In October 1963 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the release of all political prisoners in South Africa. In the following June, however, eight of the accused in the Rivonia Trial were sentenced to life imprisonment and the seven black prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, sent to join other political prisoners on Robben Island, a centre known for the inhuman conditions under which political prisoners are forced to serve their sentences.

In the intervening 10 years there have been more arrests and the security police have continued to detain and interrogate people under the sinister laws passed for that purpose. Torture under interrogation is commonplace, and the methods used to extract information have been fully documented.

A new initiative must now be taken for the release of all political prisoners and detainees held in South Africa today.

This Conference has been arranged as a launching pad for such a campaign and as a contribution towards the implementation of the resolution passed at the ILO International Trade Union Conference on Apartheid held in June this year, which called for "...a world-wide week of action against the discriminatory policy of apartheid in South Africa", commencing 10 December, the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

It will examine the legislation governing apartheid and the exploitative nature of the society which makes "terrorists", "saboteurs" and "political prisoners" out of sincere, serious and courageous men and women who find intolerable that unique system of racist exploitation.

Planned as a delegate conference, individuals are also welcome. Background documents are being prepared and will be sent to delegates and individual applicants in advance of the Conference.

Conference Preparatory Committee

- Anti-Apartheid Movement
- AUEW (TASS) Kitson Committee
- National Union of Students
- International Defence & Aid Fund
- Ruskin College Kitson Committee

Application form

Delegates Entrance fee (including documentation) -- 50p

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

Organisation represented ________________________________

(if applicable)

Make your cheque/PO payable to The Anti-Apartheid Movement

For further information, please write to Roy Newson, Secretary, Preparatory Committee, c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street London W1P 2DQ, Tel: 01-580 5311.