

SNCC MEMBERS ARRESTED IN PROTESTS OF RACIST GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Week-long protests against Apartheid began on March 21, the 6th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre when 67 black people were killed and scores more injured.

NEW YORK

March 21: SNCC Chairman John Lewis, Executive Secretary James Forman, Program Secretary Cleveland Sellers, and staff members Willie Ricks and Bill Hall were arrested while sitting-in at the offices of the South African Council General in New York. They were bailed out later that day by Harry Belafonte and Sidney Portier. The Embassy has since withdrawn charges.

March 22, 23, 24: On each of these days, the group returned to the consulates and also went to the South African Mission to the United Nations, and at both places they were rudely refused entrance.

on March 23, Martin Luther King, Jr. was refused a visa for travel in South Africa by the South African Consulate. He and Senator Robert Kennedy were invited to speak to integrated student groups in South Africa.

March 25: 9 more people were arrested at the South African Mission to the UN. They were protesting Apartheid policies of the South African government. In this arrest the main charges were pressed by the US State Department.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 22: At 8:00 in the evening, 5 people were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. while trying to present a letter to the Ambassador. The 5 were charged with trespassing. Today the Embassy dropped these charges.

This is a copy of the letter that the SNCC people in Washington tried to present at the Embassy:

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
305 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE WISHED TO EXPRESS TO YOU ITS GREAT DISTRESS AT THE POLICIES DECLARED AND PURSUED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT UNDER THE GENERAL NAME "APARTHEID". WE ARE CONVINCED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES LEAD INEVITABLY TO THE DEHUMANIZATION OF THE ENTIRE SOUTH AFRICAN POPULATION AND POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.

WE ARE AWARE THAT WE ARE NOT THE FIRST TO MAKE THIS OBSERVATION, NOR THE FIRST TO EXPRESS THESE SENTIMENTS TO YOU. WE NOTE, IN FACT, THAT NATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES ATTEMPTED TO OPEN AND MAINTAIN A RATIONAL DIALOGUE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THESE QUESTIONS. NOT ONLY HAVE THESE ATTEMPTS BEEN OF NO AVAIL; THEY HAVE BEEN ANSWERED BY INCREASINGLY SEVERE REPRESSIVE POLICIES TOWARD THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION.

JUST AS WE ARE FIGHTING TO ACHIEVE FIRST CLASS CITIZENSHIP FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY DEPRIVED OF THEIR FULL RIGHTS, SO ALSO WE INTEND TO DEVOTE OUR ENERGIES TOWARDS THE FREEDOM OF THE BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN.

FOR FREEDOM,

CLEVELAND SELLERS,
PROGRAM SECRETARY
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The actions taken by the U.S. Government against protests of Apartheid in South Africa makes it all the more clear that the US supports these oppressive policies. We say to the U.S. Government and business community that we are aware of their involvement and complicity in South African racist oppression and we demand that the U.S. Government live up to its verbal condemnation of Apartheid.

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT THE PROTESTS IN NEW YORK AND D.C.

1. Send a letter or telegram to the South African Counsel in N.Y. Get others (professors, local politicians, labor leaders, lawyers, businessmen, etc.) to send letters. You can write the letters and have them sign them, or send the telegrams for them.

Also, write to President Johnson protesting U.S. economic support of the racist government in South Africa and the arrests of the demonstrators in New York and Washington.

Here is one idea for telegrams:

WE PROTEST US ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THE US MUST NO LONGER SPEAK AGAINST APARTHEID IN PUBLIC AND GIVE AID TO RACISM.

2. Write short letters to the Editors of the press in your town, protesting the US tacit support of Apartheid and the arrests.

3. Contact other groups and get them to also send letters or telegrams or petitions. (Suggestions: other civil rights groups, human relations councils, labor groups, professional groups, voters leagues, youth groups, etc.)

The following News Release gives an excellent example of the way that the US economically and politically supports South Africa. These businessmen say they are speaking for the US Government and the people: IT IS TIME THAT WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES AND DEMAND THAT US POLICY BE CHANGED TO REFLECT OUR POSITION AGAINST RACISM!!!!!! It is impossible to overemphasize the political implications of this vast US economic investment in South Africa.

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF SOUTH AFRICA:

Vol. 5, No. 1

March 26, 1966 655 Madison Ave., N.Y. 21, N.Y.

U.S. FIRM BUILDS S.A. ATOM REACTOR

ALLIS-Chalmers Atomic Energy Division reported last week that SAFARI, a research and test reactor it designed and built in the Republic of South Africa, achieved its initial nuclear chain reaction on March 13 and will be fully operational late this spring.

Henry C. Nickel, division general manager, said the reactor will operate initially at 6,670 kilowatts, with future power levels as high as 20,000 kilowatts planned. Heart of a nuclear research center constructed for the South African Atomic Energy Board at Pelindaba, near Pretoria, the reactor will be used for experiments in physics, chemistry, metallurgy and engineering, Mr. Nickel said, and also for radioisotope production.

SAFARI's nuclear reaction occurred inside a 5-ton, all-aluminum press vessel fabricated at the Allis-Chalmers plant in Milwaukee, Wis., and was achieved with 13 uranium-aluminum fuel elements containing a 90% enrichment of U-235.

THE U.S. HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN S.A. SAYS NORSTAD: General Norstad, retired NATO Supreme Commander and now a top American businessman, flew into Johannesburg last Saturday with a R1-million (\$1.4 million) investment blueprint--and a message of hope for South Africa. Mr. Harold Boeschstein, Chairman of the biggest fiberglass manufacturing organization in the world, accompanied the 58-year old four star General. Their main interest is an expansion project for a fiberglass plant at Springs, Transvaal.

General Norstad, President of an international fiberglass concern and Mr. Boeschstein expressed full confidence in South Africa's future. "WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA--NOT ONLY WE AS INDIVIDUALS BUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS WELL."

Referring to U.N. discussions about full scale sanctions against South Africa he said: "WE HOPE THAT NOBODY WILL TAKE ANY STEP THAT MAY CAUSE MORE TROUBLE THAN IT WILL AVOID."

Mr. Boeschestrin said: "ANY BOYCOTT MOVES DO NOT REFLECT THE GENERAL OPINION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES NOR OF ITS BUSINESSMEN. WE HAVE GREAT APPRECIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTANCE AS AN ALLY AND AS AN ECONOMIC FORCE IN THE FREE WORLD"

-30-

ADDRESSES FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILES:

---for information and releases on US business and trade with South Af

1. South African Consulate General, 655 Madison Ave. N.Y.21. N.
2. West and South: S.A. Consulate-General, 360 Pine St., San Francisco 4, Calif.; and S.A. Consul (commercial), 225 Baronne St., New Orleans 12, Louisiana.

*****PLEASE NOTE:

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEGIN NOW TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT HERE WILL BEGIN TO PREPARE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR YOUR USE. NOTE THAT SDS CHAPTERS IN YOUR AREA SHOULD HAVE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION--PLEASE WORK WITH THEM!!!!

SNCC HAS BEGUN TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING AN INFORMED AND INSISTENT VOICE ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE MUST BEGIN NOW TO PLAN FOR EDUCATION AND ACTION PROGRAMS TO FOCUS THE COUNTRIES' ATTENTION ON OUR POLICY THERE.*****

WORK OUT!!!