



UNIT ON APARTHEID

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS*

Background Note No. 29

June 1971

GUIDE TO ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
ACTIVE IN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID - VII

Note

At the request of the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Unit on Apartheid is collecting information for the compilation of a guide to anti-apartheid movements and other organizations actively engaged in campaigns against apartheid. The Unit welcomes information from all such organizations on their activities against apartheid. Brief summaries of information provided by the organizations will be published in the "Background Notes" from time to time.

This Note contains information on the following:

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, NEW YORK
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LONDON

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

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Co-Chairmen: Donald S. Harrington, A. Philip Randolph
President: Peter Weiss
Vice-Presidents: Elizabeth S. Landis, Hope R. Stevens
Secretary: Farrell Jones
Treasurer: Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
Executive
Director: George M. Houser

"The American Committee on Africa (ACOA) has some 15,000 contributors who are considered members of the organization but this group is not the same as that which participates in activities related to southern Africa. ACOA has no chapters as such, but works with local Southern Africa Committees, liberation movement support groups, student, church and other groups who are concerned with specific issues as they arise.

"The American Committee on Africa was organized in 1953 when the struggle for independence from colonial domination was gaining strength in Africa, for the purpose of supporting that struggle. It publicized the various national struggles in the United States, provided a platform for their leadership, and assisted in approaches to the United Nations by these movements.

"South Africa has always been a primary concern of the Committee. In 1955, it raised funds to support schools that were trying to survive without submission to the new government "Bantu education" system, and, in 1956 and after, for the defendants in the treason trials. It started rallying public opinion with the Declaration of Conscience campaign in 1957, and continued with an Emergency Conference following Sharpeville in 1960 and a 1962 Appeal for Action against Apartheid sponsored by Albert J. Lutuli and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"While emphasis on fund-raising and education continued, the question of economic and other support to the apartheid regime grew in importance. A focal point for attack was a

\$40 million credit extended to South Africa by a consortium of ten U.S. banks, and renewed from 1959 to 1969. Wide public support, especially from churches and students, was secured, until South Africa did not request the credit be renewed. The bank campaign led naturally into investigation of other U.S. investments in South Africa, and a campaign for disengagement. This year the 'corporation campaign' is centred on General Motors and the Polaroid Corporation.

"ACOA has also supported the call for an international sports boycott and has been particularly active in respect to the Olympics and tennis, because of the Arthur Ashe case. And we have supported the general cultural boycott. Our other emphasis in 1971 is to end direct U.S. support for South Africa: the sugar quota; weakening the arms embargo as exemplified by the sale of executive type planes; the space and other scientific programmes.

"With the development of the liberation struggle, ACOA has included support for the liberation movements as a major programmatic emphasis.

"ACOA has supported the Angolan struggle since its outbreak in 1961, and in 1962 sent representatives inside Angola. From 1963 it sponsored a medical programme and financed a doctor to aid the struggle there. Today it publicizes and aids movements in all three Portuguese colonies. Its particular programmatic emphasis is on ending the U.S. military alliance with Portugal, with secondary demands for evacuation of the Azores and ending of various other forms of U.S. aid, exemplified most recently by authorization of the sale of Boeing 707s for unrestricted use by the Portuguese. A major campaign is being waged against Gulf Oil Company because of the support it gives to the Portuguese in the war in Angola.

"As issues arise, ACOA is also active in connexion with Namibia and Zimbabwe. It supports the liberation forces in both countries. It has, for instance, demonstrated against evictions and dispossessions in Windhoek. In regard to Zimbabwe, it protested U.S. retention of a consulate there, and the Nixon Administration's current weakening of the sanctions programme by permitting the import of chrome previously purchased. And it asks continuously for a stronger and more consistent position in the United Nations by the United States in opposition to colonialism and apartheid.

"In sum, ACOA has a two-fold approach: support for the liberation struggle in Africa; and an end to support from the United States, public and private, for the oppressive status quo in southern Africa." (Letter dated March 17, 1971.)

The Committee issues fact sheets on territories in southern Africa, and memoranda on specific issues and campaigns as they arise. In 1970 it prepared material for two special issues of Africa Today, one dealing with the United States and South Africa and the other with the United States and Portuguese colonies. It distributes publications and films from a number of organizations, including the U.N. Unit on Apartheid. Its publications include:

Action Against Apartheid. 1960. 25 cents.

George M. Houser. A Rationale for the Protest against the Banks doing Business with South Africa. 1967. 10 cents.

Don't Buy South African - Watch the Label. 1960. Free.

Gonze, Houser and Sturges. South African Crisis and U.S. Policy. 1962. 50 cents.

American Corporate Investment in South Africa. (List of 400 companies.) 1969. 10 cents.

The U.S. should end the South African Sugar Quota and stop buying Sugar from South Africa. 1967. Free.

The Sugar Quota: U.S. subsidy to South Africa. 1969. 20 cents.

Allies in Empire - the U.S. and Portugal in Africa. (Special issue of Africa Today.) 1970. 50 cents.

Apartheid and Imperialism: A study of U.S. Corporate Involvement in South Africa. (Special issue of Africa Today.) 1970. 50 cents.

Would you give South Africa Nuclear Power... the U.S. did. Free.

The Rev. Kenneth Carstens. The "Bantustan" or "Separate Development" Policy. 1966. 5 cents.

South Africa scores again as South African Airways bids for U.S. Tourists. 1969. Free.

Toivo Herman Ja Toivo. South Africa has robbed us of our Country. 1968. 10 cents.

South West Africa Information Sheet. 1967. Free.

Trial under the Terrorism Act. 1967. 5 cents.

Zimbabwe or Rhodesia - No Middle Ground in Africa. 1969. 10 cents.

Mozambique will be Free. 1969. \$1.00.

American Bases in Portugal - At what price? 1969. Free.

Portugal in Africa: an Information Sheet. 1968. Free.