

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT / NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS
SOUTHERN AFRICA CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE JUNE 26th/27th 1982
DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The 11th AAM/NUS Southern Africa Campaign Conference takes place during a critical period in the struggle for freedom in Southern Africa. During the past twelve months there have been a number of significant developments, in particular:

- * South Africa has escalated its war of aggression against independent Africa, in particular with its invasion of southern Angola, and its massive military and nuclear build-up continues.
- * South Africa has continued to prevaricate and procrastinate over the implementation of the U.N. Plan for Namibia.
- * the apartheid regime has unleashed a new wave of terror against all forms of resistance in Namibia and South Africa, as well as carrying out new acts of international terrorism such as the bombing of the ANC office in London.

In contrast to these developments:

- * the liberation struggle has intensified dramatically in Namibia and South Africa, with new advances by PLAN and Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wings of SWAPO and ANC
- * these advances have been complemented by new levels of mass resistance to apartheid involving workers, students, youth and the churches, in both urban and rural areas.

The Conference in particular condemns the blatantly pro-apartheid policies of the Reagan administration in the U.S.A., which not only protects South Africa from effective international action, but is now supplying it with vital nuclear technology and resources.

The Conference welcomes the declaration of 1982 as the International Year of Mobilisation for Sanctions against South Africa, and recognises the urgent necessity to step up the campaign for the total isolation of the apartheid regime, including the strengthening and strict application of the arms embargo, a complete ban on all forms of nuclear collaboration, and comprehensive economic sanctions.

The Conference, whilst recognising the recent and growing support for sanctions from the TUC, the Labour and Liberal parties, the Church of England and other denominations, believes that the Tory government and powerful business interests are determined to defend the huge British investments in South Africa to maintain their super-profits.

The Conference therefore resolves to put major efforts into building a broad-based campaign within the student movement in solidarity with the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia and with their liberation movements ANC and SWAPO.

The Conference recognises the need to inform and educate students about the real nature of apartheid and the extent of British collaboration with the racist regime.

The Conference calls on NUS and the AAM to prepare basic materials for this purpose.

The Conference, whilst recognising the need to have a flexible approach to campaigning work, and to be ready to respond to events in Southern Africa, endorses the following proposals for activity in the next academic year:

- a) Boycott Barclays: the Conference calls on NUS and all Student Unions to make special efforts at the start of the academic year to publicise the role of Barclays Bank in supporting the apartheid regime in South Africa, and to urge students not to bank with Barclays. In particular local Student Unions should organise widespread leafletting at local branches of Barclays, and where Barclays branches exist on campuses this should be tied with a campaign to remove them.
- b) Rowntrees campaign: the Conference endorses the statement of the NUS President urging students to boycott Rowntrees products, and calls upon Student Unions to follow the example of ULU and Leicester University in withdrawing Rowntrees products from Union outlets. The Conference condemns the harassment of SAAWU officials, and in particular calls for the release of Thozamile Gqweta, Sisa Njikelana and Sam Kikine. The Conference proposes that local activity in solidarity with Rowntrees strikers in South Africa should be a focus of campaigning work, including leafletting, boycotts of Rowntree products, etc.
- c) Week of Action on Namibia: the Conference urges student organisations to support the AAM/NSC Week of Action from 1st to 8th Nov 'br against British collaboration with the illegal occupation of Namibia in particular exposing the role of British companies operating in Namibia
- d) Recruitment boycott: the conference endorses the decision of the Sheffield University Careers Board to withdraw facilities from companies recruiting for South Africa. This sets an important precedent and the Conference urges local Student Unions to campaign vigorously to end racist recruitment by South Africa, or Namibia ~~and other~~.

Campaign Programme cont/...

d) Academic Boycott: the Conference notes new moves by representatives of the apartheid regime to set up links with academic institutions in Britain, including student and academic exchanges. The Conference calls on all academic institutions to refuse any co-operation with such approaches, and urges all Student Unions to campaign for an academic boycott within their colleges.

e) Economic Boycott: the Conference recognises the need to build campaigns upon local issues, and urges all Student Unions to campaign for withdrawal of institutional investments in their colleges, to urge students to support the consumer boycott, and to ensure that Union and College outlets do not promote South African products.

In addition to campaigns for the isolation of South Africa, the Conference recognises the importance of activities in solidarity with political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia, and in particular calls upon Student Unions to support the following campaigns:

a) Free Nelson Mandela: the Conference urges Student Unions to support the Mandela campaign by collecting signatures to the International Petition to be launched in the Autumn, by taking local initiatives such as proposing Nelson Mandela for honorary positions, and by supporting the planned sponsored walk 'No Easy Walk To Freedom' from Glasgow to London in July 1983.

b) Stop apartheid executions: all colleges should be prepared to take urgent action to stop the apartheid executions of David Moise, Anthony Tsotsobe and Johannes Shabangu, whose appeal against the death sentence is expected in September. There is a need to be prepared to take urgent action in similar cases, and Student Unions are urged to subscribe to the SATIS-ACTION urgent action scheme.

The Conference also recognises the needs of the liberation movements for material aid, especially for educational materials for the ANC's Solomon Mahlangu Freedom School and for SWAPO schools in the refugee camps. Fund-raising activities and material aid collections should be seen as important not only for the material contributions made, but also as a way of educating and informing students about the liberation struggle.

Organisation: recognising the need for strong Anti-Apartheid Groups to be built at a local level, the Conference recommends that initial activities should have this as an objective. The Conference urges all AA Groups to affiliate to the AAM, and calls on the AAM and NUS to organise activists meetings in England, Wales and Scotland in the course of the Autumn Term,