

"TOWARD A FREE
SOUTHERN AFRICA"

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Phone: (212) 477-0066

EASTER 1973

14 West 11 St.

New York, NY 10011

STRIKES - BANNINGS

LONG LIVE



South Africa's apartheid regime faces renewed opposition from two elements within the country, each persisting and growing in defiance of the police state.

A black workers strike erupted in January, all but closing down the third largest city Durban. Strikes continue to flicker across South Africa, despite their illegality and the threat of stiff penalties.

In March the government struck at two university groups, the black South African Students Organization and the multi-racial National Union of South African Students. Strict banning orders were served on eight leaders of each organization.

**WE ARE RETURNING BECAUSE WE ARE
HUNGRY AND NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE
ACCEPTED THE NEW WAGE.**

- a Durban worker

The general strike of 50,000 African and Indian workers swept through Durban and its surrounding industrial complex, including the docks, the Pepsi Cola bottling works, a sugar factory processing the rich yields of the cane fields north of the city and among employees of luxury hotels and the 16,000 municipal workers.



THE SPIRIT

As Richard Nixon was enjoying his inauguration on 20 January, one of the great leaders of African independence was gunned to death.

Amilcar Cabral, president of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) was shot down on the steps of his home in Conakry, capital of the Republic of Guinea. Guinea's President Sekou Toure had long given shelter and bases to his neighbors, the PAIGC, in its highly successful war with the Portuguese occupiers of Guine-Bissau.

The long hand of Lisbon's secret service was evident in this latest assassination, as it was in the 1969 murder of Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO).



OF AMILCAR CABRAL

Police reinforcements were flown in. They broke up demonstrations with tear gas, riot guns and dogs at the ready. In the heart of the city of half a million, over a hundred out of thousands of marching Africans were arrested.

Recurrent dock strikes had hit the port of Durban, the latest last October when 2,000 African stevedores tied up 20 vessels in protest against 12 hour day shifts, \$27 a week wages. This January, employees of a brick factory went out over wages of \$15 a week in a country where the Poverty Datum Line (a computation allowing only for the barest necessities of life) for an African family of five is \$30 per week.

((A 1972 survey by the South African Productivity and Wage Association disclosed that 4 out of 5 African workers received wages below the PDL of \$1440 a year. The PDL for whites in South Africa is figured at just over \$2400 a year. The average white wage is \$4267 per annum.))

The entire country was tense for weeks. Government and white employers engaged in bitter exchanges over who was responsible. (Warnings about African poverty had been issued by white academicians and trade union leaders and even some employers for several years as inflation raced throughout South Africa.) Parliament resounded with cries of Nationalist Party members and their opposition in the United Party. Even Prime Minister Vorster was moved to say on the floor that employers must "see each worker as a soul, a human being with certain requirements and feelings". Only the sole Progressive Party member, Mrs. Helen Suzman, got to something substantial when she called for official recognition of black trade unions.

Most of the trade unions affiliated with the proponderantly white (some are Indian and Coloured) Trade Union Council of South Africa in January called for registered African trade unions. But as the conservative LONDON TELEGRAPH says of the government and some employers: "They fear that once the workers become organized the unions would develop into a political force!"

Black trade unions exist but are not legally recognized and cannot engage in collective bargaining for their members. African wages and working conditions are determined by government officials and white union leaders. Strikes are forbidden and punishable by the Bantu Labour Settlement of Disputes Act. The modest - by South African standards - reprisals against this year's strikers is therefore indicative of government and white community nervousness.

There is such a thing as a 'works committee' composed of white employers and their African workers. The Minister of Labour admitted there were only 18 statutory and 118 non-statutory works committees in all of South Africa. During the Durban strike, the government suggested more be formed.

Within hours of reading the first news in the following Monday's papers, an angry and defiant group demonstrated before the Portuguese tourist office on New York's Fifth Avenue. Other demonstrations and a moving memorial service at St. Philip's church ensued. Long Live The Spirit was recurrent.

The PAIGC has liberated three-quarters of Guine from the Portuguese. The people plan to declare their independence within a few months. Amilcar Cabral, in a message just before his murder, proclaimed: "Everything is ready and the process cannot be reversed: before the end of the year, Portuguese Guinea will be independent."

Friends of Guine in this country feel that the present US government is so heavily compromised by military and economic alliances with Portugal and support for its African colonial wars that it will not recognize the new state. A people's Message of Support and Solidarity for the People and Party of Guine is prepared and sponsors are welcomed:

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT GUINE'S INDEPENDENCE
c/o American Committee on Africa
164 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

By no means can works committees be compared with trade unions. They are rather like community boards set up in the USA by officialdom to dampen down the thrust of any peoples' movement toward greater self-determination. Black workers understand the ineffectuality of these boss-government dominated entities. The skill and sophistication of African workers in the recent strikes was exemplary. They were well organized, bold, sensitive to how far they could go short of total repression in the police state, and they kept their leaders well concealed. More will be heard from these amazing people.

WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Black consciousness grows apace in South Africa. Last year saw the formation of the Black People's Convention, the nearest thing to a political party for Africans since the banning of the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress in 1960 at the time of Sharpeville. BPC's life hinges on its representation of African, Indian and Coloured people, thus fitting within the racial scheme of South Africa, and on when the Pretoria government decides to slap it down. Several officers were among the students banned in March.

The BPC in January called on American and other foreign firms to withdraw from South Africa, specifically warning them not to get involved in the Bantustans and adjacent border areas. A BPC official said of the companies: "All they want to do is form a massive labour pool which will be exploited".

NAMIBIA

"A clear majority of South Westers, with UN backing, are now pressing for independence for SWA as a whole."

- THE FINANCIAL MAIL - Johannesburg - survey, 2 March 1973

"In the course of our discussions, particular attention was paid to the 'Development of Self-Government for Native Nations in South West Africa Amendment Bill' which was introduced in the South African Parliament on 8 February 1973. In view of the statements regarding the aims of the Bill which the Prime Minister of South Africa had made in Parliament on 19 February, my representatives endeavoured to ascertain that South Africa would respect the national unity and territorial integrity of Namibia. Among the points raised was whether, in the light of the proposed legislation, the possibility could arise that one or other of the population groups might acquire separate independence before the Namibian people as a whole had exercised their right of self-determination. Subsequently in discussing the implications of the proposed legislation, I made clear my position that the right of self-determination should be exercised simultaneously on a common and Territory-wide basis and that every Namibian who had the right to participate in the act of self-determination should be in a position to exercise that right as an inhabitant of the Territory as a whole."

- Report by the Secretary General to the Security Council of the UN on his dialogue with the South African government, document S/10921, 30 April 1973

- "A. The Secretary-General should call upon South Africa to forthwith disband the so-called Advisory Council recently established in Namibia.
- B. To maintain contacts with the South African regime would mean an acceptance of its policy on the part of the United Nations; therefore, the Council opposes continuation of the dialogue.
- C. The United Nations and the Council for Namibia should initiate a programme of action with the purpose of making effective the mandate that the Council received in 1967."

- UN Council for Namibia, 30 March 1973

"We look to the United Nations to implement the decision to remove the South African presence in South West Africa. The National Convention is at present involved in preparing plans for a constitution for a new government of South West Africa."

- The National Convention Executive Committee in Namibia, 12 March 1973

"Asked his opinion of Black nationalist claims that he was not authorized to form an Advisory Council because South Africa's mandate over the Territory had been ended by the United Nations, Mr. Vorster said he could not be expected to comment on such nonsense."

- THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, 26 March 1973

"The Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, this week paid tribute to the four African policemen who died in a terrorist ambush in the Caprivi Strip last week.....He said....they were doing their duty in a way which had placed them between South Africa and the danger from outside."

- THE JOHANNESBURG STAR, air edition, 28 April 1973 reporting on continuing guerrilla liberation force operations in Namibia by South West Africa Peoples Organization of Namibia.

"...There should be a clear recognition that the liberation of Namibia will be undertaken by the peoples of Namibia and that all other agencies and organizations must consider themselves as servants of the peoples of Namibia and their liberation movement."

- Namibia International Conference, Brussels, 26 - 28 May 1972

REPEAL the Byrd Amendment

"The action of the (U.S.) government to break sanctions and to begin to import chrome was a severe blow to our struggle for freedom...Economic sanctions provided us with the only tool we have in our non-violent struggle for a free Rhodesia."

- Bishop Abel Muzewora
President, African National Council

In December, 1971, the US Congress adopted the Byrd Amendment permitting the importation of critical and strategic materials from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), thus violating mandatory sanctions invoked against Ian Smith's rebellious regime by the United Nations Security Council.

The United States Court of Appeals in Washington last November - while admitting it was powerless to intervene in a case asking that the imports from Rhodesia be halted - denounced the Byrd Amendment as a "blatant disregard of our treaty undertakings" as a member nation of the United Nations. The USA by these purchases is helping the illegal - and wobbly - Smith regime to survive and to continue exploiting the people of Zimbabwe, where Black Africans comprise 95% of the population.

Thirteen million dollars worth of chrome, ferrochrome (an intermediate product used for making stainless steel) and nickel were brought into the USA in 1972 despite protests by black, student, religious and labor groups. The Washington Office on Africa (sponsored by the American Committee on Africa and three church agencies) discovered that 758 people in Steubenville and Brilliant, Ohio, are losing their jobs because the American market is flooded with ferrochrome produced by 'forced labor' in Rhodesia and South Africa. Other workers are threatened by possible plant closings.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, newly appointed chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is considering introducing a bill to repeal the Byrd Amendment. Representative Don Fraser will probably enter identical legislation in the House. WRITE OR WIRE THEM!

Senator Hubert Humphrey
Room 232
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Don Fraser
Room 1111
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

WRITE OR WIRE OTHER LEGISLATORS. HERE ARE IMPORTANT SWING VOTES.

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Charles Mathias (MD)	James Pearson (KANSAS)
Lowell Weicker (CONN)	Richard Schweiker (PA)
Ernest Hollings (FLA)	Joseph Montoya (NM)
William Roth (DELA)	LAWTON CHILES (FLA) Lee Metcalf (MONTANA)

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DROPS SHARES IN COMPANIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands, August 1972, voted to divest itself of investments in 'institutions that perpetuate racism', resolving thus:

- "(a) instructs its Finance Committee and its Director of Finance:
1. to sell forthwith existing holdings and to make no investments after this date in corporations which, according to information available to the Finance Committee and the Director of Finance, are directly involved in investment in or trade with any of the following countries: South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique and Guine-Bissau; and
 2. to deposit none of its funds in banks which maintain direct banking operations in those countries.
- (b) urges all member churches, Christian agencies and individual Christians outside southern Africa to use all their influence including stockholder action and disinvestment, to press corporations to withdraw investments from and cease trading with these countries."

The WCC published an initial list of 650 corporations involved in Southern Africa, 184 of them USA firms. It sold holdings valued at \$1.5 million out of a total investment portfolio of \$3.5 million.

The magnitude of WCC's action is apparent from the blue ribbon nature of the corporations - and holdings in them by American churches. For example, the Diocesan Investment Trust of the Episcopal Diocese of New York owns common stock in 14 major corporations, market value \$9.25 million. Some \$7.25 million consists of shares in firms on the WCC list: Eastman Kodak, Colgate-Palmolive, GE, GM, IEM, 3M, etc.

*Commemoration of the Sharpeville Massacre
21 March 1973*

*All-day vigil at the South African Airways office
Fifth Avenue, New York*



GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING RACISM.

WCC grants totaling \$200,000 were made to 25 organizations on 5 continents which are engaged in combatting racism. As in 1970 and 1971, last year's contributions were heavily allotted to Southern African liberation movements (\$101,000) for their medical, educational and social service activities.

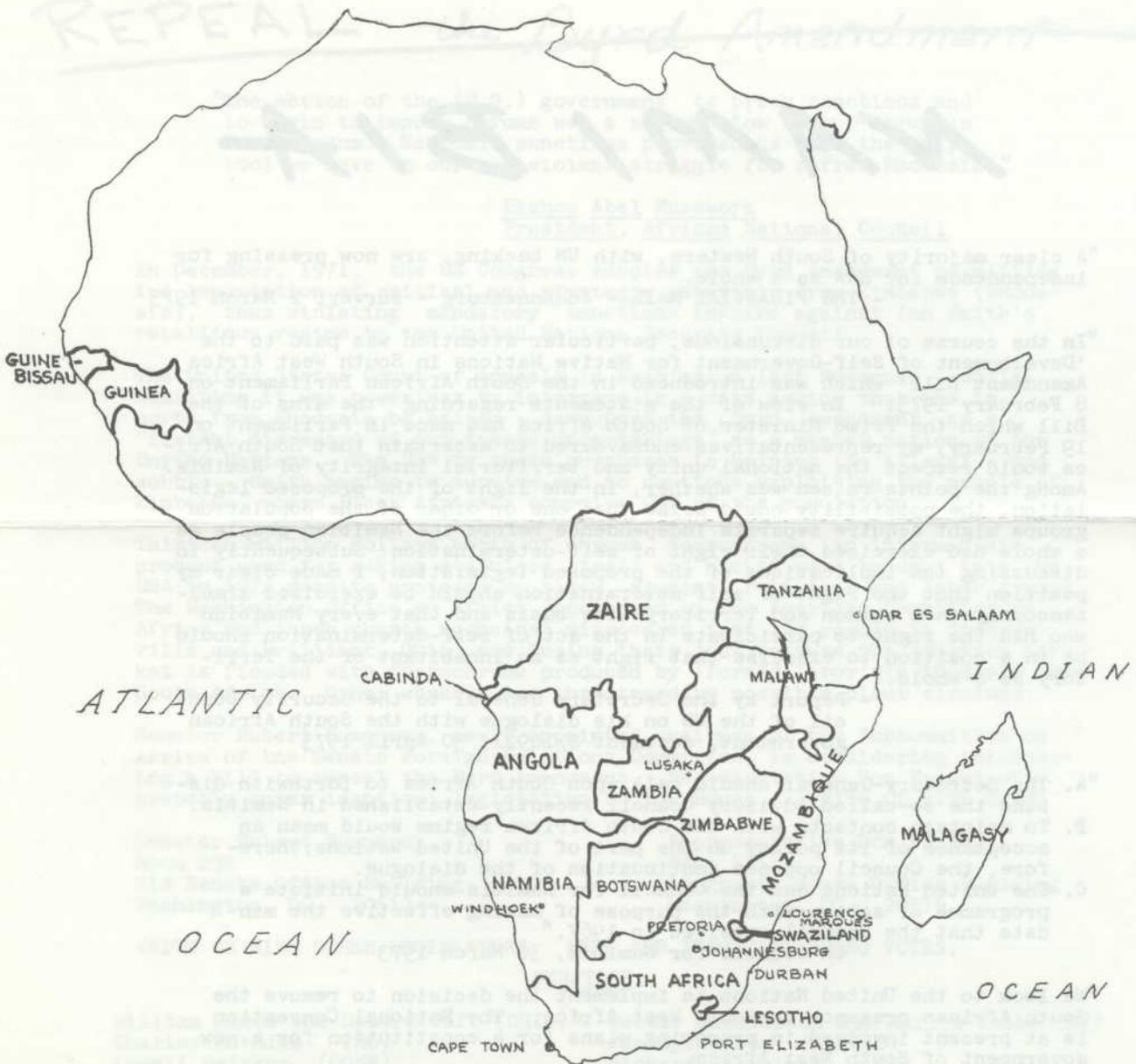
N.Y. LEGISLATION ON SOUTH AFRICA

Assemblyman Franz Leichter (Dem-Lib, Manhattan) and a coalition of New York State legislators have sponsored a new bill in Albany designed to force companies contracting with New York State or in which the State deposits its funds or invests its vast pension moneys to follow fair employment practices in South Africa and any country under South Africa's control.

The bill establishes a Fair Business Employment Practices Board of 7 appointees of the governor to determine whether New York State-based corporations conducting business activities in South Africa and Namibia give equal pay for equal work and practice equal hiring and opportunity without regard to race or color. Should any company be found to fail, contracts can be voided and investments withdrawn.

New York State has on its books laws to end racially discriminatory employment practices and there are strong enforcement agencies. Assemblyman Leichter declared "the reason we have focused on South Africa is that there US companies profit by exploiting the labor of the African majority under the world's only legalized system of racial discrimination, apartheid".

State Senator Sydney von Luther said the legislation would "bring that Republic kicking and screaming into the 20th century by making it recognize Blacks as human beings".



I enclose \$ _____ for the work of Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa

(Contributions to ECSA are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes)

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_____ I do not wish an acknowledgment.

Please make checks payable to: EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA
 14 West 11th Street
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