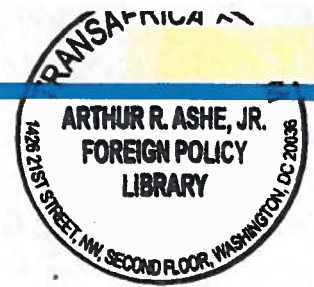


# TRANSAFRICA NEWS



The Black American Lobby  
for  
Africa and the Caribbean

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## Independence for Namibia

The unwillingness of the United Nations to confront South Africa's intimidatory tactics in Namibia is endangering that country's prospects for peace and independence. Recent reports issued by American observers in Namibia have called attention to numerous cases of intimidation by South African led security forces. These reports have also criticized the process for registering voters and urged the drafting of a new election law.

TransAfrica has echoed the concerns of the many distinguished Americans who have traveled to Namibia to observe and report on the situation there. We have worked closely with Gay McDougal, director of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, to ensure that the administration, congress, the media, and the public pay sufficient attention to the long and arduous struggle for a free and independent Namibia. TransAfrica believes elections in Namibia should receive the same attention that is being paid to elections in Nicaragua and Panama.

We urge our members and supporters to follow the developments in Namibia and to communicate to the state department their support for free and fair elections in Namibia.

All reputable international observers believe that the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) would win a fairly conducted election in Namibia. It is, however, a fact that South Africa would prefer that SWAPO not win. Unfortunately, South Africa retains control of the country and the electoral process until independence. Moreover, United Nation's authorities in Namibia

are so eager to remove Namibia from their jurisdiction that they are willing to overlook South Africa's repeated violations of agreements governing independence of the country.

This should not continue. Unchecked, South Africa's harassment tactics would escalate, and unchanged, the flawed electoral law and registration procedures could lead to a contentious election and an illegitimate result.

To contribute to a nonviolent election campaign and the establishment of a true democracy in Namibia, TransAfrica urges the following:

- o End the flagrant violation of human rights in the northern Namibia by South African security forces, especially the dreaded Koevet.

- o South African troops in the various security forces operating in Namibia, and South African civil servants should not be allowed to vote in the election.

- o Rewrite and simplify the proposed draft election law. Eliminate the requirements that voters be fingerprinted and that all ballots be transported to the capital, Windhoek, for counting.

- o The United Nations special representative should be empowered to appoint a counterpart to the South African chief electoral officer.

- o All parties should be given equal access to the frequencies of the South West African Broadcasting Company. □

## **BUSH BEHIND ON SOUTH AFRICA**

Eight months after taking office, the Bush administration is still reviewing its policy towards South Africa. Despite several meetings and consultations with congressional and other foreign policy experts, the administration has not unveiled new initiatives to confront the challenges created by apartheid, nor has it articulated any coherent set of principles which would guide its actions in this region. On the contrary, with its continuing military support for UNITA rebels in Angola and the willingness of the President to receive Afrikaner leader, F. W. de Klerk at the White House, it has indicated a disturbing attachment to former President Reagan's discredited policies for the region.

President Bush has benefited from an extended honeymoon period largely because of the perception that he would act to reduce the divisiveness that President Reagan had fostered on this and other foreign policy issues.

Unfortunately, those hopes are gradually fading. It is becoming increasingly clear that massive grassroots pressure will have to be put on the administration and its congressional allies to spur adoption of a South African policy which reflects our national ideals.

TransAfrica and other organizations have already done some groundwork for this national campaign. In May, TransAfrica sponsored a delegation of distinguished South Africans that met with President Bush and

other prominent Americans from all walks of life.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Reverend Allan Boesak, and Reverend Beyers Naude addressed the American Forum on South Africa on May 17. The Congressional hosts for the Forum were Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Paul Simon (D-IL), and Congressmen Ronald Dellums (D-CA) and Howard Wolpe (D-MI). The delegation appealed for an active American role in Southern Africa and urged the enactment of tougher, more comprehensive sanctions. Later in their discussions with the President, the delegation reiterated their positions. The President's response was disappointing. While he impressed the leaders with his denunciation of apartheid and his particular concern for the children of South Africa, he was, however, lacking in specifics.

The President still had not developed specific strategies when he met with South African leader, Albertina Sisulu at the White House on 29 June 1989. Mrs. Sisulu, wife of imprisoned ANC leader, Walter Sisulu and co-founder of the United Democratic Front, had come to the U.S. at the invitation of the President.

During all her engagements, Mrs. Sisulu stressed the need for tougher actions against the apartheid regime to forestall violence. From the reaction of the administration so far, it appears that it would take more than the pleas of prominent South Africans to spur actions.

The kind of pressure that it would take was demonstrated recently by anti-apartheid activists and their congressional supporters who successfully lobbied the administration to deny new National Party leader, F. W. de Klerk, a meeting with President Bush.

When word got out in April that Mr. de Klerk was seeking an invitation to visit the U.S., activists sprang into action. A Washington D.C. based "Stop de Klerk" coalition was formed with TransAfrica participation. Ellen Washington, Vice President of the TransAfrica D.C. chapter, served as liaison with the national office and provided crucial leadership. Information about de Klerk was disseminated to counter the propaganda that he was a moderate. A demonstration was planned and Congressional supporters quickly gathered over one hundred signatures from members of Congress on a letter urging the President not to meet with Mr. de Klerk.

Seeing the developing storm and worried about the impetus a de Klerk visit would give to sanctions legislation, the White House informed the South Africans that the President could not receive Mr. de Klerk, who then canceled his visit. Stopping the de Klerk visit was a significant victory for anti-apartheid activists. It is increasingly likely, however, that the Bush administration is going to need a lot more pressure before it will articulate and pursue a South African policy that is measurably better than that of the Reagan administration.

## CHAPTER NEWS

TransAfrica held its Annual Membership and Chapters Meeting on June 10, 1989. Mayor Richard Hatcher, TransAfrica Chairman, welcomed the members, and Executive Director Randall Robinson outlined TransAfrica's foreign policy priorities. Mr. Robinson also reported on the progress of the capital campaign and the growth of the endowment.

Each of the local chapters represented summarized their activities for the year. The highlights included:

The Boston chapter publishes the TransAfrica Legislative Watch, which is disseminated to all chapter leaders and members of the Boston chapter.

The Chicago chapter participated in community education programs focusing on South Africa, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition, the chapter was part of a coalition that picketed the South African consulate last year, forcing it to move.

TransAfrica's Cincinnati chapter successfully lobbied the local public school board to prohibit contracting with companies doing business in South Africa. They also cosponsored a

radiothon which raised \$5,000 to benefit humanitarian efforts in Mozambique.

The Washington, D.C. chapter raised \$2,500 at its Annual Luncheon, which featured U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary F. Berry as the keynote speaker. The D.C. chapter also joined with other groups to form the "Stop de Klerk" Coalition.

Harry Belafonte, Charles Cobb, Courtland Cox, Ron Dellums, Richard Hatcher, Willard Johnson, William Lucy, Percy Sutton, James Turner, Maxine Waters, and Robert White were elected to the Board of Directors.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION EMPHASIZED IN WAR ON DRUGS

Drug trafficking is "the most brutal and complete international conspiracy that mankind has ever known," stated Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, during his keynote address at the TransAfrica Annual Dinner on June 10, 1989. "If the world does not wake up to this problem, we may yet find that we are overwhelmed by it."

Throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, judges have been murdered, elected officials have been corrupted, and governments are being destabilized. An international solution is now being sought. TransAfrica has recently provided forums for the consideration of the difficult issues relating to the international effort on drugs.

Prime Minister Manley advocated the institution of a United Nations convention against drug trafficking in his speech. "We need to have a body that can offer an internationally mobilized kind of assistance to countries who do not yet



The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, TransAfrica Executive Director Randall Robinson and CBC Chairman Ronald V. Dellums flank Prime Minister Michael Manley of Jamaica at the 1989 TransAfrica dinner.

have the capability to fight this problem....I would even like to know that there was an international strike force that could be called in at a time of need within the realm of sovereignty." President Bush has indicated support for the idea of a multinational strike force.

At TransAfrica Forum's Eighth Annual Conference, Lieutenant Governor Doug Wilder of Virginia

suggested that the United States adopt a "carrot-and-stick" policy. "The U.S. has every incentive to provide source nations with the economic aid and with expertise which will rebuild their economies and rejuvenate their citizens." However, the Lieutenant Governor, who is a candidate for Virginia's highest office, said, "If they refuse to cooperate...we must employ meaningful economic sanctions."

## SANCTIONS

**H.R. 21/S.507**, the Anti-Apartheid Act Amendments of 1989 have been referred to the Foreign Relation Committee of the Senate and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House. Both bills would impose comprehensive sanctions on South Africa. Congressman Dellums (D-CA) and Senator Simon (D-IL) are the principal sponsors. Please contact your representatives and senators and urge them to support both measures. and write Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to urge that his committee pass S.507 in its entirety.

Senator Claiborne Pell  
SR-335 RSOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## FOREIGN AID TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**H.R. 2939**, Foreign Operations & Export Financing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1990 was passed in the House and sent to the Senate. Again, Sub-Saharan Africa received a disproportionately small amount--\$515 million. By contrast, Israel received \$3 billion in military and economic aid; Egypt \$1.3 billion in military and \$985 million in economic aid; and Pakistan received approximately \$626 million.

Please contact Representative David Obey, Chairman, House Foreign Operations Sub-Committee to urge fair treatment for sub-Saharan Africa in FY 1991.

Representative David Obey  
2462 RHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## CBI II

**H.R. 1233** Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Expansion Act of 1989, introduced by Representative Gibbons (D-FL), would improve the operation of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act. The measure has been placed on the House calendar.

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