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TransAfrica Fact Sheet on South Africa

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TRANS AFRICA

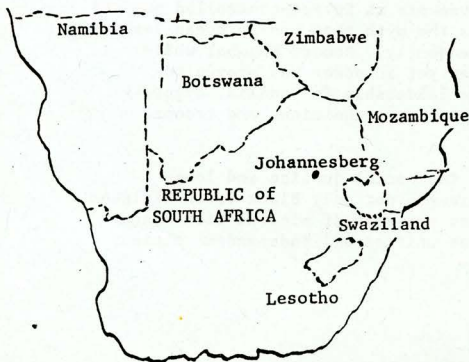
FACT SHEET ON SOUTH AFRICA

Violence has become a way of life in South Africa. Africans have been fighting for their land human rights since the first whites settled at the Cape of Good Hope in 1562. Europeans have also fought amongst themselves over the mineral wealth of South Africa, which supplies the largest proportion of the world's precious metals, such as gold and diamonds. Today, Western nations, including the U.S. are intent to invest in the country's wealth while the African majority still fights for basic human rights.

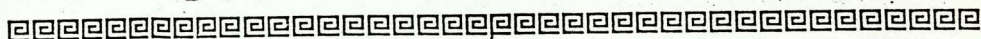
In 1948, the Nationalist Party, which is all-white, gained control of South Africa and created the present situation which exploits the Africans as cheap migratory laborers. The party was responsible for initiating apartheid, the legal segregation of the races, as well as the hated pass law system. The pass laws require that Africans who are citizens of the country to carry passports at all times. Hundreds of Africans are arrested daily for not carrying their identification books.

It is ironic that the Nationalist Party which supported Nazi Germany in WWII is now being acclaimed by some in the U.S. as a defender of democracy in southern Africa. The U.S. is South Africa's third largest trading partner and her second largest investor. Although officially neutral, the U.S. has more than \$2 billion in investments and \$3 billion in loans to South Africa.

Vital Statistics



	Population	Land Use
African	72%	13%
Colored	9%	-
Indian	3%	-
White	16%	87%
	African	White
*Infant deaths (1000)	282	12
*Wages (agri.)	\$268	\$4,987
*Education (\$ per stu.)	\$82	\$833



TRANSAFRICA: POLICY STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA

Since western investments and technology transfers (by far the largest dollar value on the African continent) buttress and dynamize the South African economy, it is TransAfrica's position that economic sanctions in conjunction with diplomatic pressure should be used in order to hasten the dismantlement of apartheid. Policies of "gentle persuasion" historically have proven effete. The South African minority has vacillated between cosmetic reform and bold resurgence of white supremacy. While expensive five star hotels and a few entertainment/sporting events have been integrated, political repression is widespread and the central features of apartheid remain.

The United States and for that matter the other western powers have to recognize the legitimate right to self determination and take forceful steps before the country is consumed in a violent conflagration. The West cannot ignore the inevitability of Black rule and therefore the West should do more to facilitate the transition of power rather than to forestall it.

The Reagan Administration, unfortunately suffers from a serious pox - rabid anti-communism. Reagan policymakers perceive external communist threats in the region as being more important when in fact the internal conditions - the persistence of apartheid and the acquiescence of the West in apartheid practices -- proffer the Soviets an angle of attack and serves to radicalize the Africans. To compound the problem, the United States is promising a military alliance and normalization of relations with the Pretoria Regime since South Africa is vehemently anti-communist. This confusion between cause and effect and foreign policy instruments and objectives is not only regrettable but dangerous. Many believe the anti-communism rhetoric is nothing but a rationalization for pure economic greed and an affinity with the white settler culture.

By portraying African nationalistic movements as Soviet-controlled puppets negates past experience and perpetuates the myth that non-European leaders and peoples cannot think and act independently. Robert Mugabe, while a guerilla was casted as a Soviet lackey yet in power has proven to be moderate and shrewd. Similarly, the leadership in Somalia, Egypt, and Sudan have expelled large corps of Soviet technicians and troops, showing their independence.

U.S./South Africa policy should strive for social justice and long-term stability. The U.S. stands to alienate not only Black South Africans who will one day control the country but the rest of mineral rich Black Africa by wavering on the one issue that unifies all independent nations on the African continent