



SOUTHERN AFRICA:

THE TIME TO CHOOSE

MARCH 11 TO 13 1982

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An Appeal

War has already broken out in Southern Africa. The Pretoria regime's aggression against neighbouring African states appears to have no limits: the invasion and occupation of Southern Angola in August 1981 is the latest in a series of acts of war. South Africa's 'total strategy' for ensuring its dominance in southern Africa is based on an expanding 'war machine' and the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Within Namibia and South Africa the Pretoria regime has unleashed a new wave of terror, concentrated particularly on the systematic suppression of the Black Workers movement. Resistance to this unique system of racial tyranny has intensified dramatically: the peoples of Namibia and South Africa will not be intimidated. Armed struggle has become the inevitable response to decades of oppression.

Britain carries a major responsibility for the situation in southern Africa. It ceded power to the white minority in South Africa in 1910. British trade and investment have played a critical role in the build-up of apartheid economy and Britain remains today the principal investor in apartheid. British migration, tourism and a host of cultural and sporting relations continue to sustain the apartheid regime. In this crucial sense British policy towards Southern Africa is of special significance; even more so today in the light of the overtly pro-apartheid policies of the United States administration.

In October 1981, the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their Melbourne summit declared

'their total and unequivocal condemnation of apartheid as a crime against humanity' and that 'it was the solemn and urgent duty of their governments vigorously to combat the evil of apartheid by **the adoption of effective measures against it and to assist those struggling to rid themselves of it'**

How should we in Britain respond to this situation? The policies of apartheid have been universally condemned. But the failure to translate these condemnations into effective action is a major obstacle to eliminating apartheid and white supremacy in Namibia and South Africa and securing peace in the region. Powerful vested interests who profit from apartheid carry a major responsibility for this situation.

The British people cannot be indifferent to this gathering crisis in Southern Africa. Now is the time to choose. Opposition to apartheid needs to be expressed in action.

'Southern Africa: The Time to Choose' has been convened to provide a forum in which representatives of the British people and other participants may examine the policy options and make the choice. Individuals and organisations from all walks of life are invited to participate.

'Southern Africa: The Time to Choose' Conference is being organized at the initiative of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. It will be presided over by the President of the Movement, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston C.R. and is being co-sponsored by the UN Special Committee against Apartheid.

As confirmed by present developments it will take place against the background of an escalating war in southern Africa. At the same time international efforts to compel South Africa to end its illegal occupation of Namibia are intensifying.

The Conference will take place in 1982 – declared by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations as the **International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa**.

The Conference will be open to representatives of organizations and individuals from all walks of life. It will provide a unique opportunity to consider and discuss the challenges arising from the grave situation in Southern Africa today.

The Conference will meet in Plenary Sessions and Commissions. Keynote speeches will be given on:

- 'South Africa: The People's Struggle'
- 'Free Namibia Now'
- 'Southern Africa: The African Perspective'
- 'Southern Africa: The World's Responsibilities'
- 'Britain's Choice'

There will be three Commissions considering:

- 'South Africa's Military and Nuclear Capability'
- 'South Africa's War against Independent Africa'
- 'Southern Africa: Western, European and British policy.'

The Opening Plenary Session will be at 6.30pm Thursday 11th March; the Final Plenary Session will be the evening of Saturday March 13th.

There will be a Registration Fee of £5 per participant. Donations towards the expenses of the Conference will be appreciated.

**ON SUNDAY 14TH MARCH THERE WILL BE A MASS
DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON ORGANIZED BY THE
ANTI APARTHEID MOVEMENT**

REGISTRATION FORM

**SOUTHERN AFRICA:
THE TIME TO CHOOSE**

NAME

REPRESENTING (if appropriate)

ADDRESS (for documentation, final agenda, etc)

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I enclose registration fee of £..... (£5 per delegate) plus a donation of £.....

Creche facilities will be available if necessary. Please tick box if you wish to make use of this facility.

If you have a disability, please tick box and inform us what special facility you require.

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Please return this form,

if possible before 1st March 1982, to:

The Conference Organizer,
c/o The Anti-Apartheid Movement,
89 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DQ
Tel: 01-580 5311

Anti-Apartheid Movement

The Anti-Apartheid Movement was founded in 1959 in response to the call for the boycott of South Africa by Nobel Prize winner the late Chief Albert Luthuli, former president of the African National Congress of South Africa.

- It played a major role in mobilizing support in Britain for the liberation struggles in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. It works actively to secure genuine independence for Namibia, the elimination of the apartheid system, and to win support for the Southern African liberation movements.
- It has campaigned persistently for an effective arms embargo against South Africa and for the total isolation of the apartheid regime.
- It seeks to educate the public about the realities of apartheid and racism in Southern Africa, and the brutal and repressive policies practised in the name of 'Christian civilization'. It campaigns for the release of all political prisoners including African leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Herman Toivo ja Toivo.
- It is a membership organization, open to all individuals and organizations which supports its aims.