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Dear Sir/Madam,

The surest way to tell when someone is on the wrong side in a debate is when they resort to 'misrepresentation of the facts' (a polite way of saying they're lying). Examples occurred numerous times during Mr Singer's near-monopoly of the Politics of Ideas program, but the ones that struck me most were:

(1) His statement that the PAC (Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania) split off from the ANC (African National Congress of

S.Africa) because of the collaboration of the latter with communists. The PAC may be trying to make some headway among Americans, particularly conservatives, by promoting this view at this time, when they, like Frelimo, FNLA, UNITA and all China's previous guerilla groups, have lost China's support - probably as a result of a deal with the U.S. - but the fact is that the point of difference was the issue of ANC's willingness to work with progressive whites (of which many were communists but that was not the issue - as can be witnessed by the fact that PAC immediately turned to the Chinese communists for much of their military and other support). It is a matter of shame that the U.S. has never come out in support of 'the people's movement' of S.Africa, which, by all the polls that have ever been conducted, including by the most conservative and capitalist organizations, has been clearly shown to be the ANC. Mr Singer is a caricature of 'patronizing' when he claims to want the blacks of S.Africa to have democratic rights but totally disregards - no, contradicts - their wishes in this matter by deciding for them, because of his own negative feelings about communism, that the ANC is not the black group that a black American caller should support. The caller was also quite correct in implying - he didn't say that Mr Singer said this - that Mr Singer is content for S.African blacks to go on waiting for their liberation, because Mr Singer is advocating avoidance of support for the one liberation group that has made any headway toward freedom for S.Africa's blacks, and he has not proposed any alternative that would be equally, let alone more, effective. It is clear that Mr Singer's desire for the

freedom of any group stops at the borders of Zionism, capitalism and racism.

(2) His statement that the U.S. did not support Somoza and did support his overthrowers. Again, he is trying to make some

political capital out of a small grain of truth: the U.S., under Carter and not his preferred leader, Reagan, did switch to support of the Sandinistas at the last minute, when it was clear who was going to come out on top. But who does he think installed and kept Somosa and most of his predecessors over the previous 130 years in power, as puppets/stooges/clients of U.S. Business? The U.S. has a clear pattern of doing the same in the Philippines, Iran, Chile, El Salvador and many other countries. Mr Singer, as head of a think-tank, has access to this information more than most Americans. Yet he deliberately lies about it, in order to fraudulently promote his narrow, elitist views - under the guise of 'revolution'!

I was also disappointed in Mr Barnett, who has written some excellent books on the rapacious role of the transnational corporations in the Third World, esp. Africa, for letting Mr Singer get off so lightly. What is going on? Is the power of conservative falsehood now so firmly entrenched that we have to witness lies like this going unchallenged? The interviewer must also accept some responsibility for this travesty.

Thank you for considering my views, which I was unable to communicate by phone because of not getting thru, despite trying for the last 35-40 minutes of the program.

cc.: Africa Network

Lincoln Trust  
Davis, ACOA  
Kennedy  
TCLSAC  
Mayor Young

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Boesak

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