

# WASHTENAW COUNTY COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID



For Filippo Lippi, National Gallery

Amer. Friends Service Comm.,  
1414 Hill St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

619 E. UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

JANUARY 1985

## A SALUTE TO KING

The WCCAA salutes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his birthday, January 15th, 1985. We would like to share with you his anti-apartheid sentiments.

### APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

sponsored by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Chief Albert John Luthuli.

This appeal for action, which was issued in 1962, is even more compelling today when the racist regime, arrogant with its military might, seeks to deprive the African majority even of its citizenship and threatens to devastate any neighbouring African State which assists the just struggle of the oppressed people.

As Chief Luthuli stressed in 1962: "The appeal must not remain merely a document; it must become the base of an international campaign."

### APPEAL

"We, therefore, ask all men of good will to take action against apartheid in the following manner: Hold meetings and demonstrations on December 10, Human Rights Day. Urge your church, union, lodge or club to observe this day as one of protest. Urge your Government to support economic sanctions. Write to your mission to the United Nations urging adoption of a resolution calling for international isolation of South Africa. Don't buy South African products. Don't trade or invest in South Africa. Translate public opinion into public action by explaining facts to all peoples, to groups to which you belong, and to countries of which you are citizens until an effective international quarantine of apartheid is established."

*This information was obtained from the United Nations Centre against Apartheid, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

## STATE OF MICHIGAN PENSION FUND DIVESTMENT

We've contacted Roger Kerson from Rep. Perry Bullard's office in regards to the State of Michigan and Divestment of its Pension Fund from South Africa. Rep. Virgil Smith of Detroit and Rep. Bullard co-sponsored legislation a couple of years ago on this issue. That legislation was never brought out of committee or to a vote by the full House. We are hopeful that new legislation in regards to getting Michigan money out of South Africa will be revived very soon.

Gov. Blanchard has recently expressed doubt about the wisdom of a proposal to disinvest pension assets from corporations operating in racist South Africa. He described the proposal as symbolic, a "[way] for people here to express their deep concern over human rights conditions in other countries because they have no other way to express them." This is an underestimation of the seriousness of the situation. It is foolish to think that the South African government would be in any way perturbed by "expressions of concern" that are not accompanied by concrete actions such as disinvest-

## DEADLY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

On January 25-26, a conference entitled Deadly Connections: The Links Between Interventionism, Social Oppression and Nuclear War will be held at Burns Park School, 1414 Wells, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The conference is sponsored by a collaboration of peace and social justice groups. The keynote speaker will be Rep. John Conyers from the U.S. House of Representatives. He was recently arrested in front of the South African Embassy for his activism against Apartheid. The schedule of events follows.

### Friday, January 25

5:00 - 6:00 pm - Basic workshops I  
6:10 - 7:10 pm - Basic workshops I repeated  
Dinner break  
8:30 pm - Keynote statement by Rep. John Conyers

### Saturday, January 26

10:00 am - Panel discussion exploring the underlying links between intervention, the arms race and social oppression.  
1:30 - 3:00 pm - Workshops II  
3:15 - 4:45 pm - Workshops III  
5:00 pm - Final plenary  
6:30 pm - Multi-ethnic potluck. The potluck will be at Quaker House (1416 Hill St., Ann Arbor). Bring a dish from your own cultural/ethnic background or pay a \$5.00 donation.  
8:00 pm - Multi-Ethnic Cultural Event. Following the dinner a Multi-Ethnic Cultural Event featuring Moroccan dancers and drummers, a jazz saxophonist, Latin-American folk singers, as well as many others, will take place."

ment. Moreover, U.S. citizen awareness of the situation is more likely to be sharpened and sustained by actions that affect them directly.

This is not simply a cause for the day to be forgotten as soon as a more fashionable issue hits the media. The other side of the claim that a single disinvestment would have little effect on the South African economy is that the single disinvestment would have little effect on the U.S. economy. The persistent opposition to disinvestment clearly indicates that the investments are significant and would have a significant effect on the South African government's attitude towards change. If we were to follow the lead set by Massachusetts in pulling Michigan money out of South Africa, other states may follow suit. The South African government would be forced to start making real changes. If we do not remove our money from South Africa, we run the risk of being trapped in the bloodbath that is sure to be the outcome of the South African government intransigence.

*Detroit Free Press, 12/20/84, article used as a resource.*

## SELECTIVE HUNGER OF SOUTH AFRICA

from *New York Times* (January 12th, 1985)  
Page 1, Vol. CXXXIV, No. 46287

For the last three years, South Africa, like many other African countries, has suffered from drought, but this has only become news since it hit the white commercial farms in 1983. In a normal year 2.9 million Black people under the age of 15 (that is, more than 1/10 of South Africa's Black population) suffer from clinically diagnosable malnutrition. This, in a nation that promotes itself as Africa's most powerful food producer and exporter. Mrs. Pearlman, leader of a volunteer group called Operation Hunger, says that the number of people being fed by her group has climbed from 120,000 to 400,000 from March to July, 1983. While the rest of Africa has been trying to maintain and build subsistence farming, the South African authorities have systematically destroyed subsistence agriculture by forcing Black families to live on the non-arable "homelands",

The tribal homelands for Africans comprise 13% of South Africa's least productive land. For many Africans the only means of support has been cash earned in the White economy. In 1983, 250,000 workers were laid off on farms as White farmers accelerated the mechanization of their lands and the drought did not ease. The "group areas" policy of the South African government has forced the jobless Blacks to return to the homelands, causing hunger to escalate as their meagre resources are further taxed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* The February monthly meeting will be Thursday, February 28th. A location will be announced in the February Newsletter.

\* The Free South Africa Movement has been in the news a lot since it began in October, we are not going to repeat in this Newsletter a lot of what has happened except to say we are delighted. The Afro-American and African Liberation Movements must link up and fight racism wherever it may be, and the WCCAA sees the Free South Africa Movement as a significant event in our struggle. On December 20th, in Ann Arbor and Detroit, demonstrations were held against apartheid and the South African racist government. The demonstration in Ann Arbor in front of the Federal Building was well-attended by approximately 80 people. It was initiated by Christina Montague of the NAACP Ann Arbor Branch. The WCCAA and many other progressive groups endorsed this action. We look forward to working with all groups and individuals who are struggling against racism and the apartheid system.

\* We are still in need of donations of used clothing in good condition, school supplies, or money to send assistance to the African National Congress Refugee Development Center in Morogoro, Tanzania. We have a contact person there and we sent two boxes this past fall, as well as a letter to let her know they were on the way, so we expect to hear from them soon. Meanwhile, because of the drought and the oppressive conditions that Black South Africans exist under, we want to make our support a regular feature of WCCAA's work. WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE CONTACT TERI HUBBELL at 761-1784. If you can mail boxes or donate anything. Thank you very much!!!

### WCCAA MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, January 24 - 7:00 pm  
Quaker House, 1416 Hill St., Ann Arbor

Sister Joannette Nitz will be the guest speaker for the monthly meeting. She is a Racine Dominican Sister. She is also a volunteer at the Team for Justice, a prisoner advocacy group in Detroit. She has been with the Team for 15 years. She is presently working on a women's project that she will explain to us at our meeting. She had the opportunity to visit Southern Africa last fall on a trip that was put together by a California-based group called Developing World Tours. She was able to tour Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa.

The Dominican Order, the National Council of Churches and the Southern African Bishops Conference are among the many groups that Sr. Joannette spent time with in South Africa. She will be showing slides and talking to us about her personal observations of this controversial region of the world. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Southern Africa from a first-hand account. Donations to cover her visit to Ann Arbor will be appreciated.

## COORDINATED WEEKS OF NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID ACTION

March 21 - 25th anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa.

April 4 - Commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 6 - Commemoration of the execution of African National Congress (ANC) Freedom Fighter Solomon Mahlangu.

The Washtenaw County Coalition Against Apartheid (WCCAA) would like to participate in the American Committee on Africa's Coordinated Weeks of National Anti-Apartheid Action. We cannot do this without your help and your creative energy, please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested at the address listed on this Newsletter.

### SOUNDS OF STRUGGLE

\*The International Defense and Aid Fund (IDAF) has released an album titled Sounds of Southern African Liberation, IDAF, number one. This beautiful album of around 19 songs features Onyeka (The Torch), a Cultural Group of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). The album includes such tunes as "Independence or Death, We Shall Win".

\*Jazz musician Dollar Brand, who is an exile from South Africa, recently released an album titled Zimbabwe (Enja Records). These sensitive compositions capture his personal impressions of his original home. He will be giving a concert in Ann Arbor on March 22 (no location has yet been decided). Tickets will be available at Schoolkids Records.

\*One of the many popular musical groups to hit the scene in South Africa is Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Their new album Induku Zethu (Shanachie Records) features some stunning Zulu acappella music. This style is distinctive to South Africa. All of these albums may be purchased at Schoolkids Records, 523 East Liberty, Ann Arbor.

\*We would like to thank Thom Simonian of WEMU's Third World Dance Party for his assistance in beginning this column for our Newsletter.

### AFRICAN LIBERATION READING LIST

The periodical AfricaAsia lists four main ideas as its reason for existing.

- o To get the point of view of independent Third World countries;
- o To follow the progress of liberation struggles in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East;
- o To understand the economic issues between the North and the South;
- o To assure the survival of an independent Third World magazine.

This reviewer had a chance to look over the November, 1984 edition of AfricaAsia, it was very exciting to read news of the Third World from a Third World point of view. Among the articles on South Africa were these titles: "Mozambique, an Easy Prey for Pretoria", "South Africa's Townships in Turmoil", and "South Africa: Artificial Oil, Artificial Hopes". The rates for this periodical were \$28 U.S. last year. However, this month the rates went up. Please write to this address to inquire about subscriptions and current rates: AfricaAsia, Subscription Department, 13 rue d'Uzes, 75002, Paris, France.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The active members of the WCCAA have decided that we must ask everyone who receives the Newsletter to pay \$5 per year. This will cover our costs, we hope. We have started a bank account, and we had \$50 but some of that was spent to put out this Newsletter. We need someone who can coordinate fundraising for us. Please volunteer your services or your money, we cannot do this work without you.

\* This Newsletter was put together by Gretchen, Eloise, Rhonda, Josephine, and Paquetta. If you have questions or compliments, please see us at the monthly meeting. Sounds of Struggle and the African Liberation Reading List will be regular features, please send your ideas and contributions in to us. We will start the February Newsletter during the week of February 10th, and we need your help. Please let us know if you want to help us do this important work.