

1984

Free South Africa Movement Brief Chronology of Events

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/fsa>



Part of the [African History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"Free South Africa Movement Brief Chronology of Events" (1984). Cheryl Johnson-Odim Collection, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Cheryl Johnson-Odim Collection at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Free South Africa Movement by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago.

FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT

Brief Chronology of Events

* September 1984 - South African government establishes powerless congresses for Colored and Indian populations. Black South Africans have no voice in government

ARMED INVASIONS OF TOWNSHIPS

- * Early October - 21st Battalion of S.A. defense force sent into Soweto
- * October 23 - 7000 S.A. troops conduct 2-day raid on Black townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Boipatong
- * November 2 - S.A. troops conduct searches in these three townships and in one other
- * November 13 - S.A. troops of undisclosed numbers raid Tembisa

STRIKE

* November 5 & 6 - 1 million Black South Africans, mostly industrial workers, stage a 2-day strike in S.A. to protest a host of grievances stemming from the apartheid system. The strike is led by a coalition of 30 union, community and student organizations. Some leading unions: Fed. of S.A. Trade Unions, Council of Mining Unions, Metal & Allied Workers Union, Municipal & General Workers Union, Textile Union. Thousands are arrested, including over 21 trade unionists

OFFICIAL U.S. RESPONSE

* U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Jean Kirkpatrick cast the single abstaining vote on the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 556 condemning apartheid, which passed

THE PEOPLE IN THE U.S. RESPOND, SPEARHEADED BY TRANSAFRICA (the Black American lobby for Africa and the Caribbean)

* November 21 - Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica, Walter Fountroy, D.C. delegate to Congress and Mary Frances Berry, member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, refuse to leave the S.A. Embassy in Washington, protesting the arrests and killings. They are arrested and spend Thanksgiving in jail. They demand a jury trial

* November 26 - Rep. Charles Hayes (D-IL) and Rev. Joseph Lowery, President of SCLC are arrested after sitting in at the S.A. Embassy in Washington and spend a night in jail

* During the following weeks, demonstrations and arrests escalate at the Washington Embassy and at S.A. Consulates across the nation in: Boston, L.A., Chicago, Houston, St. Louis, Cleveland, Portland, Seattle, Mobile, Salt Lake City. Hundreds of leaders are arrested. The S.A. consulates hastily drop charges

* The International Longshoreman's Union in Oakland, CA. refuses to unload S.A. ships

* Week of December 3rd - Honorary Consulate of S.A. in Boston resigns, refusing to apologize for apartheid

* December 6 - 11 of more than 21 Black S.A. trade union leaders are released (6 have been re-arrested since). Reagan credits his "constructive

engagement" policies

Randall Robinson announces formation of a FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT steering committee

* December 7 - Reversing an earlier decision not to meet with Bishop Tutu, Nobel Prize winner from S.A., President Reagan talks with the church leader. There are no changes in their opposing positions on how to end apartheid

* December 12 - Three S.A. protest leaders who took refuge in the British Consulate in Durban, S.A. leave the Consulate. Archie Gumede, 72 year old president of the United Democratic Front and Paul David of the Natal Indian Congress are immediately arrested by the S.A. police for high treason, punishable by death. The two organized the September boycott against the voting for Colored and Indian congresses in S.A. A thousand UDF members march in Durban

* December 13 - On the television program "Point-Counterpoint," a representative of the Pretoria government claims "constructive engagement" had nothing to do with release of Black unionists. Said one-man-one-vote is not the answer for S.A., and democracy dangerous for Africa

CHICAGO PEOPLE RESPOND

* December 4 - Members of AFL-CIO Region I picket in front of the S.A. Consulate at 444 N. Michigan Avenue in Chicago

* December 6 - FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT COMES TO LIFE IN CHICAGO when 500 people, Black, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Euro-American, picket in front of the Consulate. State Senator Richard Newhouse, Rep. Gus Savage and Jackie Jackson, wife of Rev. Jesse Jackson, are arrested. A courier from the Consulate delivers a letter to police headquarters dropping the charges

* December 13 - Another major demonstration in front of the Consulate. The Consulate shuts down, refusing to let anyone enter. Several ministers hold a pray-in outside the locked door: Rev. Barrow (PUSH), Rev. Gibson (St. Mark), Rev. Ingram (Quinn Chapel), Rev. John Porter and Rev. Henley. Fr. Bill Hogan and several Cook County Commissioners join the demonstrators

* December 14 - After committee hearings chaired by Ald. Roman Puchinsky, the Chicago City Council passes a resolution condemning apartheid and vows to pass legislation containing economic sanctions against S.A. Among the supporters are: Ald. Puchinsky, Davis, Humes, Rush, Smith, Langford and Henry.

* December 17 - A resolution condemning apartheid is expected to pass in the Cook County Commission, spearheaded by Comm. Bowen, Stroger, Dunne, and Torres

**THE FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT
WILL GO ON UNTIL APARTHEID ENDS
IN SOUTH AFRICA**