


1980

We Must Persevere

TransAfrica

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TRANSAFRICA

THE BLACK AMERICAN LOBBY FOR AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



**WE
MUST
PERSEVERE**

The Challenge

Growing global interdependency behooves Americans to become more aware and involved in foreign issues. A number of forces have made the world smaller—the communications revolution, expanding trade, nationalism, and the East-West ideological rivalry—making each nation and people vulnerable to the actions of others. For example:

- The oil crisis caused gas lines and aggravated both the unemployment and inflation rates. By the year 2000, the U.S. will be importing 80% of the critical industrial materials used such as cobalt, chromium, diamonds, copper, iron ore, and manganese. Africa, as the region with the largest reserves, promises to be a significant supplier; therefore, greater attention must be paid to the continent's staggering economic and political problems.
 - In South Africa, the U.S. is courting another folly by identifying with and providing vital economic and technological support for a white minority regime that brutally suppresses its African majority. By tilting toward this inflexible regime, the U.S. daily alienates the black majority which inevitably will come to power.
 - The renewed Cold War posturing and emerging arms race divert precious resources—money and brains—from pressing social priorities and heighten the possibility of war. In a world where 1 billion people are undernour-
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ished, \$450-500 billion is spent annually on arms, and half the world's scientists are engaged in weapons development. By comparison, less than \$25 billion is given in official economic assistance.

Due to apathy and parochialism, a tiny minority has usurped the prerogative of shaping U.S. foreign policy, a policy that affects the lives and interests of Americans as well as countless other world citizens.

JOIN TRANSAFRICA AND TOGETHER WE WILL WORK FOR A BETTER FOREIGN POLICY!

Do not abdicate your democratic rights. Through demonstrations, letters, community forums, and votes, let your opinion be known on what has been and remains a counterproductive and dangerous policy of confrontation, intervention, and hypocrisy.

Purpose

TransAfrica, as a public policy, non-profit membership organization, seeks to influence the formation of U.S. foreign policy vis-a-vis Africa and the Caribbean in a progressive fashion. We strive to introduce the views of Afro-Americans into the decision-making process and to generally increase public awareness on issues of importance. TransAfrica advocates the following:

- economic sanctions against South Africa and forceful diplomacy so as to impress upon the
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Staff photo by Marvin Jones

white minority government the need to dismantle apartheid,

- a reordering of the present dysfunctional international trade and monetary system,
- a serious commitment to economic development in the Third World and especially Africa and the Caribbean,
- the fashioning of a sensible and fair refugee/immigration policy as it relates to Caribbean and African peoples, and
- negotiation as the preferred means of international conflict resolution.

History

The idea for a black foreign policy lobby germinated in the Black Leadership Conference on

Africa, convened by the Congressional Black Caucus on September 25, 1976. A task force was selected and charged with proposing an organizational design and means of funding. It was the unanimous sense of the body that U.S. policymakers had for too long neglected the two regions—Africa and the Caribbean—and the opinions of Afro-Americans. In July of 1977, TransAfrica was incorporated and opened offices a year later after a period of fundraising. Since, TransAfrica, among other things, has helped maintain sanctions against Rhodesia until the birth of an independent Zimbabwe and has lobbied to retain the Clark Amendment which bans CIA activity in Angola.

Means

In order to achieve its goals, TransAfrica does the following:

- communicates the policy views of its constituency to Congress, the media, and the administration in oral and written form;
 - maintains a letter-writing system known as the Action Alert which helps pressure the administration and the Congress to be more responsive to African/Caribbean concerns;
 - through a research/publishing affiliate, TransAfrica Forum, provides thorough, independent analyses of foreign policy topics in monthly *Issue Briefs* and a quarterly entitled *TransAfrica Forum Journal*.
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Name _____
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Action Alert: Please indicate whether or not you are interested in being part of the TransAfrica letter-writing system. _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, as a district coordinator? Yes _____ No _____

Type of membership: Please check on and enclose check for amount:

<input type="checkbox"/> General	_____ \$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	_____ \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	_____ \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	_____ \$500.00

Subscriptions: Please send me 12 monthly *Issue Briefs* as well as 4 quarterly issues of *TransAfrica Forum*, an informative 80 page journal, for the low price of \$15.00. Yes

Whether or not I subscribe I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to TransAfrica Forum. Enclosed is _____.

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