



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS, Inc.

2008 MADISON AVENUE

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## International Relations Committee

### POSITION PAPER ON SOUTHERN AFRICA A PERSPECTIVE AS VIEWED BY NABSW

At this point in our movement toward the ideals of freedom and justice as a people, the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) finds it necessary to accentuate its position on Southern Africa and the struggle being waged there against racism and apartheid.

It is our duty to speak out against these oppressive forces which deprive our people of their dignity and right to self-determination. We are vigorously opposed to racism and apartheid which have undermined the progress toward independence on the African Continent.

The systems of apartheid and racism as we know them have had at their base, the goal of relegating African people to positions of subordination and inferiority. Apartheid and racism are both components of the overall objectives of the regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia to continue to dominate Africans and exploit them in terms of their labor. These two illegal governments have offered only promises of more exploitation and domination. They have only given lip service to our people's right to determine their own destiny.

Presently, we can witness these governments making last ditch efforts to stave off the inevitable majority rule under the guise of peace talks and negotiations with the assistance of those who do not speak for our people but merely speak for themselves and their selfish interests.

The people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, and the independent African states acting in their behalf, have tried for more than half a century through petitions, representations, negotiations, peaceful demonstrations, appearances before the United Nations and through appeals to international tribunals, to achieve self-deter-

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-2-

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mination through majority rule. These efforts however, have been met with opposition from the European settlers and their support from the Western World.

It is a matter of fact and history that these peaceful efforts have never received the full support of the Western World. Multi-national corporations and industrialized nations headed by the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Israel and Japan which collectively account for over 60% of all trade with South Africa reinforced the white minority ruled governments through expanded investments in violation of economic sanctions and arms embargoes, and by sales of military related equipment and nuclear technology to South Africa. It is our belief that not until the white minority governments are overthrown will there be any possibility of real peace.

We support the Congressional Black Caucus in their recommendations for action regarding South Africa, which proposes to:

1. Eliminate U.S. commercial, defense and agricultural attaches to South Africa. End all U.S. - South Africa cooperative agency agreements such as the ones with Treasury, Department of Defense.
2. Deny tax credit to U.S. companies which invest in South Africa and pay taxes there. Develop strong tax disincentives to reduce U.S. investments in South Africa.
3. Support elimination of Export-Import Bank guarantees for loans to U.S. companies trading and investing in South Africa. This is especially critical to stop advanced technology goods flow into the country.
4. End U.S. - South Africa cooperative agreements on nuclear technology and research. End the granting of export licenses for the export of nuclear materials to South Africa.
5. Stop Commerce Department licensing for export to South Africa of so-called "Non-military" weapons.
6. Initiate immediate Security Council action at the United Nations against South Africa.

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-3-

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7. Support U.N. resolutions on ending nuclear, military, and economic cooperation with South Africa.

8. Support immediate Congressional action to pass legislation placing economic and diplomatic sanctions on South Africa.

9. Support a moratorium on all U.S. - South African exchange programs.

10. Strongly affirm a U.S. policy calling for one man-one vote in South Africa.

We affirm our solidarity with the liberation movements which are struggling daily to overturn the long standing domination by Europeans on the Africa Continent. We are in support of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) position to oppose any U.S. Government recognition of the created black homelands, and U.S. corporate investments in any designated homeland which would deny Africans their birthright to full economic and political participation in the entire Republic of South Africa.

In conclusion, we commit ourselves to the task of sensitizing and eventually mobilizing the members of the National Association of Black Social Workers toward taking an active stance in the national struggle for independence and self-determination. It is no less than certain that the destiny our people in Southern Africa face is inextricably bound to our destiny in America and elsewhere. Our destinies are one in the same.

## Sources

1. "The Role and Responsibility of the United States in South Africa & Rhodesia-(a speech made by Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania during his tour of the United States, August 1977), The Black Scholar October 1977, pp. 40-46.

2. "The African-American Manifesto on Southern Africa-Congressional Black Caucus, The Black Scholar, Vol. 8 No. 4, January-February 1977, pp. 27-32.

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