

HUNTER COLLEGE
November 1-3, 1985

NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE
ON SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

Conference Report

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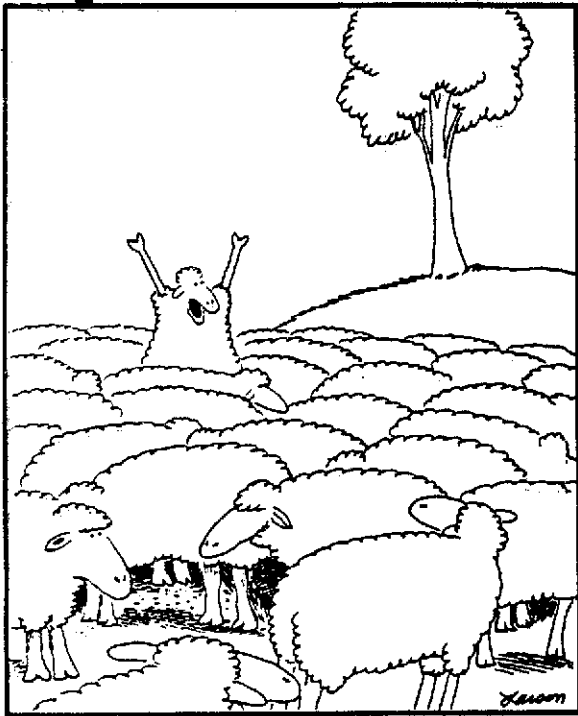
THE BLACK STUDENT CAUCUS REPORT

The topics discussed in The Black Student Caucus revolved around the role of the Black Student in our liberation struggle. In particular, the fight against racism both at home and abroad.

For it was cited that the liberation of Africans in South Africa is inextricably interlinked with liberation of Africans in America, The Caribbean, and World Wide. There was also a stress that domestic racism must have an intimate link to the Anti-Apartheid movement. In addition, the design of institutional racism in education was cited as a main cause of miseducation of our people; which leads to the inability of some of our leadership and followers to solve problems. This was linked to the problem of mobilizing black students therefore an escalated struggle to mobilize black students, in regards to their oppression, was launched.

From these discussions it was determined that a network system is to be developed. As black students we must come together to take the lead of the Anti-Apartheid movement; as well as the world wide struggle of people of African decent. The need to work closer together and at every level was set as a goal:

Please contact us (Temporarily) at: Brooklynites Against Apartheid, PO Box 400790
Brooklyn, NY 11240, to get involved.



"Wait! Wait! Listen to me! . . . We don't HAVE to be just sheep!"

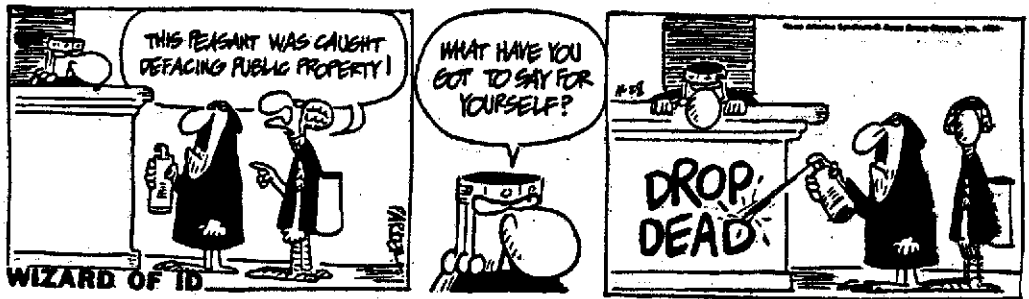
The meeting of the direct action carcass committed ourselves to:

- 1) Take actions to shut down South African Airways across the country;
- 2) Expose corporate recruiters on the campuses, and to drive them off;
- 3) Write, publish and mass-distribute "The Manual for the Student Guerrilla;"
- 4) National local and regional affinity group networking; a regularly distributed newsletter published on a rotating regional basis;
- 5) Disrupt and stop the showing of "The Gods Must Be Crazy" nationwide.
- 6) Create a "Rapid Deployment Force Against Apartheid";
- 7) Graffiti National Network; Video Exchange;
- 8) Guerrilla Theater troupes;
- 9) Computer network & bulletin board;
- 10) Regional travellers to build the network.

WE ARE WORRIED that direct action is already being relegated to the back of the bus.

WE ARE WORRIED that the energizing and empowering experience of direct actions, which we believe to be all-important to developing a revolutionary movement here in the U.S., is being extinguished by most of the "Revolutionary Parties";

We are worried that some folks think that revolution is just a future event and not an ongoing process in our daily lives; that we should sacrifice "process" for some "important" goal; that we've only to march to the barricades without and never confront the barricades within; In the spring actions many people realized for the first time what it means



to be free. As Malcolm X says: "I, for one, believe that if you give people a thorough understanding of what it is that confronts them, and the basic causes that produce it, they'll create their own program; and when the people create a program, you get action. When these "leaders" create programs, you get no action. The only time you see them is when the people are exploding. Then the leaders are shot into the situation and told to control things. You can't show me a leader that has set off an explosion. No, they come and contain the explosion. They say, "Don't get rough, you know, do the smart thing." This is their role -- they're there just to restrain you and me, to restrain the struggle, to keep it in a certain groove, and not let it get out of control. Whereas you and I don't want anybody to keep us from getting out of control. We want to get out of control. We want to smash anything that gets in our way that doesn't belong there The people will take that script (written for them by the leaders) and tear it up and write one for themselves. And you can bet that when you write the script for yourself, you're always doing something different than you'd be doing if you followed somebody else's script."

Report from Workshop on Domestic Racism and Sexism:

This workshop resulted from the merger of those on "Linking Anti-Apartheid Movement" and "Women under Apartheid: Connection between racism and sexism". About 200 people attended. The following proposals were made for resolutions of the Conference:

1. It was noted that there had been a manifestation of racism and sexism in the organization of this Conference. "Racism within the movement" was supposed to be a panel, attended by the entire Conference and had first been replaced by the general topic of "domestic racism" and then relegated to a workshop. Sexism was displayed by the male majority in panelists and facilitators.
2. It should be resolved that the participation of Black and Third World students at all levels of leadership and involvement is crucial to the anti-apartheid movement. In view of this it becomes imperative for predominantly white anti-apartheid groups to:
 - a. take up issues that are of concern to the Black and Third World communities;
 - b. give support to and actively participate in all campus activities organized by Black and Third World students;
 - c. organize themselves as coalitions of individuals and groups, in particular Black, Third World and progressive groups in such a way that there is adequate representation of Black, Third World, and women students in positions of leadership;
 - d. adopt agendas that reflect Black and Third World needs on campus and address racism and sexism in the educational establishment;
 - e. do the necessary research to expose the problems of racism and sexism on campus.
3. A national anti-apartheid curriculum should be developed and adopted, particularly for high schools. Extant attempts to devise such a curriculum should be given immediate consideration.
4. A national network of progressive students be created. In particular this network should consist of all anti-apartheid student activists and be used to exchange information especially about state (e. g. FBI) harrassment of these activists. As part of maintaining this network a national student newsletter should be published and computers should be used for fast transfer of information.
5. Attempts should be made to link the anti-apartheid movement at the international level. In particular, links should be made with the movement on Canadian campuses.

It should be noted that some of the proposals listed above fall outside the strict scope of this workshop. Some others, which seemed to fall within the scope of other concurrent workshops were also discussed but have been excluded from this list for that reason. These include an affirmation of support for the revolutions in Southern Africa, support for a socialist revolution in South Africa, several strategies for divestment etc

Facilitators:

Danisa Baloyi (Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa); Saffiya Bandele (Center for Women's Development - Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY); Marty Ellington (SCAR); Modibo (EBIC); Willy Packard (D. C. SCAR); Michelle Thomas (NY8 Defense Committee); Sahotra Sarkar (University of Chicago TWPF); Imtiaz Tootia (University of Michigan FSACC).

WORKSHOP ON MATERIAL AID :

Representatives from SWAPO, ANC, and Africa Fund presented their priorities in terms of material aid: Health, Education, general supplies to refugees, direct financial support for ANC/ SWAPO etc..

They also discussed possible ideas for fundraising.

Consensus was reached on a proposal for a national student material aid campaign to be organized from the respective campuses and collected by the Africa Fund by the end of February 1986.

- February is black history month
- Representatives from the workshops took responsibility to bring the idea to the regional caucuses.
- Schools would pledge to raise whatever they could (possibly \$500) by the end of February.
- Individual schools could decide whether they wanted to earmark their donation for a particular project, send it directly to the ANC or SWAPO with no strings attached, but the money could nonetheless all be collected by the Africa Fund.
- The unifying factors would be the deadline, collection of the money by one source, and the fact that this would be a student effort.

It was suggested that universities should incorporate community groups into this effort, and link the issues of domestic racism and liberation struggles to the Free South Africa Movement.

Perhaps a final event commemorating the money raised and shipping it off could be organized at various points around the country.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.

ACTION PROPOSALS

1. Media Exposure to The Anti-Apartheid Movement.
2. Education to The True History of Corporate Involvement.
3. Freedom Letter Campaign.
4. Pledge Drive For Student to Refuse to Work for Corporation who do Business in South Africa.
5. Introduce Anti-Apartheid Ideas to American Armed Forces.
6. Heighting Political Education of Anti-Apartheid groups.
7. Invite Representatives of Liberation Organization to Speak on Campus.
8. Massive Boycott of Classes to Show Support for Liberation in South Africa.
9. Campus Fundraisers for ANC and SWAPO.
10. Target Corporations who Invest in South Africa for Demonstrations.
11. Read and Reasearch Alternative sources on Information about Apartheid as Opposed to the News Media.
12. Material Aid Campaigns.
13. Linking Campus Movements to Action in Washington in front of Government offices and Home District office of Congress.
14. Facilitate Teach-Ins
 - Nov. 11th Angola Anniversary.
 - Nov. 27th 1st Anniversary of Free South Africa Movement.
 - Dec. 16th Founding of Umkonto We Sizwe.
 - Jan. 20th Martin Luther King birthday.
15. Cultural Activities with Political Emphasis on Southern Africa.....

Contacts:

Legislative Network Director
DC SCAR
P.O. Box 18291
Wash., D.C. 20036

(202) 333-2532

Lisa Crooms
Washington Office on Africa
110 Maryland Ave, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 546-7961

DC SCAR, in conjunction with the Washington Office on Africa and the United States Student Association, proposes the establishment of a nationwide legislative alert network to bring the nation's college and university campuses in touch with all legislation affecting Southern Africa.

The goal of the network is two fold. Firstly to organize and encourage letter writing campaigns, petitioning, and any other action designed to affect the legislative process. Secondly, to educate students and reinforce the fact that the struggle does not end with individual disinvestment. Namibian independence and Angola must become issues also.

Mailings will consist of two to six pages of xeroxed information and will cost approximately fifty cents per organization, per issue. In addition to the legislative alert the mailing will contain sample letters, petitions and selected news articles and editorials from national publications. Washington Office on Africa will act as a clearinghouse for information. DC Scar will be responsible for producing and distributing the mailings. DC Scar will also oversee fund raising which, if necessary, will come from a nominal donation from members, approximately ten dollars.

LINKING SOUTHERN AFRICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND PEACE MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY WORK

Three main themes dominated our discussion: linking foreign and domestic militarism, supporting liberation movements while combatting anti-communism, and internationalizing our analysis of solidarity work.

The group split up into three groups, each discussing one of these topics, and came up with the following concrete proposals and suggestions:

LINKING FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MILITARISM

1) C.I.A. -

a) that educational material be developed (by ACOA and student groups on the local and regional level) focusing on CIA crimes/Covert action in Central America and Southern Africa.

b) that campaigns be organized on the local level to BAN CIA from all campuses, because recruitment for illegal activity is - in and of itself - illegal. Among the organizing methods we suggest are:

- that solidarity activists receive equal time to CIA recruiters
- that referendums be organized to get CIA off campus
- that mock trials take place (of recruiters)
- that students conduct "citizens arrests" of recruiters

c) that groups get in touch with the clearinghouse that has been established on military/CIA recruitment:

**LISA SHEEHY
1106 NORTH PLEASANT STREET
AMHERST, MASS. 01002**

2) Multinational Investment -

a) that campus divestment campaigns focus on university complicity in South African and Central American dictatorships through corporate stocks, school trustees sitting on corporate boards, and job recruitment.

b) that regular protests be organized against corporate recruiters for multinational corporations who operate in South Africa or Central America.

c) that campus organizations link up with the campaign on DOW CHEMICALS INVESTMENTS in Guatemala and South Africa through:

**LATIN AMERICA MULTINATIONALS PROJECT
P.O. BOX 400730
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11240-0730; Marie Bloom**

3) Military Recruitment/ ROTC & JROTC -

a) that protests target recruiters from the Armed Services, NSA and other military/"intelligence" agencies, using some of the methods recommended in section on CIA.

b) that campus organizations link up with campaigns against military recruitment through:

**ROTC/JROTC CLEARINGHOUSE
c/o WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE
339 LAFAYETTE STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10012 (212) 228-0450**

4) Sanctuary -

we suggest that students organize on the local level to have their campuses declared sanctuaries for southern African and Central American refugees, and prohibit INS arrests, research or activity on campus.

SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS/ COMBATTING ANTI-COMMUNISM

1) that the ACOA and student groups on the local level develop literature confronting anti-communist terminology of the new right. (e.g., terrorism, revolution, freedom fighters, democracy, and communism).

2) that an educational packet focusing on the liberation movements of Southern Africa and Central America and the Caribbean be developed in order to "humanize" and legitimize those in struggle for national liberation and self determination. We recommend that this packet be developed jointly by several solidarity organizations, to be coordinated by Mthozami Xiphu (CISPES), Matt Meyer (WRL), and Josh Nesson (ACOA).

LINKING SOUTHERN AFRICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND PEACE MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY WORK (2)SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (cont.)

3) that campus groups organize educational forums and material aid activities around DECEMBER 16 HERO'S DAY. We recommend that campus groups focus not only on Southern African heroes, but also on heroes of other national liberation movements, thus facilitating links with other solidarity activists.

4) that both national and local groups continue to research the possibilities of national boycott of Coca-Cola, and remain in contact with the Atlanta University organizers, who are already involved in this issue.

INTERNATIONALIZING SOLIDARITY WORK

Label February 17 - 21 "International Freedom Struggles Week." Students could organize forums, movies, and demonstrations locally during this period. They should take up the struggles of oppressed people in their region (e.g., Northeast - Puerto Ricans and Blacks; Southwest - American Indians and Chicanos). Further, this week should be sponsored by several solidarity groups, such as ACOA, CISPES, No. 29th COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE, etc.

It was the general feeling of the entire group that our analysis and work should include solidarity with liberation movements all over the world. Solidarity with the peoples of the Caribbean, Middle East, the Phillipines and New Zealand were among the areas of concern raised by various participants. We also discussed the need for students to pursue the challenge of connecting our international solidarity work with domestic and local struggles.

Based on the diversity of the opinions and issues raised at this workshop, it is the recommendation of the facilitators that we develop these discussions in the coming year, taking up more concrete proposals for action in the future.

- Mthozami Xiphu, Committee in Solidarity With The People of El Salvador
- Matthew Countryman, Yale University
- Monica Russo, Georgetown University DC-SCAR, Progressive Student Union
- Matt Meyer, War Resisters League

MASS MOVEMENTS WORKSHOP

Resolution

We recognize that there exist many progressive groups within South Africa/Azania operating to end apartheid. While their respective tactics and ideologies vary, we recognize that these differences are not contradictory, but rather complimentary. It is this diversity which will interact to form the new South Africa/Azania. The people of South Africa/Azania are today deciding who their legitimate leadership is.

Our fight in this country is to build a broad, educational movement to break all ties with racist South Africa. On this we must work on the principle of unity in action. There are no preconditions to being part of this struggle.

We should study the political developments in South Africa/Azania.

In our educational work we should point to the increased forging of unity in action as one of the facts which are today helping to bring victory closer in South Africa/Azania. As examples of this unity we can point to developments in the trade union movement and to the increasing role of youth and students.

Workshop facilitator: Black Consciousness Movement

POLITICAL PRISONERS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP

In this workshop we discussed the issue of Political Prisoners, Prisoners Of War, and Political Victims, with the intention of sharing information on the various political prisoner cases within the United States.

Topics Covered:

1. Identifying some different political prisoners with updates on their conditions.
2. Focusing attention on the 2 year lockdown at Marion Prison, specifically the Control Unit, and the development of other similar units throughout the country; Lexington, Kentucky prison for women, behavior Modification and sensory deprivation techniques.
3. Definition of Political Prisoners, Prisoners of war, and Political Victims.
4. Linking the struggles of Political Prisoners with the struggles of the movement, raising up the Political Prisoners of the Native American Indian, Black Liberation struggle, the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, and the North American Political Prisoners, with Nelson Mandela & other political Prisoners in South Africa.

SOME PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Forums on Political Prisoners on all campuses.
2. A national day of protest in April with demonstrations at Marion Federal Prison in Illinois and the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C., with the express purpose of building a strong Political Prisoner/ P.O.W Movement in the U.S.
3. Establishing support networks on all campuses to assist in the various legal defense committees and continuous vigils at nearby state and federal prisons.
4. Supporting political trials in your area by attending the many court hearings and trials for an education first-hand of the judicial system at work, and to break the isolation of the hundreds of political cases and the prisoners affected by them.

For Further information please contact the facilitators of this workshop:

Raul Salinas, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, 3933 Hartford, St Louis MO 63116
 Ahmed Obafemi, P.O. Box 2348 Manhattanville Station, NYC 10027
 Valerie West, Ohio Seven Defense Committee, P.O. Box 530 Cathedral Stat NYC 10025

COORDINATED WEEKS OF NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID ACTION

(March 21-April 6, 1985)

The recent October 11 National Anti-Apartheid Protest Day underscored the effectiveness of mobilizations organized nationwide on a decentralized basis. Over 100 campuses and 30 cities from Honolulu to Nashville to Los Angeles were the site for protest against U.S. collaboration with apartheid.

Since 1979 there have been annual Weeks of National Anti-Apartheid Action marked from March 21, the Anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre through April 6, the Anniversary of the execution of Solomon Mahlangu, an African National Congress freedom fighter. In addition, April 4 has been marked as a National Protest Day for South African Divestment in commemoration of Martin Luther King, who was assassinated on that day.

These Weeks of Action have played a critical role in heightening the overall impact of our decentralized activity, and last year's National Protest Day was an important catalyst to last spring's upsurge. In spring 1986 it is critical that we mobilize on the broadest possible basis in light of the escalating struggle in South Africa and Namibia and continued U.S. collaboration with the apartheid regime.

BELOW ARE THE GENERAL POLITICAL PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE WEEKS OF ACTION WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH STUDENT AND COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS:

March 21: Commemorations of the Sharpeville Massacre during which police killed 69 unarmed people protesting South African pass laws.

March 24: Anti-Apartheid activists join with Central America solidarity groups in marking the anniversary of the assassination of El Salvador's Archbishop Romero.

March 30: Groups hold programs to raise material aid for southern African refugees, for example through Runs For Freedom (Organizing packet for these runs available from ACOA)

April 4: National Divestment Protest Day/Anniversary of Martin Luther King's Death

- 1)Protest rallies held across the country for divestment.
- 2)Lobbying for state/local divestment bills.
- 3)Distribution of black armbands to commemorate victims of racism
- 4)Commemorations of Martin Luther King stress link between apartheid and racism in the U.S.

April 6: Anniversary of the execution of Solomon Mahlangu
Groups distribute black armbands in their community and highlight petitions for release of southern Africa political prisoners. In addition, petition on prisoners available from ACOA.

Day of local lobbying: in state and municipal offices during the Weeks of Action for divestment. Legislative schedules will be available from ACOA. A list of key pending bills will be available from ACOA. anti-apartheid contact (different regions).

BASIC POLITICAL PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING WEEKS OF

- 1)Support of southern African liberation movements in front-line states.
- 2)Opposition to all U.S. ties (military, nuclear, cultural, sports, academic, diplomatic) to South Africa with emphasis on economic divestment and comprehensive sanctions against apartheid.
- 3)Linking the struggles against apartheid to United States. In addition, link to anti-racism in the United States.
- 4)Coordinating opposition to U.S. support of apartheid against other U.S. interventions--notably in Africa.