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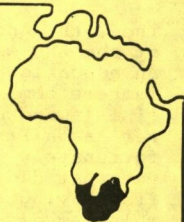
## SOUTHERN AFRICA ACTION COALITION

210-1811 W. 16th Ave.. Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2M3 604-734-1712

### Newsletter

March-April

1981



#### NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE TALKS SABOTAGED AGAIN

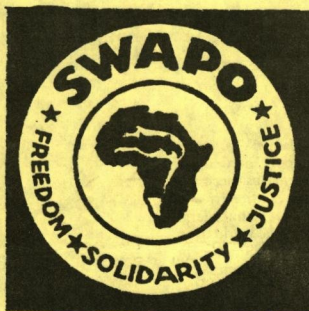
It had been hailed as the occasion where agreements would finally be signed between South Africa, SWAPO, the U.N., the Frontline States and perhaps, to please the South African regime, their proxy the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance).

The last sticking points had been settled and significant concessions had been made by SWAPO. These included an agreement to sign a cease-fire with South Africa, to agree to meet at Geneva with the DTA puppets, to fully support the UN peace plan and UN supervision of the transfer of power, to commit itself to fair elections under UN control and to abide by the results and even to accept that the election machinery be in the hands of the South Africans as the 'decolonizing power'.

But even though SWAPO had gone such a long way to meet the objectives of the Pretoria regime, who had indicated its willingness to accept the peace plan to the UN and other relevant parties, the regime demonstrated from the time the conference began on Jan. 7. 1981 that they were going to backtrack.

For the first time they raised the spurious argument that the UN was 'unfairly favouring SWAPO', insisting that the UN withdraw recognition of SWAPO as the 'sole authentic representative of the Namibian people', even though they had through all the years of negotiation never raised this objection. Because of Pretoria's about-face and impossible demands the Conference broke down and ended in failure. SWAPO is now forced to intensify the armed struggle.

The scene shifts to Paris next month where an International Conference on the implementation of economic sanctions against South Africa will take place. What will probably result will be a demand from the Conference that the Security Council pass a resolution imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa because of its refusal to end its illegal occupation of Namibia, placing the U.K. and the U.S. in the embarrassing position of at least one of them having to exercise veto power in the Council to defeat sanctions.



#### Mercenaries Granted 'Citizenship of SWA'

Military authorities yesterday said the former Angolan troops now fighting in the counter-insurgency 32 Battalion in the SWA border war are SWA citizens. A London Daily Telegraph correspondent shown the Battalion in action last week, reported that it consisted of about 1,100 men, of whom 80% are Portuguese-speaking black mercenaries who fought with the defeated FNLA. According to a Defence HQ spokesman, the former Angolans had crossed into South West Africa and decided to stay there. They were 'naturalised citizens of SWA', he said. 'They have joined the Permanent Force and been issued with SA Defence Force identification cards. We regard them as naturalised South West Africans. I could not care about international opinion regarding their status', he added, saying there was a stigma attached to the word mercenary.

Rand Daily Mail 17.3.81

#### SA Defence Force Aggression Against Angola

The SADF has dismissed Swapo claims that a 'massive build-up' of forces is taking place in SWA in preparation for strikes into neighbouring countries as 'blatant propaganda'. Swapo has claimed in a statement issued in London that a major increase in South African troops and equipment has been noted in SWA - on a scale exceeding even that which took place before the Kassinga massacre...

Rand Daily Mail 14.3.81

#### SOCIAL EVENT MAY 22nd.

##### Namibian Heroes Day

SAAC will be observing this special day and at the same time celebrating the wind-up of the Liquor Campaign by having a Social Evening with food, music and a short film on Namibia. For more info on the place and time, please call the office between 10 am and noon.





The 25th. Anniversary of the banning of the ANC was remembered by having an educational evening at one of our members home and using the film 'Isitlawandwe' or 'The Freedom Charter' as a basis for discussion. Unfortunately it was poorly attended, yet that did not deter those present from having an interesting and stimulating discussion on the history of the Liberation Movements.

SAAC's General meeting this month, (it is held every 4th Wednesday eve of every month at our office) will be shared by having a discussion on the current situation in Namibia. Background sheets have been circulated and are available at the office. The Lutheran Student Ass. from UBC have promised to participate, they have recently had a conference where the focus was on Namibia and can possibly make a valuable contribution to our discussion. All our members and supporters are welcome.

SHARPVILLE was commemorated by SAAC members and supporters on Saturday March 21. We started off a pleasant social evening with the showing of the excellent film 'Crossroads'. The film generated a lively discussion on the current events in South Africa.

#### NEWSLETTER

This is your last copy of our newsletter unless you have paid membership fees or have sent in the requested \$2.00 p.a. Sub rate.



The proposed 'Spring Flowers in South Africa' travel program that was sponsored by the UBC Centre for Continuing Education, has been cancelled (no reason given). SAAC and all those that have written letters of protest, can justify some satisfaction at this cancellation.



LIQUOR CAMPAIGN: is doing very well. The B.C. Federation of Labour has offered to distribute the petition and info sheet to all their affiliates, about 1500. It is rewarding to receive such a boost of support for the campaign. The Campaign Committee is preparing to address the Social Credit Causus and needs all the support we can muster. The Victoria Southern Africa Committee have done a lot in supporting the campaign and a friend in Port Alberni has taken the issue up as well, with the participation of the Labour Council and other supporters. We need more endorsements though and if any member of SAAC is also a member of another Organization or community group please ask them to write or call us with their endorsement for this worthwhile campaign.

#### WORLDWIDE SUPPORT FOR RELEASE OF MANDELA

More than 100,000 people throughout the world have to date supported the Free Mandela campaign which was launched in Natal last year. The campaign received overwhelming support, particularly from overseas students and trade unionists. 'We are absolutely thrilled by the tremendous success of the campaign', said Mr Paul David. Though most of the signatories of the petition are South Africans, thousands of others are not South African citizens. A striking feature of the signatories is that a large percentage of them are prominent people, ranging from politicians to church leaders the world over. 'Some 30 United Kingdom universities are involved in the circulation of the petition calling for the release of Nelson Mandela, and a number of trade unions were also actively involved in the campaign, both in Europe and the USA, said Mr David. As soon as the full petition has been drawn up - a matter which could take between three and five weeks - it would be presented to the State President Mr Marais Viljoen. He together with his advisers, would then decide on whether to get Mr Mandela released from jail or reject the petition. The time lapse from the President receiving the petition and his decision, according to legal experts, could take up to three months. Said Mr David: 'If the petition is rejected, we'll continue with the campaign until Mandela is released'. He emphasised that the campaign was something on-going.

The Release Mandela campaign appears to have coincided with an apparently growing mood among some of the National Party verligte members that talks be opened between Mandela and the government. Indications are that the verligte group have come to realise that the creation of more 'independent' bantustans and negotiations with bantustan leaders can only buy time, but would never be the ultimate answer....

Voice 11-17.3.81



CUSO; the evening with Betty Plewiss was stimulating and satisfying (the food was great)! Her insight on Zimbabwe's problems as well as it's tremendous progress was enlightening for many of the people present.



The United Nations Association in Canada is sponsoring a Conference on the North-South Dialogue in the North-American Context, titled 'A Program for Survival' at UBC on May 8-10. They will have prominent international speakers such as Shridath Ramphal- Sec. Gen. of the Commonwealth and Micheal Manley M.P. and ex-prime minister of Jamaica. For more info. and registration, call the UNA office or the Centre for Cont. Ed. UBC.

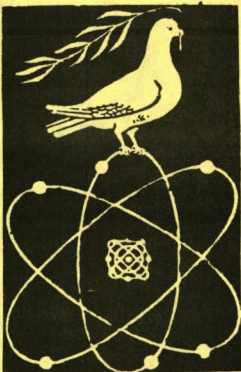
#### South African War Resister

Gavin Gawthra from South Africa is one of the many young men who made the difficult choice to refuse the two year compulsory military service that supported a system he does not believe in. To avoid the resulting imprisonment in military barracks he fled the country and received political asylum in the U.K. Since then he and many others like him have formed a Committee Of South African War Resisters. He is touring Canada in May, and will be in Vancouver on May 11&12. He will address a Public Meeting at the Ironworkers Hall, 2415 Columbia / West 8th Ave. at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday May 12th.

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Women and Imperialism is presenting the 4th in a series of 6 workshops. This one will focus on 'Women in Africa' and will include the slide tape show "Women in Guinea-Bissau" as well as a presentation made by Susan White, OXFAM staff worker and author of African Abstracts, on Women in Mozambique. The date; April 23....the time; 7.00pm....and the place; First United Church, 320 East Hastings.

Women Against Imperialism and the B.C.Federation of Women is also sponsoring a full length feature film made by an Angolan woman, filmed in the Congo before Angolan Independence, and portrays the quest of a women's search for her husband and the support she receives from her people and the guerilla forces. This will be at the Robson Square Cinema on April 26, at 7.30 pm.



#### May Day Event

There will be a public meeting at the Templeton Sec School on May 3, at 2 pm.

Unite for Survival is the theme for the next Anti-Nuke, Anti-War Protest March and Rally on April 25th. The March will begin from Kits beach at 12 noon, and will proceed over the bridge to Sunset Beach for the Rally. SAAC and every other caring organization will be participating in this most important demonstration of our opposition to nuclear madness as well as protesting the Military Collaboration of Western countries with South Africa.

#### South African Regime's Nuclear Capability: A threat to world peace

The United States has detected another nuclear-type flash of light over a remote area of the South Atlantic according to US Defence Department sources. Some US intelligence officials say they now strongly suspect that South Africa is involved in a secret N-bomb test programme. A nuclear-test control satellite registered the flash of a possible N-blast in the area in September 1979, but American experts disagreed on whether it was an explosion or a natural phenomenon. The new flash, according to the sources, took place in the early hours of December 16 in the same general area...

The Star 18.2.81

As a result of recent changes in bank loan policies to South Africa, CUSO has transferred its main banking requirements- of approximately \$9 million- from the Royal Bank to the Toronto Dominion, which has made a commitment to a more restrictive policy vis-a-vis lending to South Africa, than what the Royal has.

The CCODP (Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace) will be doing the same in the fall of this year. Concrete evidence of support for the just struggles of the Namibian and South African people!!



## STUDENTS REJECT KOORNHOF

Hundreds of university students, most of them white, disrupted a speech by a South African Cabinet Minister yesterday shouting 'Fascist' and 'Sieg Heil' and singing the anthem of the banned African National Congress (ANC). Dr Piet Koornhof was shouted down at the University of the Witwatersrand by students who pelted him with missiles and hurled stinkbombs. His speech coincided with the eve of the 21st anniversary of the Sharpeville incident when 69 blacks were shot dead by police during a protest. For nearly an hour Dr Koornhof, who is minister responsible for black affairs, tried to address the students, but his voice was drowned out by the singing, shouting crowd. The students chanted - 'Free Mandela'. Dr Koornhof repeatedly tried to speak, shouting: 'Your behaviour is not worthy of whites, coloureds or blacks'. He attempted to outline the policies of the ruling National Party, and said that one-man, one-vote would never be possible in South Africa. 'If you give me the opportunity I will tell you my party stands for important things... for the just and equal treatment of all groups in this country, including you and Mandela,' but he drew chants of 'Apartheid, Apartheid'.

Guardian & Times (UK) 21.3.81

Botha's Total Strategy  
+  
Total Onslaught  
=  
Total Nazi Attacks

## South African Military Men in Washington - Violation of the Arms Embargo

The Department of State said yesterday it had told the American Security Council that it was not likely that visa applications by a team of top South African military intelligence officers would be approved. This is the latest development in a controversy sparked off by the visit to Washington of 5 South African officers headed by Lt. General P W van der Westhuizen, Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence. Their one-week visit to the US capital, in apparent contradiction of long-standing US policy, has caused a furore in the State Department - a furore reflected in prominently displayed major American newspapers. The 5 men came to the United States at the invitation of the American Security Council. They briefed the ASC, met senior congressional aides and one member of the party called on a top official of the United States Defence Intelligence Agency and an official of the National Security Council. The State Department said yesterday the Washington representative of the ASC, Brigadier-General Robert C Richardson, asked whether the USA would issue visas to Lt. General van der Westhuizen and two other military officers. They wanted the guests to attend an ASC briefing...

The Star 17.3.81

## PEKING BACKING FOR PRETORIA

The magazine *Afrique-Asie* claimed in Paris last week that Peking has officially notified the Pretoria authorities of its willingness to 'give support' to South African efforts aimed at destabilising Angola. Quoting western diplomatic sources in Pretoria, the prestigious liberal-democratic monthly adds that Chinese military 'advisers' are now to be sent to camps in Namibia with a view to advancing the Peking/Pretoria Axis. Further confirmation comes from the Nigerian magazine *Times International* which charges the Chinese authorities with training troops of both anti-Angolan government groups, Unita and FNLA, in Namibian camps. Chinese intelligence services and news agency reports now co-ordinate subversion against the People's Republic of Angola both with the South Africans and with the CIA.

New Worker (UK) 27.2.81

## REGIME'S ATTACK ON ANC IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe bomb disposal experts have defused an explosive device which was planted at the home of Mr Joe Gqabi, a leading official of the banned African National Congress, at the weekend. The lethal package was set to explode if Mr Gqabi's car was moved and it was powerful enough to have blown the garage 'sky high' according to reliable sources. The device was taken away by a team of army engineers who rushed to the scene after the explosives were found by police in the garage of Mr Gqabi's house in Salisbury. Residents in the neighbourhood were evacuated from their homes as the army team went to work. Mr Gqabi is a long-serving executive member of the ANC who went into exile a couple of years ago after serving about 11 years in prison, mostly on Robben Island.

Rand Daily Mail 24.2.81



And talking about Zimbabwe, here is an excerpt from the long letter that was recieved from Bryan Haddon who is now living in that country.

My job here is for a few months while the hospital gets back on its feet and I find out a little about health in the rural areas. I work on the finances, drive the ambulance, fix water pumps, battle with various funding authorities and plough through mounds of paper. I enjoy working in the fairly informal setting: frequent laughter along the verandahs, the constant to and fro of patients' relatives (many sleep overnight beside the beds) and nurses taking time for a chat as they go about their work.

Staff are: one doc. registered nurse/midwife (Drew and Fiona Walker from Scotland with OXFAM), eight medical assistants and twenty other staff. The medical assistants (3 years training) handle regular deliveries, and a fair bit of diagnosis and treating.

It's the only hospital for 60-80,000 people, with no other doctors and only a couple of small clinics. So the push has been to start outreach clinics in the remoter parts (some 80 kms. away). With the enthusiastic help of local ZANU Committees (who have strong public support here), eight such clinics are now arranged each month. 200 - 400 people come, all seen by Drew or Fiona plus one or two of the medical assistants. Emphasis on expectant mothers, charting 1 - 4 year-olds, vaccinating, holding a short discussion on local concerns and prevention.

Regarding the newspaper changes, the Government set up an independent "Media Trust" with a grant from Nigeria and this bought out the 40% share in our 5 main papers which was previously owned by Argus Press of South Africa. The six trustees include Grace Todd (wife of Garfield, the former liberal white Prime Minister) and Walter Khamba (head of the University, ex Dean of Law at Dundee University). Both are gentle, thoughtful people. As a whole the Trust members are clearly separate from Government and will appoint their own successors.

