

Columbia College Chicago

Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago

Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement

Oral History Interviews

Spring 2009

Interview with Danny Rochman

Arturo Carillo

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_caam_oralhistories



Part of the [Political Theory Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#), and the [Work, Economy and Organizations Commons](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 International License](#).

Recommended Citation

Carillo, Arturo. "Interview with Danny Rochman" (Spring 2009). Oral Histories, Chicago Anti-Apartheid Collection, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago.
http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_caam_oralhistories/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Interviews at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. For more information, please contact drossetti@colum.edu.

Interview of Danny Rochman,
Of his activity in
The Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement

By Arturo Carrillo
June 18, 2009

For the Columbia College of Chicago Library
In conjunction with
Dr. Erin McCarthy's class
Oral History; The Art of the Interview

1 Arturo Carrillo; And I will, I think we will start the interview-

2
3 Danny Rochman; Okay.

4
5 A.C; Before we start the interview my name is Arturo Carrillo. Today is April the 20th,
6 2009, we are at Harold Washington Library and I will now please ask you to please state
7 the years that you were involved or participated in, with the Chic, with the anti-apartheid
8 movement. What years were you involved- the anti-apartheid?
9

10 D.R; In Chicago?

11
12 A.C; In Chicago, ____ ?? in the Chicago Anti-Apartheid Movement?
13

14 D.R; That would've been I think-

15
16 A.C; Or either you can actually tell me all your activism, you know what years you
17 actually were involved with the anti-apartheid movement.
18

19 D.R; Okay well that's kind of going back I guess. I was born in 1960 in Johannesburg and
20 my parents- that was, that was a significant year because a few months before I was born,
21 there was this Sharpeville uprising where in South Africa a peaceful protest was shut
22 down by the Army. And after that a lot of people, but before that they were using
23 violence, and after that a lot of people decided, well quite a lot of people, decided to take
24 up arms struggle against the government.
25

26 A.C; What locations was, where your activism in the anti-anti-apartheid movement took
27 place? What places did this take place at?
28

29 D.R; Well I was as I said, I was born in Johannesburg and the reason I mention
30 Sharpeville is that later on, a few months later, I was born in October of that year. And
31 my parents had been involved in some of the anti-apartheid movements in Johannesburg.
32 And including some of my relatives, were when the Rowonian (??) trial, and my parents
33 were told this was like a few years later in sixty-three. They were worn that they were,
34 they were going to, they were asking about my dad and that we should leave the country.
35 So we got one-way exit visas, and we left, you know in sixty-three for Northern England.
36 Where we stayed for about two years. My brother was born and then we moved to
37 London. Where there was more of, we felt more at home, because there was more of a, ex
38 South Africa expatriates.
39

40 A.C; Would, would you say-

41
42 D.R; We left in the sixties at that time.
43

44 A.C; Would you say, but were you involved in the anti-apartheid activist movement
45 during those years? Or you wouldn't?
46

1 D.R; No, no, no I was too young so when we came over to Northern England I was like
 2 three years old (laughs). So that's then we moved, well we moved to South African aah,
 3 we moved to London you know I met a lot, some people that have been active in the
 4 movement and my dad was, you know would take me to rallies, and there was an African
 5 National Congress office MC (??) in London. Then we would go to that at times. And
 6 then in, when I was only 11 years old my dad is a Doctor and he go offered a better job in
 7 Chicago and so that's why we came to Chicago. And in Chicago I went to middle school
 8 and then to high school, and we were for a long time, we were stateless because they said
 9 we could go back to reapply for South African passport. But you know then my parents
 10 would have gotten arrested and probably put in jail. So we were not about to do that.

11 But then when we left Britain we applied for British citizenship and we almost got
 12 that but then my dad got offered a better job in Chicago. So we came over to Chicago and
 13 then I went to school in Hyde Park at the lap (??) school, and I wasn't that active but it
 14 was mainly when I went to college. I went to, that was in seventy-nine. I decided to go to
 15 a liberal arts college at Oberlin attracted me, Oberlin in Ohio. And I was attracted there
 16 also by the, kind of the sixties activist's student body as well. So I got involved when I
 17 was over there, they were having, ah they have for years been trying to get the college to
 18 divest from companies who invested in South Africa. And in fact some of the tact, tactics
 19 they were using was including when the trustees will meet, I think once a year or twice a
 20 year at Oberlin. Some of the students apparently a one-time they chained themselves to
 21 the doors outside, where, where they were the meeting, so-

22
 23 A.C; What year were you born in?

24
 25 D.R; I was born in 1960.

26
 27 A.C; And where were you born?

28
 29 D.R; I was born in Johannesburg.

30
 31 A.C; Where were you raised?

32
 33 D.R; That's an interesting question, I was mainly, I was more raised more in England till I
 34 was eleven but we left South Africa when I was Three years old. And my parents grew up
 35 there and they only- (door knocking) do we need to stop?

36
 37 A.C; lets stop.

38
 39 Library's Security guard; Unfortunately you have to put your snacks and drinks away.
 40 _____(??) yeah I would appreciate it.

41
 42 D.R; Okay (laughs) okay.

43
 44 A.C; (laughs). You were telling me that you were raised in London. I believe that's what
 45 you were saying, that you were partly raised in?

46

1 D.R; Right I was born, well I was born in Johannesburg when we moved, that was in
2 sixty-three and the government at that time was- I don't know how much you want me to
3 talk about my parents.

4
5 A.C; Whatever you-

6
7 D.R; But they were, ah they were doing over here in the states at that time during the
8 beginning of civil rights movement when things were beginning to look up. Where as in
9 South Africa what happened was, they started clamping down with various states of
10 emergencies. And they, they had impose, some people were banned, which meant that
11 none of their _____(??) could be allowed in the country, and they weren't allowed to
12 speak and then some people were place under house arrest where they couldn't meet with
13 anyone, more than one or two other people. And my parents ended up- There was also
14 what the special branch would do, the South African secret police was that they would
15 cracked down and they would go to activists places. And see also if you were carrying
16 so-called ban literature and that included from anything from like Karl Marx, and to even
17 apparently black beauty, because the sensors thought that you know it has something to
18 do with race or something (laughs). And so my parents apparently they ended up, and
19 they've haven't been able to find it, but they, they ended up my dad and mom went out to
20 the back garden and they ended up burying some of the books in the garden.

21
22 A.C; Wow.

23
24 D.R; You know _____(??) before they left the country.

25
26 A.C; Where was your father born?

27
28 D.R; He was born in Cape Town, and he was in Cape Town- He got involved actually
29 there was a similar thing to what happened in the South here, where some of the whites
30 would sit on black only benches, so he did that in the post office in Cape Town. And
31 there was, there was called the defiance campaign and they've- we have pictures of why
32 he's-

33
34 A.C; Was he arrested?

35
36 D.R; He was arrested. I think they, I mean they've, they dealt at that time, they dealt more
37 pleasantly with whites than with you know Blacks or Indians. But they were arrested. But
38 he was still, I think he was in jail for a few days, so.

39
40 A.C; Where was your mother born?

41
42 D.R; my mother was born in Johannesburg and she, she went, she became more political
43 when she went to the University of _____(??) because, and she became a journalists
44 and so she became more aware.

45
46 A.C; In South Africa?

1
2 D.R; Right and she became more aware of censorship and what was going on and then
3 she met my dad in Johannesburg.

4
5 A.C; Did she have censorship while she worked as a journalist in South Africa, did she?

6
7 D.R; that I am not sure but I think she became more aware of the inequalities that were
8 going on.

9
10 A.C; Yeah, I understood there were much, many records destroyed due to censorship at
11 that time in South Africa. Did your mom or you know any of that? Of all the records that
12 were destroyed that had to do with censorship?

13
14 D.R; Right, I'm not that aware of that but one of the main things that was also if you were
15 middle class and you know, until recently until apartheid, you know you would have a
16 maid. Or you know someone who would cook for the household and they would stay in a
17 separate part outside.

18
19 A.C; Outside?

20
21 D.R; Right and sometimes in the garden, and sometimes they would also have to
22 commute in from townships to the towns you know, every day to, to help. It was just
23 assumed that, that they were taken for granted. So this was with my and my mother's
24 parents, I mean my mother's parents, her father was a doctor and you know he wasn't- He
25 was Jewish but he wasn't politically involved, but he was you know, later he knew that
26 my parents for example, one time, you know he came to visit the house and he noticed
27 that there was this African that was working around the house and supposedly as a
28 gardener it turned out it was Nelson Mandela. He was being hid at that time at my parents
29 place.

30
31 A.C; Isn't that incredible, your parents actually met Nelson Mandela?

32
33 D.R; Right.

34
35 A.C; As he was going underground,

36
37 D.R; Right, Right.

38
39 A.C; Do you do you, were you born at that time, were you aware of that?

40
41 D.R; No I wasn't really aware. The reason, I mean, one of my earliest memories just very
42 vaguely is it must have of been very traumatic at that time. Was that when we're leaving
43 secretly through you know the airport and my grandfather covering me _____(?).
44

45 A.C; Therefore let me ask you what is your earliest memory as a child?
46

1 D.R; I think that was probably my-

2

3 A.C; That was your earliest memory you have as a child! Why do you think that is such
4 an important memory to you as a child?

5

6 D.R; Maybe in that I wasn't sure what, was going on and why we were leaving and my
7 grandfather, while I was the first grandchild, so he was attached to me as well. And then
8 In later years my mother's parents would come to visit us in England or in U. S. once a
9 year, or once every two years for a few weeks, so I tried to keep that continuity. In fact he
10 was one of my main _____(??) I looked up to. But he was not like I said, he wasn't
11 political like my dad but he I thought I could talk to him about pretty much anything else.
12 And he was, when he was involved in South Africa during the second world war-

13 This is going back, but he was, it was touch and go at that time because the
14 Afrikan government was supporting the Germans. So the Prime Minister John Forrester
15 was in fact put in an internment camp during the war because he was pro Nazi. But so
16 that my, my grandfather ended up joining. It was a volunteer army and he joined as a
17 doctor. And he signed up, and they ended up going up to two North Africa to Kenya
18 where they ended up- As a doctor he ended up treating both the Italians and the British,
19 (laughs) so.

20

21 A.C; I can see why

22

23 D.R; That was different and also he was you know, they were very aware, that they were
24 well they were Jewish, and he had come which was a common experience- He came
25 when he was young on both my mother side, and my fathers side, they came from- They
26 were East European Jews and they came from that Latvia and Lithuania to South Africa.

27

28 A.C; Were they ever persecuted by the Nazis while they lived in South Afri, in Eastern
29 Europe, is that?

30

31 D.R; No, no, no this was before they came. They came between the wars and they- In fact
32 there was more- The reason that they used to leave at that time was because, because of
33 economic conditions and also there was the Czarist Army, and you know where you were
34 called, called up for conscription and that kind of thing.

35

36 A.C; What were the economics, the economic situation do you know- What is, what was
37 the economic situation for your grandparents when they came as immigrants? How, what
38 kind of, how did they become established in South Africa?

39

40 D.R; Oh it was yeah, it was aah, I am trying to think, it was I think in both cases, they had
41 one or two relatives who had already- Had emigrated over and you know, so this was
42 their country to come and it was just opening up.

43 I mean it was different for whites obviously than you know Africans (laughs) aah
44 others (laughs) so.

45

1 A.C; I kind of understood there was a big mining industry and a farming industry, was
2 that-

3
4 D.R; Right, right, in Johannesburg there was of course the gold mines and then in- Not in
5 Cape Town but in Kimberly one of our relatives went for a while to- Because he, they
6 found diamonds and so he was, you know it was pretty rough, but he tried to make a
7 stake in the diamond area.

8
9 A.C; (laughs).

10
11 D.R; (laughs). And he kind of ran into trouble and I think he ended up coming back to
12 Johannesburg. But in the beginning in Johannesburg what they did was- My mother's side
13 they were, they would do similar work than what they were doing in the shallows (??).
14 One of them was a dairyman and he would go around to you know collect, you know
15 deliver milk and that kind of thing, and eggs. So it was kind of similar.

16 And then at the same time in one of our father's by- How he mentions that a lot of
17 times East European Jews they would even move at that time to- Emigrate to New York
18 through Ellis Island or they would go down to South America or they would go to South
19 Africa and to South Africa of course, well not of course but at that time they were in
20 plains- So originally they would go overland across Europe than over to South Hampton
21 in Southern England, where they would get a boat all the way down to to aah, to this
22 Capetown and up to overland to Johannesburg. So it was quite a way to go.

23
24 A.C; (Laughs) It souds like it sure was.

25
26 D.R; yeah.

27
28 A.C; Why did you leave South Africa at the age of three?

29
30 D.R; Well my parents as I mentioned especially my dad, he got word that the some of our
31 relatives have been arrested. And in fact some spent some time in prison and they were
32 swept up in the Rowanian trial, which was a case where there was a big farm in the
33 outskirts of Johannesburg and they- You know the, I think the owners were fairly wealthy
34 middle-class or upper-middle-class. But the farm was used as kind of a front to meet for
35 all of these anti-apartheid groups and which was kind of, in a way naïve, because they
36 probably looking back, they should have realized that it would be easy for aah- You
37 know, with the special branches spies to sweep down and raid. And that's what they did
38 and a lot of people- I mean some got away before that and went into hiding but a lot of
39 them were arrested and came up on treason charges against the state.

40
41 A.C; How did you first learn about apartheid?

42
43 D.R; Oh (laughs), Probably I would imagine from my parents and they- It was very hard
44 because in the beginning I knew some things specially when we moved to London and
45 there was some people who I knew that had been involved in the movement back in
46 South Africa. But a lot of things for different reasons at that time I was, I didn't know

1 about. And my parents would just go silent about it. And of course later I realized, and
 2 then sometimes, when they didn't want me, and my brother to understand they would
 3 speak Afrikaans because in South Africa it was a dual language. It was English and then
 4 the Dutch or the dialect Afrikaans. But this was partly under apartheid, it was partly to
 5 send people back home and so I am not sure if they were thinking of their parents but also
 6 people involved in the movement- Because if as a kid I didn't know what I was saying
 7 and if I said something and somehow it got back to the wrong sources, I mean either way
 8 they would've-

9 The special branch the South Africa secret police, ended up doing things against
 10 people that were against the government and activists, and they would send letter bombs
 11 and car bombs to a place in Mozambique- And there was also a case even in London
 12 where they tried to attack the African National Congress office there and trying to
 13 intimidate people-

14
 15 A.C; Did you ever personally meet someone, how, what are your feelings towards that?
 16 Towards those tactics of the government.

17
 18 D.R; aah.

19
 20 A.C; Of, of, of tactics of intimidating people that were antiapartheid stand or?

21
 22 D.R; Well I mean, it was given the time, it was I mean they thought they, you know, this
 23 would be an effective way to you know to intimidate people and crush the movement.
 24 And some people I mean one of our friends he's now- He was Alby Sax he was, he
 25 became a lawyer that wrote up actually the South African constitution and now he's a
 26 lawyer back in the country. But when he was in Mozambique in exile.

27
 28 A.C; What is the name of the person you talking about?

29
 30 D.R; Alby Sax.

31
 32 A.C; Alby Sax okay.

33
 34 D.R; He aah, there was a bomb in his car and now he, you know it blew out one of his
 35 arms and one of his legs so then and that happened. And then some other people were
 36 also were you know, were letter bombed which was ____ (??).

37 But on the other hand the, the armed struggle was with the African National
 38 Congress. What they would do was aah, was also they would aah, sabotage when they
 39 were successful they would try to go back into the country- From like Mozambique and
 40 Angola and they would, some of the places that they would do, they would blow up-

41
 42 A.C; And how would__ (??)-

43
 44 D.R; They would blow up, you know oil refinery or electricity works. So that was pretty
 45 difficult because they have to be careful that they weren't, you know because at the
 46 border they have to make sure that they weren't being followed and there weren't

1 informers. So on both sides, you know they used militant tactics.

2 And today, I mean people look at, well you know this is absolutists view of well
3 anykind of armed struggle is, should be avoided why couldn't they follow Martin Luther
4 King or Ghandi and I think to some extent you can use those nonviolent tactics but a lot
5 of times for change you may need to use some violence also. And I think that a similar
6 parallel also happened in the sixties during the Vietnam War were you had even
7 nonmilitant parts of the peace movement would use bombs at like The Capitol Building,
8 The Pentagon- Some of the universities and also the, you know as the police got more
9 militant and violent here as well. So I think sometimes there is this idea that while we
10 should all, you know _____(??)- And Sometimes that works I mean like in the South
11 when people were beaten up or boycotted, you know and they had the dogs on people,
12 they burned churches up and that kind of thing, it got more of an outcry and it appealed to
13 a lot of other people.

14 But I think to some extent is hard to tell, but a lot of times to get real change- Like
15 what happened in South Africa it was a combination later of you know the prime minister
16 _____(??) decided that, you know there wasn't a way they were going to win because
17 there was- They were having to spend all these money on these wars in Angola and
18 Mozambique, and they were appealing to the United States because they could say, well
19 specially under Reagan, they could say, well we have to fight the communist menace,
20 you know that's- Because Russia and China were helping the rebels in Angola and
21 Mozambique. But then there was also sympathy within the country towards these
22 anti-apartheid forces, and you couldn't just say, well all of these people have been
23 brainwashed by the Marxists, and the Soviet Union, and the Chinese, you know.

24
25 A.C; Absolutely.

26
27 D.R; So (laughs).

28
29 A.C; Absolutely, how did your family to stay politically active when they left South
30 Africa?

31
32 D.R; They aah, that's kind of interesting. They while in South Af- In London as I said we
33 had, we had friends or relatives and my parents friends or relatives they have been, that
34 they've had known at University in South Africa, and so they would stay in contact with
35 that and what was going on, and.

36
37 A.C; These are friends in London?

38
39 D.R; Right and they had left also in the early sixties as well so.

40
41 A.C; Why were there exiles in England from South Africa?

42
43 D.R; Well for aah, see some of those involved in the South African struggle decided well,
44 you know, I mean it was a personal choice but unless even if they chose to stay inside the
45 country and the possibility of well one day they be a knock on the door and _____(??) and
46 you be taken away for interrogation and kept- And at that time they could also keep

1 people without charging them for like- First it was sixty days and then it was ninety days
2 and then a hundred and ten days. Where they wouldn't be allowed, you wouldn't be able
3 to have contact with lawyer and that kind of thing.

4 And I mean they tried recently for example in Britain with the terrorist's stuff,
5 antiterrorist laws, to try and bring some of that on. And there was an outrage in Britain
6 comes because they felt that was too _____(??) (laughs) even against alleged terrorists.
7 And sometimes it would turn out to be aah, terrorists would turn out to be a bogus thing.
8 Sometimes there was other cases, but anyway, I am getting off the subject.

9
10 A.C./D.R; _____(??).

11
12 D.R; But, but to answer your question more importantly from what I've also read there
13 were cases were the exiles depending on- Well it was different if you where African or if
14 you were white, you know you would as I've said, you will be treated differently in
15 prison. At least for a while and then later on they ended up, you know treating you more
16 aah, if you were a political prisoner-

17
18 A.C; How was-

19
20 D.R; They would sometimes take you to Robyn Island. But, which was their South
21 African Alcatraz. But the other area where people would go on exile is that they would
22 even join up and become guerrillas in the nearby Angola, Mozambique and some of the
23 other regions _____. Or they would try on getting further away like West Africa
24 especially if they were African. But after a while aah, they weren't so well appreciated by
25 the aah-

26
27 A.C; By the South African-

28
29 D.R; No, no by the by the African hosts because it became like, well how long are you
30 guys going to stay there? And if they did go back, I mean it was hard because in some of
31 the Africans ended up- Because they were exile from their relatives here, and they ended
32 up committing suicide, or drinking themselves to death, or taking drugs. And then with
33 the whites it will go, you know those that could afford it, could then sometimes they
34 would go to either England, or they would end up going to the States, or aah Australia, or
35 Europe. So then they would try to stay in touch with whichever news was coming out.
36 But with the news you mention about censorship. But one time under apartheid the only
37 news occasionally the BBC could get through. But a lot of times it was a state, a state run
38 news. You know that would support the Nationalist Party which was the only party that
39 was in power for like fifty years there.

40
41 A.C; Do you think it was different than living, how or what was different about living
42 with a South African immigrant exiles in Northern England than living with Londoner's.

43
44 D.R; It was, was very different because, well we came to Leeds Yorkshire, and I am not
45 exactly sure why we went there- Because my parents didn't really know anybody over-
46 there. And it was rather it was very provincial it wasn't like a big city compared to what

1 we were used to from Johannesburg or Cape Town. And there was actually not really a
2 lot of South African immigrants up there. So then-

3
4 A.C; Of, in Northern London?____(??)-

5
6 D.R; Right, Northern England so then some of our relatives who went down in London
7 they looked for a place for us, and they- And that was the incentive to come down.

8
9 A.C; Therefore how was your schooling during your childhood in London and Northern
10 England? What was your schooling like?

11
12 D.R; I don't remember much about Leeds except that I was, I wasn't very happy (laughs)-
13 And also aggravated enough, (laughs) I am not sure if that's the term- Well yeah my aah,
14 soon after we moved to Leeds my brother was born and I remember- I mean one of my
15 earliest memories was that aah,- And this was, you know is an immigrant experience, but
16 is not really about anti-apartheid, but my aah- I was really jealous because I was home
17 with the mumps and I was staying home with my dad, and then my mother came out from
18 the hospital and suddenly there was this new aah, this new object, that you know got
19 more of attention. So I was very jealous. Apparently I one time I went around the table
20 when she got back and I am sure I did not know what I was doing (laughs)- But I took
21 like a little kitchen knife and I was chasing her around the table (laughs)- So I must have
22 been mad while I was growing up (laughs).

23
24 A.C; Why did you leave England at eleven, at the age of eleven?

25
26 D.R; We left because mainly while my dad they got, when they one day in London he got
27 a further degree as a Doctor. And my mother also got a degree and she was an English
28 teacher. Well no, let me back that up, she was a journalists, but then even in South Africa
29 she ended up getting interested in English literature and then in London she got a further
30 degree. In Dickens, she studied, and that's where I got my interest in literature in the
31 beginning, and so she was an influence with that. While my dad it was more about you
32 know discussing politics in fact I became- One of my earliest memories of London was
33 going with him to aah- Near the end of the _____(??) peace rallies in, while I lived in
34 London. Meanwhile we lived, and so he would take me and I was really small but-

35
36 A.C; Do you remember?

37
38 D.R; Well I have a vague memory of being excited and what was going on.

39
40 D.R; were you aware that these to do with some of the movements in apartheid, anti-
41 apartheid-

42
43 D.R; Well not this had to do more about the peace movement. So that was different.

44
45 A.C; Were you aware that there was political implications in those rallies and?

46

1 D.R; I think I might been, I think it was more about being caught up, you know all this
2 big group of people with signs and things, so.

3
4 A.C; As a child?

5
6 D.R; And I thought, you know it was courageous, yeah. And then I think also when I was
7 going to school in London I had these romantic ideas of you know, that some day I might
8 go back to South Africa and if it was, if the guerrilla movement was still going on
9 (laughs) I would join them (laughs). And go back to the country and help in the struggle.
10 It was all a very, I mean _____(??) this was all before I was eleven. So I think some of
11 that was fed, you know by hearing, you know about the little I was able to hear about my
12 parents why they left, and also you know some of the relatives some of our relatives in
13 London and friends. So I got that romantic idea of becoming an activists that way. And I
14 was kind of disappointed I guess later when things changed (laughs).

15
16 A.C; why were you disappointed?

17
18 D.R; Aah well I guess, I mean with this romantic idea that I would be, you know be
19 caught up in the struggle so. Yeah but I came, well we came to Chicago so we came to
20 Chicago. Originally my dad got offered a better job, and he came over on his own aah,
21 you know check it out, and also to find a place for us to stay and that kind of thing.

22
23 A.C; And how were you treated as exiles of South Africa in the United States?

24
25 D.R; That was very difficult because in the beginning, not because we were from South
26 Africa, but originally he came on the exchange visa and we didn't realize that would
27 mean that my mother couldn't work. So we tried to apply so she could work also, and
28 when we came to the states we came on- Well first I was on her passport, because at that
29 time well you know, you could travel as, I was an only child and we knew
30 _____(??). So when we came, when we came to England first of all, we came as
31 aah, excuse me as stateless people. And as I said we could of renew our South African
32 passports if we went back to South Africa. But my parents weren't about to do that
33 otherwise my dad would've probably ended up in jail.

34
35 A.C; mmm.

36
37 D.R; So, so what we did was, as I've said, applied for British citizenship and just when
38 we left or about to leave, it was coming through. But then my-

39
40 A.C; Your British citizenship here or in?

41
42 D.R; No, no, no when we were in London.

43
44 A.C; okay.

45
46 D.R; And then my brother was in a different situation because, of course he was born in

1 Britain, so he was able to have a British passport. So he was in a different situation. So
2 when we came to the states he was able for a least, for a while, keep dual citizenship so.
3 But _____(??)-

4
5 A.C; That was South African and the British citizenship?

6
7 D.R; No, no.

8
9 A.C; British and?

10
11 D.R; British and American.

12
13 A.C; And American citizenship.

14
15 D.R; But what complicated things was well my aah- So we came under a stateless-
16 Basically it was a piece of paper with my photo of me, and then it said who I was, my
17 height, and weight, where I was from and nationality as stateless. And we would, and it
18 was basically a certificate identity. So I was able to travel sort of at that time, with that.
19 So then we came to the states and we applied later for residency and they lost our papers
20 twice, supposedly. So after that, you, they now take you into consideration- Well you
21 know you've been in the country for quite a while- And you know eventually we were
22 able to get a passport with American citizenship through my uncle ____ (??), only he lived
23 in Britain and he was a political- And he emigrated originally, this was mother's brother,
24 to Canada. And then he was, he became a Zionist. And the he went to _____ (??). And he
25 became a citizen and he was able to vouch for my mother, so she was able to get her
26 citizenship before we did. So partly the reason we decided to apply for citizenship here
27 was because I was becoming involved not in the anti-apartheid movement much but in
28 the peace, peace movement. And I was involved in some of the demonstrations against
29 aah- Well at that time they didn't have the draft anymore but there was a draft in some
30 ways.

31
32 A.C; What years were those, in what year was that?

33
34 D.R; That was in, let me think, that was in must've been, oh yeah the eighties. You know
35 (coughs), excuse me and that was under, I think it was you know it was under Carter.
36 And I aah, I ended up applying for that because, we were partly afraid that if, well partly
37 with my activism stuff that they could try maybe, maybe deport me or something like
38 that.

39
40 A.C; Absolutely, therefore what was your youth like, your youth while living in Chicago?

41
42 D.R; I was, well I was growing up in Hyde Park and I went to school at lap (??) school,
43 And that was, it was different, I was starting, you know I came from England. So I had
44 this British accent-

45
46 A.C; (laughs)-

1 D.R; And some of the words were different and so I was teased a bit, and I didn't really
 2 know, you know my way around and then I wasn't into sports as much- I was into soccer
 3 but I couldn't play basketball and baseball that much. So it was kind of crazy (laughs).

4
 5 A.C; What was the education like?

6
 7 D.R; It was comparing, it was different, I mean some of, I had some good teachers and I
 8 was in that aware of math. And so I was placed, they placed me a year because, you
 9 know the American math is better than the English-

10
 11 A.C; No kidding?

12
 13 D.R; So that was different, and then I got involved in drama in high school. I was in some
 14 plays. And then one of the people that was influent-ional in my life is aah- Looking back
 15 was one of my gym teachers he suggested that I go out for track team. And at that time in
 16 terms of sports, because you realize that I was into running, and he thought, he suggested
 17 that in the beginning aah,- It would be a good thing to try out even though I was like, I
 18 wasn't sure if I wanted to be in meets, and that kind of thing- And I wasn't into the idea
 19 of competition. But you know the idea of well, it was an individual against the clock.
 20 And from that time which was like seventy-five I ended up _____(?), I still continue
 21 running, so in some ways aah-

22
 23 A.C; Did that did-

24
 25 D.R; He was also influent-ional in terms of that.

26
 27 A.C; Did your background in track play any role in you picking the college that you went
 28 to? You?

29
 30 D.R; (laughs) No, not really though actually for a while in Oberlin, I was in the cross-
 31 country team. But they, it was too rigorous for me (laughs). So I ended up just running on
 32 my own.

33
 34 A.C; Why did you pick Oberlin?

35
 36 D.R; I chose Oberlin partly because it was aah, it was a small liberal arts college, and it
 37 was in the Midwest, so it wasn't that far away but it was far enough.-

38
 39 A.C; And __(?)-

40
 41 D.R; And then I was into aah, I got involved in some of the co-ops- Where, where you
 42 know, you could live, and also it was a bit cheaper because you help, you know with the
 43 food and you would also help do some of the chores. And I was kind of attracted to aah-
 44 As I've said sort of sixties mentality because even though- That's another thing, I was
 45 born in 1960 and some of what I think shaped me politically, it's been I felt, I felt well at
 46 times that I, I wish in some ways that I've been born a little earlier. And maybe born in

1 the states so that I could been more involved in aah, in the sixties activism here.

2
3 A.C; Hmm.

4
5 D.R; So in terms of the Vietnam War I would've maybe and who knows maybe it was- I
6 might even end up either going for the activism or the drugs and the psychedelics
7 (laughs). But some of that I tried a bit at Oberlin but-

8
9 A.C; Was there much of that in Oberlin?

10
11 D.R; Yeah, this was like between seventy-nine and eighty-three And so I tried, my
12 parents were a bit worried, I would half joke that I was, that I knew someone down the
13 hall and I could buy some LSD from- And they were like oh no!

14
15 A.C/D.R;(laughs).

16
17 D.R; So mainly I would try, I mean, I would smoke Marijuana, I mean that was the thing
18 at the time, you know at parties you would go and you know, I would pass around a pipe.
19 And occasionally one or two times I tried mushrooms, and then once I took LSD but that
20 was actually in Chicago because some friends through the peace movement they were
21 going to the Grateful Dead concert, so we ended up going to that. but you know I wasn't
22 that aah, I mean I was more into the sixties activism getting back to it-

23
24 A.C; How do you feel about that now?

25
26 D.R; Today actually I mean, I still feel like I was, I identify more with that, then I think
27 some people. And some people, and to some extent is probably some of that is nostalgia,
28 because I'm sure that I've been involved are caught up in that time I might felt differently-
29 Or I might've of taking too many drugs or might've gotten beaten up by, you know if I
30 ended up, if we ended up in the states- I might have been beaten up you know in Vietnam
31 activism. But I think you know part of me is, is this feeling of, well a sense of belonging
32 because I think the good and bad parts of feeling, growing up stateless, it's sometimes it's
33 helped me because I feel I have a more internationalist view of the world. Like even
34 nowadays, I mean I feel yeah I spent more of my in life in America but as American
35 citizens I feel- Well on some issues I still see it as an internationalist perspective.

36
37 A.C; Absolutely, How did ____ (??) Oberlin react to your political activism?

38
39 D.R; Yeah because it would, at times invariably I would get on the Spring break at that
40 time. And I think to the same extent sometimes even today some people do that. But for
41 Spring break instead of going off to like you know Florida or Mexico ____ (??) . You
42 know people would do it from other colleges, we would go, I would go on a bus to D.C.
43 to protest either what are we doing in Central America or aah, or apartheid, or aah-
44 I remember going to the Palestinian rally in DC which was also a Palestinian, for
45 Palestinian rights- And was also the clan was trying to gather at that time in D.C. as well-
46 And so we ended up being there and some people, it kind of got out of hand because

1 some people, who were not really part of the rally but just like pour into DC, used it as an
 2 excuse to try break into, I think into some bike stores or something. But anyway they
 3 shattered the glass around there and so the police used that as an excuse to suddenly
 4 sweep the whole area with tear gas. And that was, I remember putting on a bandana
 5 around my face to try to block out the tear gas. And luckily that's been my only
 6 experience with tear gas. And so I've been lucky with that.

7
 8 A.C; And did the school, how did the school, your school react to, you know, knowing
 9 you were a political activist and a student?

10
 11 D.R; They tolerated because I mean at that time, you know at the school they didn't like
 12 obviously they didn't like when people would chain themselves to the trustees doors then
 13 they would have to get the bolt cutters. And I think some of them were charged and
 14 arrested, but there was a common area at Oberlin outside of the commons were invariably
 15 we would have banners and actually be allowed to put booths protesting different causes.
 16 And so the school being liberal they had a certain area, as long as you didn't suddenly try
 17 to take over the buildings, you could peacefully protest there.

18
 19 A.C; Fantastic, what are your feelings about Sullivan's abandonment of his principles,
 20 and you had mentioned to me something about that.

21
 22 D.R; Right actually that was when I was at, when I went to Bloomington Indiana- You
 23 know it was considered, you know- No, let me back track. While at Oberlin we were-
 24 You know Sullivan's principles were adopted by Oberlin were Sullivan at one time, Luis
 25 Sullivan he said that actually you know staying in South Africa would help in some ways
 26 because we could try to influence the country in that way. And so but later he I think after
 27 he went on a visit to South Africa, he decided that it wasn't so helpful. So then he thought
 28 that well, aah that it be better to put force on the economic system by actually divesting
 29 from companies in there. Oberlin actually to the very end though didn't divest from South
 30 Africa. And it was purely, I mean they were divided, but it was mainly economic decision
 31 and they felt they could influence things that way.

32 When I went to Indiana University as a student for graduate studies, they
 33 politically, they it was a bit different there. They were fairly liberal, but we set up, we try
 34 to set up, there was a common area in campus and we set up actually a shantytown- And
 35 which became an eye sore for obviously the university. And so at one time some of the
 36 Republicans and the so-called moderate caucus on campus, tried to, they decided they
 37 put up a mini do lock (??). And, but, that was with barbed wired. Were as the shantytown
 38 was made with wood. And so the university had them take it down. But actually when
 39 people were staying in the shantytown one time later over the summer they ended up-
 40 One of the Summers they ended up it got fired bombed. So I think they ended up
 41 rebuilding it but it was aah-

42 Indiana was kind of weird because during the sixties at that time, and of course I
 43 wasn't there, but apparently they had downtown, this bookstore that also had, that was
 44 favorable to the Black Panthers and that things. And that got hit by the clan who had a
 45 place nearby in _____.(??).

1 So I Mean in the en- getting back to your point the university and also Oberlin
2 College I mean they had this liberal reputation but it was compare to the area. I mean
3 where you have students sometimes they tend to be more political and some of them tend
4 to be more progressive than their surrounding area.

5
6 A.C; Absolutely, why did you get involved in the anti-apartheid movement?
7

8 D.R; I think, well it was mainly I think, I was having been around my father who had
9 been involved, I kind of looked up to him for quite a long time. And then in college I
10 started getting interested in finding out more about my background. And part of it was, I
11 tried to find out more about my Jewish roots as well, and in South Africa-

12 What was different there was that, I know I am going back a bit but the Jewish
13 South Africans were actually, were actually a minority within a minority there, because if
14 you think of in contrast to the U.S. in the U.S. the whites have been the majority. But in
15 South Africa you had the white Dutch settlers who came from Holland mainly, and they
16 came with this _____(??) religion which was not only heavily into you know, into aah,
17 you know, into you know into developing _____(??) Puritan. But they were also using
18 the Bible to say, aah parts of the Bible as people _____(??) to say that blacks should be
19 subservient to whites. _____(??) and that kind of thing- And on the other hand you also
20 had the English speaking whites and a lot of those were from Britain and they were
21 against Dutch. But then you also had the Jews who were mainly East European and they
22 were a small minority mainly in Johannesburg, Cape-Town, and I think some in
23 Kimberly where you had the diamonds. And they were mainly settled there but they
24 became-

25 I mean there were some whom that adopted the racist ways and looked the other
26 way like my dad's father. He was like you know he was against my dad becoming
27 involved. And they were afraid also of course that he be imprisoned which he was for a
28 while. But they the minority Jews a lot of them actually became more involved in terms
29 of their numbers. (coughing) Yeah, They became very progressive and helped Mandela
30 and then there was the Rowanian (??) trial, there was also, some of the lawyers were
31 Jewish. And so there was, certainly today also, there is a whole rift of the ones who were
32 for the apartheid system, and that profited from the gold mines, and the diamonds, to
33 other ones who became active and actually joined the African National Congress and the
34 terrorists groups.
35

36 A.C; Therefore, this might seem repetitive, but then I would think, I am wondering, how
37 then did living in different countries play a part in your involvement in the anti-apartheid
38 activism? As you say, you sort of, were influenced by many different things. Did living in
39 different countries also play a pivotal point in your involvement in the anti-apartheid
40 activism?
41

42
43 D.R; Yeah, yeah, yeah I think so especially growing up in London where there was these
44 group of relatives, and also my parents, and it was difficult thought because as a kid, as I
45 mention before, at times there was some things they couldn't tell me about- Because
46 there were people back in South Africa where they would in fact, possibly then, you

1 know people who were still doing things. And we had some friends who in London there
 2 was- One of the people who would come around to see me. He was, he's now died some
 3 years ago, Wolfy Kodish he was, he would go back and help in, he was white but would
 4 help in the African National Congress in Angola and at times in Mozambique. So and he
 5 would come and he would tell me stories, but it was mainly, he make up stories about
 6 animals, and game reserve, and that kind of thing-

7
 8 A.C; (laughs)-
 9

10 D.R; But occasionally, I mean I would know that were some things that they weren't able
 11 to talk about. So there was this, you know this, you know-

12
 13 A.C; Absolutely-
 14

15 D.R; Wondering about what was going on and that kind of thing.
 16

17 A.C; Therefore how did you become involved in the anti-apartheid movement, how did
 18 you become involved in it?
 19

20 D.R; Aah mainly I think looking up to my dad and then I wasn't so much involved when
 21 we were in England. But then when I came to the states, mainly not so much in high
 22 school but more in college. Though in high school I remember writing about, we had like
 23 a student newspaper, and I remember writing an article about censorship, so I must've
 24 been influenced by some of what my parents would talk about, you know in our home.
 25

26 A.C; Aah, how specifically did that move into your activism, I would say probably aah,
 27 something that you could say legitimately, I'm now part of the anti-apartheid movement
 28 activism?
 29

30 D.R; Aah, mmm, I am not sure what you mean?
 31

32 A.C./D.R;____(??)
 33

34 D.R; You mean in terms of today? Because aah, today you know, I'm not as active
 35 ____ (??) I been back, we were able to go back well after we became citizens and then
 36 after apartheid came down. First my parents went back to visit and they have family back
 37 there and also some friends still- And they I mean my dad ended up going out to
 38 the__ (??) town and my mother Johannesburg and later I was able to go back aah, once
 39 or twice mainly to see my relatives- My grandfather and find out about my side of the
 40 family there.
 41

42 A.C; How were you perceived because of your anti-apartheid movement activism?
 43

44 D.R; Well after, I was, you know it wasn't that much a factor because the walls had come
 45 basically. So I was able to go there, the thing is in when I was at Indiana University I
 46 decided, what I forgot to mention, I also got more interested in my background and

1 besides what my parents had mentioned to me about my South African history. And so I
 2 ended up taking some courses in that and finding out, you know the racism the ideology,
 3 what had happened, and I ended up interviewing aah, some people that were actually aah,
 4 had been activists in, at that time in, students on campus back in South Africa- And at
 5 that time they were I think they were studying abroad in at Indiana, and so I had to, I
 6 made up synonyms for them (coughs) on the tape because they were, I believe they were
 7 going back to their country, and some of them had been involved, they mentioned about
 8 being involved in some of the student unions were the police had called them in and just
 9 for passing out leaflets or trying to hold a rally, or meeting, they would be brought in.
 10 And these were white students on the campus. And this was before apartheid came and
 11 now obviously. And so they were, they were you know being spied on, you know there
 12 were informers, you know opposing students. And you know it was very much a policed
 13 state. And so they, when I interviewed it was very interesting to find out aah, you know
 14 the reasons they decided to stay. And you know they were going back to the country.

15
 16 A.C; During your anti-apartheid movement activism how did you persevere in regards
 17 your anti-apartheid movement involvement? How did you personally persevere,
 18 specifically in the anti-apartheid movement?

19
 20 D.R; Actually when I came back to Chicago up till graduated, in Indiana University and
 21 then became involved in Chicago with aah, there was a coalition for divestment- And
 22 what happened was, we decided to focus on Chicago was getting actually, even though
 23 there were steel works in Gary and South-Chicago they got South African steel. And so
 24 there was involving to put an end to that and we ended up going down to, also as well as
 25 to get companies to divest from, companies in Illinois to divest from owning stocks and
 26 pension funds in companies in South Africa. And so we ended up going down, taking one
 27 or two buses to Springfield to lobby at some of our senators to get them, there was a bill
 28 that was, you know, you know it was, it had a possibility of it being passed.

29
 30 A.C; How did your families Eastern European Jewish background play into your anti-
 31 apartheid movement activism?

32
 33 D.R; I think probably indirectly because I think, I mean my and my grandparents were
 34 not, were not involved and my, in fact my grandmother also on my mother's side, I mean
 35 she was more racists. I think my mother's father he became more liberal later on, and as I
 36 said, he, he kind of knew that my parents were involved- And that, you know this guy in
 37 the garden was Nelson Mandela. But I knew basically being white that we were leaving
 38 the country. But I think with my dad's parents were more, you know you should be more
 39 worried about your studies as a doctor where would this, why would you get involved
 40 politically- But I think getting back to your point, they both of my parents when they
 41 went to university they became more political. And I think part of it was because some of
 42 their relatives were involved in anti-apartheid groups. And they were Jewish and it was a
 43 minority within a minority, you know fairly vocal and connected. And so they decided to
 44 take this risk.

45
 46 A.C; What did your family think of your activism?

1
2 D.R; They were aah, they were supportive, I think they were a bit more worried when I
3 became more involved with the peace movement because some of the specially when I
4 came back to Chicago- I ended up doing some aah, I was in some non-violent protests but
5 sometimes we would, we would sit in aaah, war mongers headquarters and we would
6 _____(??). And because of that, you know they decided that I should, that we should,
7 they stressed more to become an American citizens so in a demonstration if I was
8 arrested, I wouldn't have the possibility of having you know, deportation here and later
9 on because of my activism (laughs).

10
11 A.C; How did your families thinking shaped your anti-apartheid movement activism?
12 How did they shape your thinking in the anti-apartheid movement?

13
14 D.R; I think it was more my dad because my mother she was more influential in terms of
15 my interest in literature. And I became and I became interested in poetry and that kind of
16 thing. But from my dad it was more he would sometimes dominate discussions in our
17 household and I be like, and try to interrupt to get my word in- And I think later when I
18 was a teenager in the states I became more in some ways like- Where we would split that
19 I would feel that, how come you're not getting more active and you should become more
20 militant (laughs) you know. It was this teenage idealism, that, well how come you are not
21 out there getting arrested and that kind of thing.

22
23 A.C; (laughs).

24
25 D.R; I thought it had become more middle-class and settled, but it was a bit of naivety
26 too I think. Because now looking back I was, like well they were sacrificing to put me,
27 and my brother through school, and that kind of thing.

28
29 A.C; What kind of group, institution, or coalition did you work with, or were you part of?

30
31 D.R; When do you mean?

32
33 A.C; During your anti-apartheid movement activism.

34
35 D.R; Well I think it was mainly at college and then, (knock on the door—unknown
36 woman asks – “Can you open the door for me” - time ran out on reservation at HWL for
37 room being used. We then moved to another room in HWL to conclude interview.)-

38
39 A.C; All right we are back,

40
41 D.R; Okay,

42
43 A.C; What was your role in the movement, in the anti-partheid movement? In your
44 activism what was your role?

45
46 D.R; I was, I was you know mainly as a student and then lobbying on the bus. But I

1 wasn't I wasn't a leader, I didn't write out press releases and that kind of thing. But I
 2 knew people who did you know, and me my parents knew Presby Nexbitt, and we got
 3 involved with that- And he was, he was involved at that time he was also part of, I might
 4 be getting this wrong (laughs), he was part of, he was on part of the steelworkers union or
 5 one of the main unions. So he knew a lot of people.

6
 7 A.C; So therefore what were your responsibilities in the movement? What were your
 8 responsibilities?

9
 10 D.R; I was, not a lot, I was mainly well- The difficulty was that I was no longer part of
 11 being on the campus when I came back to Chicago, so I couldn't go out and network with
 12 the students. But I was, you know, I tried to you know, help in the outreach and get word
 13 out and try to get people on the bus to go down to Springfield. You know, and hand out
 14 leaflets, about what this bill was that we were trying to get passed.

15
 16 A.C; Was it difficult for you, how difficult was it to maintain sanctions during the anti-
 17 apartheid movement, in example buying from Polaroid or related companies, remember
 18 you had mention something about trying to get Oberlin to divest-

19
 20 D.R; Right-

21
 22 A.C; Was it very difficult to maintain sanctions, to not partake in support of companies
 23 that were part of the South African government and apartheid?

24
 25 D.R; Right, well it was hard I mean at times there was the argument that well like I said
 26 in the beginning, Sullivan thought that maybe if we stayed in South Africa- And the same
 27 can go with other places too, like today some places are trying to boycott of goods from
 28 Israel and stuff like that. And sometimes is hard because well some people the reason is
 29 of why they want to stay there, is that will have some leverage if we aah, if you know we
 30 are in the country- On the other hand and as in people in South Africa argue including
 31 workers, they said that you know okay it might help me in the short run, like if the
 32 company pulls out, my job might be cut but in the long run it's a good decision because
 33 you're saying, you know you're making _____(??) prior state and you're hurting them
 34 because economically if South Africa on another country is not doing so well is not
 35 attracting tourists, is not attracting investment, in whether diamonds or gold, oil, and
 36 these countries are pulling out-

37
 38 A.C; Right-

39
 40 D.R; And if enough countries do that then obviously the problem is also that if you can
 41 always say well if the US pulls out then China will take up the slack. But if enough
 42 countries decide to do that than the government might have to change its policies. That's
 43 the idea behind that.

44
 45 A.C; Absolutely, I guess my question to you, in regards this, I guess, personally was it
 46 difficult to maintain like lets say, when say for example Polaroid is, is, is aah people, is

1 something that is consumed by the consumers without most of the time, I believe
2 knowledge that, you know they are buying a Polaroid camera, Polaroid film, etc. etc.-

3
4 D.R; Right-

5
6 A.C; But then when we are part of an anti-apartheid movement then you don't want to
7 support those companies. So I guess I was wondering if you were consciously aware of
8 that when, when you were like, lets say well we are trying to get Oberlin to divest-

9
10 D.R; Right-

11
12 A.C; And aah, was there, were you ever conscious of that, How were you conscious that
13 you were supporting, how were you conscious that you were not aah, helping to further a
14 company that was aah, in South Africa? that was part of the apartheid aah government, or
15 so forth, you know part of that, and how were you conscious of it, were you?

16
17 D.R; Yeah, well I mean some of that-

18
19 A.C; On a personal level?

20
21 D.R; Not so much on a personal level but I knew that for example that you know IBM,
22 was you know economically also, it would also make, help make the passes that we used
23 in South Africa-

24 Were, aah you know were, which were especially discriminatory about blacks
25 were they could, were they couldn't live, and where they could work- And passes were
26 always, you know you had to carry a pass where-ever you went because if you, if it
27 turned out that you didn't have any pass you could be arrested and put in jail, and move
28 somewhere else.

29
30 A.C; Yeah I think yeah, therefore I think that what I am saying is you knew ____ (??) and
31 it was very difficult to sometimes?

32
33 A.C; Right, to be aware, well I mean I read about information about what these
34 companies were doing and you know I would hand out that information when we were
35 going to rallies and that kind of thing.

36
37 A.C; How were you treated by the state-

38
39 D.R; But directly aah, I guess some of that was harder to figure out because at times, you
40 know unless you really knew what percentage was going to, out of the pension funds was
41 going to those companies, that was more difficult to figure out.

42
43 A.C; How were you treated problem down-state when you went there to lobby for
44 divestment?

45
46 D.R; I think we were, well we only spent one or two days down there. I think we were

1 allowed in and we met with one of two Senators. But you know it's been quite awhile
2 (laughs). But I think, I think they were receptive. But it wasn't like we were going to sit in
3 their office or something like that or a least aide by aah, some of the Sullivan principles.
4

5 A.C; What bill was that?
6

7 D.R; It was aah, I can't recall exactly, it was like an state bill. To get companies from,
8 because the issue was to try to connect also- What we were trying to do was, we had
9 rallies downtown here, was connect aah, what was going on economically in terms of
10 well how come their taking away aah, you know Illinois economy by propping up South
11 African steel and that kind of thing.
12

13 A.C; What national, or international organizations, coalitions, or groups did you work
14 with or support?
15

16 D.R; You are talking about today now?
17

18 A.C; No during your anti-apartheid, yeah.
19

20 D.R; Oh, okay,
21

22 A.C; Are you in an anti-apartheid move, I mean, well obviously not, but is that still part
23 of, of your activism, I guess in South Africa or anything today?
24

25 D.R; Well today, I mean because the situation is changed. But I still try to, you know if I
26 read in the newspaper and sometimes I'll go in the Internet and look at, you know news
27 about Africa. Specially South African and what's going on down there. So I try to keep in
28 touch with what's going on and occasionally- We still have relatives and like at times
29 when Alby Sax as I mentioned when he comes to visit Chicago at times he'll come and
30 stay at my parent's place. And so we'll find out more news about what's going down
31 there.
32

33 A.C; Therefore is there any, what national, or international, that were or not, or
34 coalitions did you work with or support?
35

36 A.C; Aah, I mainly been actually in Chicago. I mean there was, I was in a coalition for
37 Illinois investment from South Africa. But in terms of, I was also in some peace groups
38 here that were doing different things so I was more involved in some of those groups.
39 And they connect to some issues, because aah, antinuclear, and then Central America as I
40 mentioned, and then recently I was in Iraq when we invaded Iraq. I was picked up in a
41 police sweep and we still have an on-going case with that-
42

43 A.C; And why did you support the Illinois divestment group at that time?
44

45 D.R; And what?
46

1 A.C; Why did you, why were supportive of the Illinois divestment group as opposed to
2 others?

3
4 D.R; Well partly because of my background and I thought you know, that it was more,
5 you know that I would be able to do something that would be effective to what was going
6 on back home. And aah I mean because, you know I kind of felt that, its hard when you
7 live now, you probably experienced too, when you live now in a different country from
8 where you are born- There's always those ties that pull, well aah sure I go back some
9 day, sure I, or am I more connected to the country that now I'm a citizen of, and that kind
10 of thing. And that's always been _____(??) a lot.

11
12 A.C; What liberation movement did you support in South Africa, in South Africa?

13
14 D.R; Well that's hard to say because, I mean I left when I was really young but I think
15 later on, I mean we were certainly supportive of The African National Congress. And
16 when it was, I mean when it was underground and also when it came back up. But I think
17 I was more, I mean following probably you know, what my parents were thinking as
18 well.

19
20 A.C; And that was the African this South African-

21
22 D.R; The African National Congress!

23
24 A.C; The African National Congress, right, correct why did you support The African
25 National Congress. Because of your parents as you said or?

26
27 D.R; Right, and also partly they were, there was a split in the later, just like there was a
28 split in the civil rights movement here, where you had some groups who only wanted
29 Africans or only wanted, as here Blacks or Indians to be part of, and not to have aah,
30 multicultural. Where as the African National Congress you know pretty much stayed
31 where it was open to having white supported and also be active.

32
33 A.C; How did you feel when you returned to South Africa after apartheid had fallen?

34
35 D.R; I was, that's interesting aah, at least in the beginning there was a sense that there
36 was change in the air and there was a lot of hope. And you know that it would be a really
37 integrated society. But I think today I mean there is still, I guess I'm still disillusioned
38 about that aah, things haven't changed as much as I've hoped.
39 I think part of it is also for so many decades there is been this inequality of economically
40 and politically and so it was hard to catch up. And foreign investment for a long time
41 there was a rush of aah, foreign capital leaving the country as well as foreign, not foreign,
42 as well as whites specially, who left with technical skills, and they left to Europe or Israel
43 or Australia, or America. And with that there was until they put a freeze on also the
44 money leaving the country there was a real problem because aah- With no-one investing
45 there was a possibility that the economy would deteriorate.