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Southern African Network Newsletter

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Dear Friends:

The Coalition to Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART) officially disbanded in late September, 1981 after mounting one of the largest anti-apartheid campaigns in U.S. history. The spirit of unity and organization that developed during the SART effort was phenomenal. It brought individuals and organizations together around the common struggle for freedom in southern Africa, and succeeded in driving the Springboks racist rugby tour underground. Furthermore, resistance to the Springbok matches served to educate many people about the fascist white minority rule and the freedom struggle in South Africa. All in all, we feel that the campaign mounted by SART was a success.

In October members of SART met to assess our work and to discuss the struggle ahead. At that meeting there was a unanimous decision to continue on some level the unity and mobilizing success attained during the rugby resistance campaign. Realizing that there were already numerous organizations involved in the southern African Liberation struggle, we felt there was no need for yet another organization. However, the need for communication between the existing organizations and some common movement building presented itself during the SART effort. Thus, we decided to form the Southern African Network (SAN) which would have a three-fold purpose:

TO SUPPORT existing organizations in their efforts to build the movement towards the liberation of southern Africa.

TO INFORM the Chicago area of events occurring in southern Africa as they occur.

TO PROMOTE local activities that further the struggle for justice in southern Africa as well as national and international activities.

TO MOBILIZE the community when necessary on specific target issues (such as the rugby tour).

SAN hopes to provide a vital link between the various community, labor, church, and student organizations that are actively involved in the southern African freedom movement. Through cooperative organizing, mobilizing, and a broad-based approach, we hope to strengthen and build the U.S. forces against racism, facism, and imperialism in southern Africa and the world. SAN realizes that the struggle for freedom in southern Africa is a part of the worldwide struggle. Thus, a strike for liberation in southern Africa is a strike for peace worldwide.

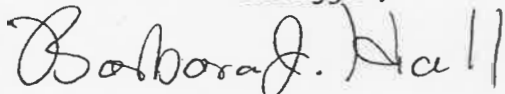
SAN has developed specific target projects which we hope to bring into fruition in 1982. We want to provide a SOUTHERN AFRICA TELEPHONE HOTLINE here in Chicago that will (1) give up-to-date information on the struggle in southern Africa, (2) give a calender of local forums, rallies, or other events being sponsored by organizations in the Chicago area, and (3) allow network supporters to share information concerning their activities. We would also like to provide a newsletter at least bi-annually. (We would like to produce it more frequently if funds are available.) We are, at present, co-sponsoring a southern African film festival to take place on June 19, 1982.*

SAN, through its hotline, newsletter, and organizational links will not only be supporting the freedom movement in southern Africa, but also, will be providing an information and support network for organizations and individuals involved in the struggle. Any forum or rally being sponsored by network supporters can have access to the hotline and, thus, over 200 organizations and individuals. Specific organizations can promote their programs while at the same time build bridges between organizations and individuals.

We would like for you to join the Southern African Network. Repression in America and abroad is increasing and demands that we work together as we build the freedom movement! We are positive that you will benefit from your link with SAN.

As our objective is the freedom of the peoples of southern Africa, we have no profit motive in mind. In order for SAN to implement its programs and maintain costs, however, funds are very much needed. We are, therefore, asking that every organization becoming a part of the Network pay \$15.00 per year, and individuals pay \$5.00 per year. For this fee you will be able to dessiminate information on the hotline and in the newsletter and, thereby, gain access to individuals and other organizations interested in your programs and activities, but who may not have been aware of them otherwise.

Yours in the struggle,



Barbara J. Hall
Southern African Network

*Enclosed is a leaflet regarding the film festival. If you have an organization newsletter we would appreciate if you could mention the festival in it.