduced as a means of gaining wider publicity and more workers for our own projects, but also has the objective function of including explicit anti-imperialistic activities on the program of these other groups.

Many of the political groups in the Madison area—Third World groups, coalitions of white radicals whose numbers have emerged from the anti-war movement—describe their own action in general anti-imperialist terms. Specifically at the present there is a conscious effort at consolidation of peoples