

Education FOR freedom & democracy



Campaign for free and fair elections in South Africa!

Anti-Apartheid Movement • 13 Mandela Street • London NW1 ODW • Tel: (071) 387 7966

SOUTH AFRICA is on the countdown to democracy. The first ever non-racial Selection will take place on 27 April '94. This election should lead to a genuine end to apartheid and usher in a new future for South Africa.

Education is the key to democracy. South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission has estimated that 18 million of the estimated 22 million electorate are first time voters of whom 57% are functionally illiterate. Extensive programmes of voter education are underway, designed to overcome ignorance, fear and suspicion about the electoral process, so that all South Africans can exercise fully their democratic right.

Moreover, when South Africans go to the polls on 27 April, they will be casting their votes in the hope of making a new start. Under apartheid, millions of black South Africans were victims of an enforced system of inferior education.

A future democratic government in South Africa will face the immense challenge of creating a new non-racial education system as part of an overall programme of reconstruction and development. The African National Congress, the major party contesting the election, has already pledged itself to a massive programme based on 10 years of free schooling from 5 to 15; the construction of 14,000 new classrooms; the retraining and recruitment of thousands of new teachers, as well as programmes for adult literacy and pre-school educare.

THE Anti-Apartheid Movement's *Countdown to Democracy* campaign is designed to help make into a reality the hopes of millions of South Africans. It aims to ensure that:

- the election takes place as scheduled;
- it is genuinely free and fair;
- it results in a decisive majority committed to a new democratic South Africa;
- the results are respected by all parties.

A special focus of this campaign is the *Fortnight of Education for Freedom and Democracy*, jointly sponsored by the AUT, EIS, NATFHE, NUT and the National Union of Students. We are seeking the active participation of students, teachers, academics and others concerned with education, in order to help millions of South Africans striving for a decent education.

You can help *now* by contributing to the AAM's *Education for Democracy in South Africa Fund*, set up to raise badly needed funds for programmes of voter education, aimed in particular at those disenfranchised or disadvantaged by apartheid. Such programmes will help to enable South Africans to choose the future they want for their country.

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- I would like to make a donation of £ _____ towards the Education for Democracy Fund
- I would like more information about the Countdown to Democracy campaign
- I would like to know about the AAM's plans for future solidarity beyond the 27 April election

Name MS LJACKSON

Address 60 CUMBERLAND ROAD

COWLEY OXFORD Postcode OX4 2DA

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