

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
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New York 17, New York

A BRIEF REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN ON AND AROUND
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 10, IN CONNECTION
WITH THE APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID
CAMPAIGN.

Introduction

This report has been drawn up in response to the many requests for information about activities which took place on Human Rights Day in connection with the Appeal for Action. The summary may serve to remind the most concerned people that the campaign for international action against apartheid is on-going. What is written here does not purport to be complete. It is based on information sent in to us by various groups. We would still welcome additional reports.

More than 200,000 copies of the Appeal for Action Against Apartheid were distributed to individuals, clubs, student groups, churches, labor unions, etc. In addition to the more than 150 original sponsors of the Appeal, well over 2,000 signatures were received from people who wished to join in the strong condemnation of the racist policies of the Government of South Africa, and who agree that sanctions and boycotts must be applied in order to convince that Government of the necessity for a radical change in its policy if violence and bloodshed is to be avoided.

New York City Area

On Saturday, December 8th, a demonstration organized by the Student Peace Union was held on the uptown campus of New York University. On Sunday, December 9th, Ambassador Gershon Collier of Sierra Leone delivered the sermon at Antioch Baptist Church in Brooklyn, devoting his talk to the question of apartheid and the Appeal for Action. On the same day, Reverend Marcus Kooper of South West Africa shared the pulpit with Donald Harrington at the Community Church in Manhattan, and George Houser spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford, Connecticut. On Friday evening, December 7th, Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, President of the New York Board of Rabbis, devoted his sermon to a discussion of apartheid and the need for taking action. It would be difficult to estimate the number of services which were in fact devoted to this theme. A letter over Donald Harrington's signature did go to 1,000 Unitarian ministers urging them to give special attention on December 9th to the campaign.

On December 10th, 100 persons joined in picketing the First National City Bank, which participates in a 50 million dollar revolving credit program for South Africa and which recently made a loan of 5 million dollars to the South African Industrial Development Corporation. The South African Rock Lobster Service Corporation, doing public relations work for 26 rock lobster distributors, was also picketed. Numerous student, interracial, church, trade union, and peace organizations supported these demonstrations. Unfortunately, the New York City newspaper strike which began on December 8th limited coverage to a number of news broadcasts, and to ABC-TV (Channel 7) which included an interview in front of the First National City Bank with George Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa.

At Brooklyn College, a demonstration organized by members of various campus groups drew 30 to 35 people in freezing weather. They were addressed by 2 African exchange students and a member of the BC chapter of the NAACP.

Letters were sent by the ACOA to Prime Minister Verwoerd and President Kennedy.

Tallahassee, Florida

A demonstration organized by students at Florida State University and Florida A & M University was held in front of the local Post Office. They received excellent newspaper, TV and radio coverage. A copy of a newspaper article they sent us says in part: "In a peaceful, orderly fashion in front of the Post Office, the Negro and white students carried signs asking the United States to impose economic sanctions on the Union of South Africa. The Post Office was selected because "it's a federal installation...."

San Francisco

A most successful demonstration (held on December 19th) was organized by the Northern California Committee on Africa in cooperation with CORE and the NAACP -- a picket line against a boat carrying South African goods. A letter from Mrs. Mary-Louise Hooper, West Coast Representative of the ACOA reported that: "The San Francisco Chronicle...gave excellent publicity to the idea of a South Africa boycott, because the first part of the article was right on the front page.... During the day we had 85 pickets on the line--not all at once of course, but we had 25 before 7 in the morning to head off the first shift of longshoremen, and 45 between 6 and 9 at night. We had 22 placards--it rained all day long but fortunately we had the signs covered with plastic so in spite of it (the rain) they could be seen.... As far as I can find out we had coverage in the Chronicle, News Call Bulletin, Examiner, Oakland Tribune, Berkeley Gazette and the Sun Reporter; as well as local radio stations and the two most important TV stations -- NBC and CBS. We actually were on at 6 o'clock in the evening, just before Huntley & Brinkley, which is the best spot you can get on the news, and it was very sympathetic coverage. I was interviewed on this program as to the purposes of our demonstration; another interview by NBC which I was told would circulate all around the world to every Commonwealth country, as well as to England. I forgot to mention one other newspaper which covered our demonstration -- a paper from Newark, N.J. Also, the East African Standard from Nairobi, Kenya carried it."

In addition to the picket line, a public meeting was held on the evening of December 10th.

Washington, D.C.

The nation's capital was the scene of picket lines and public meetings on Sunday, December 9th. During the day, 25 students, braving snow and freezing temperatures, picketed the South African Embassy, and in the evening a public meeting, sponsored by NAACP, CORE, NAG, Student Peace Union and Washington Fellowship House, was held at John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church. James Carey,

President of the International Union of Electrical Workers, headed the list of speakers. Others included Professor Leslie Rubin, former Senator in the South African Parliament, Lewis Carliner of the United Auto Workers, and Bayard Rustin of the War Resisters League and World Peace Brigade. Mr. Carey pointed out that resolutions supporting sanctions against South Africa have been passed by the trade union movement and pledged labor's continued and active support to secure such action.

Canada

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, Mr. Claude Jodoin, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, issued a statement about the "violation of human rights by the Republic of South Africa." Taking note of the continued violation of human rights by the Government of South Africa culminating in the passage of the Sabotage Act last June, Mr. Jodoin called on the "Canadian Government to support and implement within the sphere of its own jurisdiction the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted by a big majority on November 6th, 1962, and in particular the sections of the resolution which call for economic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa." Pointing to the resolution adopted unanimously by the Third Constitutional Convention of the Congress calling for a boycott of South African consumer goods, he requested all affiliates of the Congress to implement the resolution.

Other Parts of the Country

In addition to the activities reported above, news has come to us of the following:

1. The US National Student Association included the Appeal for Action in a mailing to 13,000 members and on December 10th sent a telegram to the First National City Bank in New York urging "withdrawal of investments and other forms of financial support for South Africa."
2. Church services at Stockton Methodist Church, Ill; Buzzmont Unitarian Fellowship, Matboro, Penna.; Unitarian Church, Natick, Mass. (and letters to the President and the United Nations).
3. Unitarian Fellowship Adult Forum, Bakersfield, Calif. -- meeting on the evening of December 9th.
4. Part of the Human Rights Day program of the Springfield Illinois Council of Churches devoted to the Appeal.
5. Public meeting organized by Griffith Nakubyana, Representative in the United States of the Northern Rhodesian United National Independence Party on the campus of Colgate University.
6. Public meeting organized in New Haven, Conn., by John Shingler, former President of the National Union of South African Students and addressed by Ilburumba Kerina of South West Africa.

7. 1,000 copies of the Appeal distributed on the campus of the University of Chicago; 300 copies distributed by the Detroit AAUN at a city-wide celebration of Human Rights Day; 5,000 copies distributed by students on the Berkeley campus of the University of California in preparation for a public meeting; 1,000 copies distributed at Louisiana State University (in a letter asking for the copies, the students said: "We intend to distribute copies widely on campus and also with students from Tulane protest apartheid by carrying signs and walking to City Hall").