

CAM/076/023/3



## SOUTHERN AFRICA ACTION COALITION

NEWSLETTER NO 16

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1977

For the hundreds of fans who waited for our July issue, we can only say that even a well organized machine such as SAAC runs down, and that alas like other mortals, we also suffer from the summer blahs! Having got that off our chest(s), here's what we were doing:

### SAAC PAST EVENTS:

#### 1 AUGUST 12TH

We have for some time felt that South African wines in liquor stores presented an opportunity to expose official hypocrisy on the apartheid issue, at the same time activising our members and educating the public. Our first demonstration at Vancouver's Davis + Bute liquor store with over 30 members parading with placards, handing out leaflets and collecting signatures on a petition calling for the withdrawel of the liquor, was a great success. MLA Emery Barnes participated in this very good effort.

#### 2 AUGUST 19TH

Another demonstration this time at the Maple and Broadway store. A good public response again despite competition from the "North America Labor Party" people selling papers. If you think you can petition in your area or organize a liquor store demonstration, contact us for advice and assistance.

#### 3 AUGUST 26TH

This was Namibia Day, declared by the UN as the territory's national day. We held a successful demonstration at Vancouver's Hudson's Bay Store, protesting the company's heavy involvement in the lucrative Namibian Fur trade, where it operates under Hudson's Bay and Annings Ltd., and has 60% of the market (about \$70 million in 1973), paying considerable taxes to the Vorster regime illegally occupying Namibia. A great success, with many members placarding and handing out leaflets at rush hour outside the store.

#### 4 AUGUST 27TH

A meeting with Emery Barnes MLA and the Boycott and Campaign Committee was held to discuss strategies on the Liquor Campaign.

o o o o o

### BOYCOTT COMMITTEE

They have plans to demonstrate most Fridays at 5.30 at different places that sells South African products. For up-to-date information on this call Tim at 733-5267.

### THE MEDIA COMMITTEE

They have managed to set up a series of film showings at libraries and also to have interviews with guest speakers who attended our May conference shown on Channel 10 during November. Good work! For more information call David at 224-1090.

### THE LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

They are working on several projects, some long term, some short term. For more information on that and their meeting nights call Brain Haddon at 294-6159.

o o o o o

RELATED THANKS to Mike and Gary for donating the cost of the ad placed in the Vancouver Sun for the June 16th Rally.

o o o o o

#### SAAC FUTURE EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 2ND: Picket of Liquor Store at Kingsgate Mall Vancouver 5.30pm.  
SEPTEMBER 10TH: Canadians for Democracy in Chile are having a one day conference at the Canadian Memorial Church Building, 16th and Burrard. Registration time 9am.  
SEPTEMBER 13TH: SAAC general meeting proceeded by one hour of education in form of reading and discussion on current issues.  
SEPTEMBER 15TH TO OCTOBER 1ST: Sepia Players, Production of Athol Fugard's "The Blood Knot" 8.30 at Flamingo Theatre.  
SEPTEMBER 16TH: SAAC is participating in a picket of Chilean wines in conjunction with the Vancouver Chilean Association at Bute and Davie Liquor Store, 6-8 pm.  
SEPTEMBER 20TH: Showing of "Last Grave" at White Rock Public Library, 7.00 pm.  
SEPTEMBER 21ST: Showing of "Last Grave" at Ocean Park Public Library, 7.00 pm.  
SEPTEMBER 22ND: Showing of "Last Grave" at Fraserview Public Library, 7.00 pm.  
SEPTEMBER 24TH: SWAPO Women's tour begins.  
SEPTEMBER 27TH: Showing of "Last Grave" at Britannia Centre Public Library, 7.00 pm.  
SEPTEMBER 29TH: Showing of "Last Grave" at Steveston Public Library, 7.00 pm.

o o o o o

#### THE BLOOD KNOT

SAAC is co-sponsoring an Athol Fugard play "The Blood Knot". It is presented by the Sepia Players who so splendidly enacted Fugard's "Boesman and Lena" last year. We urge everyone to make a point of seeing the play and help towards making it a success, financial and otherwise. Bring your friends along. The situation portrayed should be an eye-opener to many.

#### SWAPO WOMENS TOUR

CUSO is sponsoring two ladies from Namibia; Ms Penny Hashoongo, co-ordinator of activities for the SWAPO Women's Council, and Hidipo Hamutenya member of the Central Committee and National Executive of SWAPO as well as head of the Historical Political on Cultural Division at the UN Institute for Namibia in Lusaka. SAAC has been approached to co-ordinate the tour locally and we are glad to do that. The tour will begin in Vancouver on September 24th - too early for our next newsletter and we do not have more information on the event at printing time, so please keep a look-out for posters with more details or call Kerensa at 7328528.

o o o o o

#### SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWS

##### TWO SOUTH AFRICAN TRAILS

BREYTEN BREYTENBACH pleaded not guilty to the allegation that he had tried to recruit a prison warder for Ukhela (a white underground organization), and to help him escape from the maximum security section of the Pretoria Central Prison. Breytenbach admitted that 40 notes and letters which were handed in as exhibits were written by him. Some of these notes were in a code that the South Africans were unable to break and have been sent to the US to be deciphered. To the surprise of those following the trail Breytenbach was acquitted on July 15th. He now continues to serve his original nine year sentence and has been released from solitary confinement.

##### THE PRETORIA TWELVE

They have been charged under the terrorism Act and with being members of the ANC. The Government is seeking maximum penalties. The State's key witness - after testifying for four days on direct-linking of each of the defendants to Russia and China recanted. He asked to address the court in English after testifying four days in Xhosa and then stated that his testimony was false and beaten out of him. Kept for 3 months in solitary and beaten on a daily basis, he was strangled, tortured and kept naked in a cold cell. After he recanted the judge advised because Rwaxa changed his testimony he could be charged with perjury. The trail moves on.

The Breytenbach and ANC trails are "show" trails, commencing on the anniversary of the Soweto uprising of last year and are designed to show the government continued "firmness" in dealing with opposition to its policies.

o o o o o