

AntiApartheid Movement

annual report of
activities and developments



October 1978 ~ September 1979

ANTI APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Annual Report

October 1978—September 1979

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89 Charlotte Street London W1P 2DQ Tel 01-580 5311

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Foreword

Mention of the word 'apartheid' these days often conjures up a picture either of the leading figures in the Lancaster House conference on Zimbabwe or of the visiting rugby team. Thought is sometimes given, too, to the so-called loosening of the hitherto tightly held reins of South African Government legislation.

To the readers of this Report, however, a more realistic picture emerges of a small office, staffed by faithful members — paid and unpaid — coping with unexpected demands and staggering from crisis to crisis, while attempting to deal with the routine work of every day. We are thankful for this ungrudging service.

It is true that the people in the office, while sharing in the excitement, also know more about things than most of the membership do, but they could not do their work without you and you too must learn to read between the lines, seek out the truth and broadcast it. One thing we may be quite sure of is that whatever we may hear or read to the contrary, all is still far from well in Southern Africa.

I ask each one of you to continue to fight, taking courage from the fact that, however small your branch or insignificant your own particular work in it may be, you are helping to reverse the role of tyranny. So fight on, do not become apathetic, seek after the truth and help to build a just society in Southern Africa.

† Ambrose Reeves
Hon President

INTRODUCTION

This introduction, which represents the Political Report of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, was unanimously adopted by the National Committee at its meeting on 14 September 1979

The inherent evil of the white power system in Southern Africa and the urgency of the need to destroy it before it causes further havoc and destruction in Africa is now recognised by most countries throughout the world. The major obstacle to change, however, has been not only the apartheid regime itself, but also its powerful Western trading partners. During the past year there has been a growing trend, notably in Britain, the United States, France and West Germany, in favour of an even more open alliance with South Africa. And this trend was given political expression by the Conservative Government in Britain.

Since its inception in 1959 the AAM has maintained that the apartheid system constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Through the United Nations and in other forums, most of the world has now called for mandatory economic and other sanctions against South Africa, but the major Western powers have proceeded to *increase* their stake in the apartheid system and have thus inevitably become more committed to preserving it. They have deliberately and systematically increased South Africa's threat to world peace, to the point of enabling it to possess nuclear capability and they have maintained strategies hostile towards the African liberation movements. However, the major Western powers recently have had to take into consideration their increasingly isolated position in the international community as support for the African liberation struggle has become more concrete.

It is therefore not surprising that since the defeat of Portuguese colonialism in Africa in 1974 the new crisis faced by the white power system in Southern Africa has produced a similar crisis for Western policy. This has given rise to intensive political and diplomatic activity by certain Western countries to contain the process for change. However, all these manoeuvres have so far failed because of the determined opposition of the liberation movements and the refusal of the front line African states to compromise with the racist regimes.

The Pretoria regime, as a result of this continuing failure and confronted by the growing success of the armed struggle, appeared to abandon its policy of collaborating with the West in seeking internationally acceptable agreements. It sought instead to ensure the success of its so-called 'internal settlement' policy for both Rhodesia and Namibia, aimed at preserving the white power structure by involving African personalities prepared to collaborate in the administration of the racist regimes. At the same time, repression against the liberation movements and the people of Zimbabwe and Namibia, and aggression against the African front line states, has been intensified in an attempt to destroy African will and ability to resist and to impose the 'internal settlements' on the people of these territories. This has required the escalation of the war to new levels, with Rhodesian attacks now carried out openly with South African aircraft and other weapons.

Even these repeated and virtually routine attacks against Commonwealth and other African states have not led to a stricter enforcement of the Security Council mandatory total sanctions decisions against Rhodesia and the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa. Indeed, it is remarkable that in the face of sanctions and embargoes the Pretoria and Salisbury regimes are not short of arms or ammunition to conduct their war against the African people. However, despite these repeated attacks, the governments and people of the front line states remain firmly committed on the side of the African liberation struggle.

Rhodesia

The recruitment of Bishop Muzorewa and certain other African figures on the side of the illegal Smith regime was hailed as a great success by and for the forces of racism in Southern Africa and their overseas allies. Armed with false claims about 'African majority rule' and an 'election' which installed Bishop Muzorewa as 'Premier of Rhodesia', the international campaign to undermine the Patriotic Front was intensified with active support from the Western media. But, despite propaganda from powerful quarters, it became impossible to avoid the reality that the Patriotic Front was steadily increasing its control and influence in Zimbabwe. The 'internal settlement' of March 1978 has failed. And, despite the wishes of the Conservative Party in Britain to commit itself fully to making the 'internal settlement' in Rhodesia work, even the Thatcher administration has been forced to recognise that 'the internal settlement constitution is defective in certain important respects'. The Lusaka Commonwealth meeting concentrated on Zimbabwe and produced a formula which gave Britain an opportunity to work for a genuine solution to the problem. The Lancaster House talks are likely to succeed only if full recognition is given to the policies of the Patriotic Front for a genuine transfer of power, for the disbanding of the illegal military, police, administrative and other structures of the Salisbury regime, and for transitional arrangements which guarantee that the process is irreversible.

Namibia

Despite the lengthy international discussions about the future of Namibia, hopes for a negotiated settlement collapsed when South Africa rejected the United Nations plan in September 1978. Western initiatives involving five major countries which have close economic and political ties with South Africa came to an abrupt end — and the fact that no action was taken against South Africa despite its last minute rejection of the UN plan exposed the bankruptcy of Western policy. All Western initiatives have rested on the major consideration that these had to be acceptable to South Africa and, if Pretoria refused to cooperate, no international pressure should be applied to enforce its compliance.

The failure of the five Western powers to respond to South Africa's rejection of the United Nations plan gave Pretoria renewed confidence to accelerate its own plans for a 'UDI' in the territory and to crack down against SWAPO. Massive repression against SWAPO in the spring of 1979 resulted in the decision that the 'internal organisation' would concentrate more on underground operations.

SWAPO's increasingly effective armed confrontation in Namibia has forced the Pretoria regime to intensify its own military operations inside the territory. And, in an attempt to destabilise the Angolan Government, the scale of its aggression against Angola has increased — both directly and through its support for the operations of UNITA.

Despite the stalemate created by Pretoria's rejection of the UN plan and faced with the prospect of major political and military advances by SWAPO, the Western 'Contact Group', without consulting SWAPO, is once again involved in negotiations with the Pretoria regime. These negotiations reveal a decidedly favourable bias towards South Africa's illegal occupation and have thus totally ignored SWAPO. Whilst these manoeuvres continue, the Pretoria regime is proceeding with its special brand of 'internal settlement' for Namibia.

Front line states

The front line states, despite constant attacks from the Salisbury and Pretoria regimes, and the loss of the lives of many hundreds of their own civilians, have not wavered in their support for the liberation movements. They have strengthened considerably their defensive capacity and in recent incursions the racist forces have encountered severe difficulties.

Efforts are also under way to break the economic ties that link the front line states to Rhodesia and South Africa. Attempts are being made to establish a preferential trade zone covering East and Southern Africa, under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Important discussions have taken place between Angola, Zaire and Zambia with a view to reopening the Benguela railway to international traffic, a move of vital importance for Zambian trade.

South Africa

Inside South Africa, resistance to apartheid has not only intensified but is taking new forms. The armed struggle, though at an early stage, is being conducted in the context of an acutely aware and conscious African population ready to confront the enemy in order to seize political power. Mass defiance and mobilisation continue against the regime's policies, as exemplified by the Crossroads community in Cape Town and protests in Soweto against rent increases. The growing insecurity of the apartheid regime has led to even more repression and retaliation against the African people. Despite appeals for clemency from President Carter and other Western leaders, as well as the UN Security Council, the Pretoria regime executed Solomon Mahlangu in April 1979. Thus it was emphasised that international appeals have little effect unless accompanied by firm action. Political trials, torture, bannings and detention without trial proceed as before, and the regime has instigated the first Treason Trial since the 1950s. During the past year we have also witnessed the fall of Premier Vorster and the exposure of the regime's corrupt practices.

The coming to power of Defence Minister Botha also confirms the transition to an openly aggressive military posture with increasing resort to armed violence internally and externally in order to make up for eroding political control and security brought about by the growing resistance of the oppressed people and the new victories being achieved by the armed struggle. This heavy reliance on military and security might in order to maintain power is the last resort of the apartheid regime and thus it continues to modernise and expand its military capability. The recent case of Plessey's military collaboration with South Africa reveals the extent of British and other Western participation in strengthening the military capability of the apartheid regime.

Side by side with its aggressive policies, the apartheid regime constantly seeks new ways of finding collaborators within the black community. The 'independence' of Venda, the 'Koornhof committees', the Wiehahn and Rieckert Commission reports, are all examples of the so-called 'reforms' that have this as their aim, although they are also aimed at misleading international public opinion. Whilst

many allies of South Africa have welcomed the Wiehahn report as representing a major reform programme, it is, in fact, intended as an intensification of the apartheid system in order to ensure the survival of the exploitative white power structure.

The regime has concentrated a great deal of effort in an attempt to counteract the international sports boycott of South Africa. Large sums of money have been spent to gain publicity, worldwide, for the so-called 'changes' in apartheid sport. These 'changes' have given South Africa's allies abroad an opportunity to break international boycotts, but they are not likely to succeed on any significant scale because of the vigilance of anti-apartheid groups and the action by several governments to impose visa restrictions on South African passport holders.

Conclusion

This year has seen significant advances in the international campaign to isolate South Africa. The cutting off of oil supplies by the Iranian Government and the retaliatory action by Nigeria in response to BP's swap arrangement involving North Sea oil have made the prospect of an effective oil embargo a much greater possibility. The Nigerian action has also made the warnings of retaliatory action by African states a reality. The Swedish Government has, in addition, set a precedent for western countries by banning new investment in South Africa.

But the past year has also seen a number of manoeuvres aimed at taking the pressure off South Africa and buying more time for the Pretoria regime, whilst the Western powers have ostensibly claimed that they are in fact working towards an attainable 'peaceful change' for Namibia and Rhodesia. Meanwhile, South Africa persists with its apartheid and bantustan policies, and there is no move from the major Western governments which provides any hope of a more positive policy against the Pretoria regime.

During recent years the prospect of an early independence for Namibia and Zimbabwe has often seemed imminent. This is due to the heroic armed struggle of the people of these territories. The fact that genuine independence is not yet achieved is due to the determination of the major Western powers to protect at all costs their own and South Africa's interests in the region. Inevitably, the armed struggle has had to be intensified and the desperation of the racist regimes has made them increase their aggressive attacks against neighbouring states. This process is likely to be aggravated even further during the coming year, with all the destructive suffering of an escalating war. The responsibility for this war rests not only with Salisbury and Pretoria, but with the major Western governments which refuse to end their collaboration with the apartheid system and instead conspire to maintain it.

ZIMBABWE

The 1978 Annual General Meeting of the AAM called for an intensification of campaigning on Zimbabwe and this has been reflected in the increased priority attached to this area of the AAM's work during the past 12 months.

The AAM National Committee meeting in December 1978 approved an ambitious programme of action for the year designed to create the basis for much greater activity on Zimbabwe.

The main priorities identified were the need to mobilise support for the liberation struggle including practical support for the Patriotic Front and the need to counter the intense propaganda campaign in much of the press and media in support of the so-called 'internal settlement'.

A month of action on Zimbabwe was called for March 1979 and amongst the activities organised was a National Zimbabwe Action Conference attended by representatives of over 100 organisations at the London School of Economics, which was followed by a march to 10 Downing Street. A campaign briefing was produced, a pullout supplement exposing the 'internal settlement' was included in *AA News* and there were numerous local meetings. Plans were also made for a day of action to coincide with the 'internal settlement' elections, but these were postponed because of the British General Election.

The election to power of the Conservative Party in May 1979, committed to a policy of recognising the illegal regime and lifting sanctions, created a new situation for the AAM. The National Committee meeting immediately following the General Election decided to call an Emergency Demonstration on Zimbabwe for 30 June and to re-establish the Campaign Committee which had successfully mobilised opposition to the Smith/Home settlement in 1971/72.

The Emergency Demonstration, culminating in a rally in Trafalgar Square, was called on the theme 'No Tory Sell-out in Zimbabwe'. Mobilisation was affected by the time of the year and the short time available, but even so the response was less than had been hoped for. The main speaker at the rally was Josiah Chinamano, Vice President of the Patriotic Front (ZAPU), who also spent several days in London as the guest of the AAM, during which time he was interviewed extensively on television and radio.

Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee

On 6 June 1979, at a meeting attended by over 20 different organisations, including trade unions, political parties and groups, church groups, student and youth organisations, together with organisations specifically concerned with Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, it was decided to establish the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee (ZECC). Its main campaigning priorities were agreed to be: no recognition of the Muzorewa/Smith regime; no lifting of sanctions but their extension to include South Africa; and support for the Patriotic Front.

ZECC's first major campaign was to secure endorsements to a Declaration opposing recognition of the illegal regime and supporting the maintenance of sanctions. This Declaration, which was endorsed by organisations representing over eight million people, was presented to President Kaunda in his capacity as Chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, by a delegation from the

Anti-Apartheid Movement.

A major programme of activity for the autumn had to be reassessed in the light of the Commonwealth Conference's own declaration on Zimbabwe and the British Government's decision to convene the Lancaster House Conference. Plans were made for a series of meetings, teach-ins, pickets and demonstrations during the Conference.

A major feature of ZECC's work has been to prepare the basis within the trade union movement for support for the maintenance of sanctions if the Government decides not to retable the Sanctions Order. A Statement of Intent was drawn up by ZECC, in consultation with the AAM's trade union committee, for adoption by trade union organisations.

Hangings

One continuing feature of AAM's campaigns on Zimbabwe has been action to stop the execution of captured freedom fighters and other political prisoners. Following the 'internal settlement' it was claimed by the illegal regime that executions had been halted. However, news reaching London indicated that executions recommenced in December 1978. This was confirmed in the case of Daniel Moyo, who was executed in January 1979. His brother-in-law, living in Britain, was able to return home to visit his relatives and, on arrival back in Britain, played a major role in intensifying the campaign.

In July the AAM initiated a legal action for the arrest of Bishop Muzorewa for the crimes of treason and judicial murder. This action gained widespread publicity, especially when the Privy Council rushed through an Order In Council providing the Foreign Secretary with powers to grant immunity.

In August the AAM received information about the case of two young boys, Bencharad and Leavit Katumba, who had been sentenced to death at a secret trial in a martial law court. Protests were held outside Downing Street calling for British Government action to stop the executions and to deny immunity to representatives of the illegal regime whilst they persisted in executing their opponents. The Government subsequently agreed to 'investigate' the case. A ZECC leaflet entitled 'Lynch Law in Rhodesia' was produced for the campaign.

Oil sanctions

Despite an intensive campaign by the AAM following the publication of the Bingham Report, there has been no further Parliamentary inquiry and no action by the Director of Public Prosecutions. During the autumn of 1978 an intensive campaign was organised with the aim of ensuring that a Parliamentary inquiry was held. A memorandum originally presented to the Foreign Secretary was circulated widely, a special autumn mobilisation was called which featured oil sanctions-breaking as a top priority, stickers and other publicity material were produced, and the AAM succeeded in ensuring that resolutions in support of such an inquiry were adopted at both the Labour and Liberal Party Conferences.

In advance of the Parliamentary debate on the inquiry, a joint AAM/Haslemere Group memorandum was circulated to all interested MPs.

NAMIBIA

The 1978 Annual General Meeting of the AAM met in the wake of South Africa's refusal to accept the proposals of the UN Secretary General for independence for Namibia. Two resolutions adopted by the AGM set out the basis for AAM campaigns on Namibia during the year.

South Africa's UDI

During the past 12 months the South Africans have accelerated their plans for an 'internal settlement' in Namibia. In December it staged an 'election' which was hailed by South Africa and much of the Western media as a 'triumph for democracy'. The AAM liaised closely with the Namibia Support Committee in seeking to expose the fraudulent character of this 'election'. A demonstration was held outside South Africa House on 14 December by the AAM and NSC which included a vivid portrayal of the South African 'puppets' on a mobile exhibition. The AAM condemned the decision of the Conservative Party to send an official observer to the 'election'. The AAM assisted in the distribution of a detailed exposure of the 'election' prepared by the NSC and the London Co-op Society Political Committee.

The South Africans have persisted with their plans by effectively declaring 'UDI' with the establishment of a National Assembly dominated by the so-called 'Turnhalle Democratic Alliance'. In August 1979 a new Administrator General of the territory was appointed by the South African regime — Gerrit Viljoen, a well known leader of the Broederbond.

Western manoeuvres

Following the South African regime's rejection of the UN proposals in September 1978, the members of the 'Contact Group' — the five Western members of the Security Council — embarked on a series of desperate efforts to persuade the South Africans to cooperate with the United Nations.

At the end of 1978 the five Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group flew to South Africa and effectively condoned South Africa's unilateral action in calling the December 'election'. The AAM, in a statement which received wide publicity, warned that the West was pursuing a policy of appeasement with South Africa not dissimilar to Chamberlain's sell-out in Munich. Subsequently the AAM took up the possibility of British troops being included in any UN Transitional Force.

Following the General Election in Britain, the 'Contact Group' embarked on a new initiative which clearly favours the apartheid regime. Richard Luce, the new Minister with responsibility for Southern Africa, embarked on a tour of Africa for negotiations on Namibia, and subsequently Sir James Murray was appointed the Chief Negotiator for the 'Contact Group'.

Despite the consistent refusal of South Africa to implement the agreed proposals for the United Nations, the British Government and other major Western powers have refused to support any effective measures by the UN to terminate South Africa's illegal occupation.

Repression in Namibia

Within Namibia, the South African regime has intensified its

repression of opponents. Numerous SWAPO leaders and supporters were detained during the so-called 'election' and this was followed by a major crackdown on SWAPO in April which has effectively forced SWAPO's operation underground. More than half the territory was declared to be under martial law and the regime now has sweeping powers of arrest without trial. The AAM has given publicity to these developments, both in its general campaigning and through *AA News*, which included an extensive interview with Axel Johannes, the SWAPO National Organiser.

In April the AAM urged the British Government to condemn the detentions of SWAPO officials, and the issue was also taken up by SATIS in September, when it wrote to the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, asking him to act to secure the release of all those being detained without trial. This initiative followed further reports from SWAPO of widespread torture of detainees.

Namibia in struggle

A major event held in London on 17 February, 'Namibia in Struggle', was jointly organised by the AAM and the Namibia Support Committee. A combination of workshops, plenary sessions, films, etc, provided a unique opportunity for those concerned with Namibia to discuss the struggle in detail. In the evening a benefit concert was held.

The AAM assisted in publicising an event organised by the Namibia Support Committee on the anniversary of the Kassinga massacre.

Namibia Support Committee

The AAM continues to work closely with the Namibia Support Committee and to publicise its events and campaigns. There has been an encouraging response from AAM members and local groups to the various material aid programmes for SWAPO organised by the NSC, in particular their appeal for wellington boots.

The Namibia Support Committee launched a new publication, *Action on Namibia*, which now appears bi-monthly and carries valuable material both on the situation in Namibia and campaigns in Britain.

A particularly encouraging development was the speaking tour undertaken by Martha Ford, SWAPO's Secretary for Women, which was organised in cooperation with the NUS. Amongst the meetings she addressed was an AAM meeting at the TUC Women's Conference, which was the first such meeting ever held by the AAM and indicated the potential support for the AAM amongst women trade unionists.

Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract

The Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract (CANUC), originally based at the AAM, has moved to the NSC office from where it has been able to continue the campaign for the cancellation of the BNF contract for uranium from RTZ's Rossing mine in Namibia. It has received large grants from the Methodist Church and the World Council of Churches, which have enabled it to undertake valuable work. A petition is to be a central theme of its campaigning this autumn.

SOUTH AFRICA

International Anti-Apartheid Year

The period covered by this report includes the closing stages of International Anti-Apartheid Year. Much of the work organised to mark the Year was the responsibility of the International Anti-Apartheid Year Coordinating Committee, which was initiated by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the United Nations Association (for details of the formation of this Committee, see the 1977/78 *Annual Report*). The Committee successfully applied for a grant from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which enabled it to employ a full-time secretary for the final period of the Year. However, the grant was only confirmed in December and there was little time available to implement all the plans of the Coordinating Committee.

A separate report has been prepared by the Coordinating Committee, giving extensive details of the range of activities organised to mark the Year. These included the production and distribution of material about apartheid, the holding of a public meeting on 23 January 1979 which was addressed by the Foreign Secretary, Dr David Owen, the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Zambian High Commissioner, together with a special service and wreath laying ceremony outside South Africa House on 21 March — the final day of International Anti-Apartheid Year.

The major event organised by the AAM to mark the Year was a national demonstration on Saturday 21 October. This demonstration succeeded in mobilising several thousand supporters from all over the country. It culminated in a rally in Trafalgar Square which was addressed by representatives of the Southern African liberation movements and HE Luis de Almeida, the Angolan Ambassador in Brussels, who was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the rally. Messages were sent to the rally by a wide range of organisations supporting International Anti-Apartheid Year. Trafalgar Square was the scene of a spectacular protest against British collaboration with apartheid on the eve of the rally, when two supporters of the AAM climbed Nelson's Column to fly a banner denouncing Barclays Bank's backing of apartheid.

On 27 March a meeting was held in the Houses of Parliament, under the auspices of the International Anti-Apartheid Year Coordinating Committee, which was addressed by the AAM's Honorary Secretary, Abdul S Minty, and Mr Nyameke, the Ghanaian representative on the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, at which consideration was given to the 'International Mobilisation against Apartheid' which was called by the UN General Assembly to follow on from International Anti-Apartheid Year.

26 June — South Africa Freedom Day

South Africa Freedom Day 1979 provided the AAM with an opportunity to mark its 20th anniversary with a variety of events. The founding meeting of the AAM had taken place in London on 26 June 1959, at which the speakers included Father Trevor Huddleston and Julius Nyerere.

The National Committee discussed this anniversary at its meeting in February and requested the Executive Committee to draw up plans for a series of events which would provide an opportunity both to assess the work of the AAM over the past 20 years and, in particular, to look to the future.

The main activity was the convening of a one-day conference on the theme 'Southern Africa in the 1980s'. Guest speakers were Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress of South Africa, Josiah Chinamano, Vice President of the Patriotic Front (ZAPU), David Steel MP, leader of the Liberal Party, and E S Reddy, Director of the UN Centre against Apartheid. Bob Hughes MP, AAM Chairman, introduced a paper on the development of the AAM's

work, which had been prepared by the AAM's Executive Secretary for most of the 20 years, Ethel de Keyser, and Abdul S Minty introduced a paper prepared by Vella Pillay, a founder member of the AAM, on the tasks and responsibilities of the AAM in the 1980s. A large number of messages of greetings were received at the meeting from liberation movement leaders, African heads of state, and other anti-apartheid and solidarity movements. Many of those active in the AAM's work over the 20 years were able to be present for some, if not all, of the conference. Several anti-apartheid movements also sent representatives.

In the evening a mass rally was held at Friends Meeting House which was addressed by Lord Fenner Brockway, together with Oliver Tambo and Josiah Chinamano. The representative of the Swedish Africa Groups brought a message of greetings from other solidarity groups attending the 26 June events.

On the evening of 25 June the Acting High Commissioner for Nigeria generously held a reception for members and supporters of the AAM, together with members of the African Diplomatic Corps.

It is hoped to reproduce the contributions at the conference in a short booklet in order to stimulate discussion on forms of campaigning for the 1980s.

Repression in South Africa

During the last 12 months there has been a dramatic increase in the number of major political trials of captured guerrillas, reflecting the new level of resistance in South Africa. At the same time the regime has continued systematically to deny all fundamental rights to the black population and attempted to crush all resistance by imprisonment, detention without trial, banning and banishment.

SOLOMON MAHLANGU

The struggle to stop the execution of Solomon Mahlangu finally failed in the early hours of 6 April, when this young militant of the ANC was executed by the apartheid regime. The international campaign which had been launched following his sentencing in 1978 succeeded in mobilising support throughout the whole world. In Britain, following consistent campaigning, including marches, meetings, weekly pickets of South Africa House and petitions and letter-writing campaigns, the Foreign Secretary initially supported a Commonwealth appeal for clemency and finally intervened directly.

However, the South African authorities persisted with the execution, not only in defiance of the British Government but also in defiance of the US and French Presidents and numerous other appeals, including the UN Security Council.

In Britain the campaign, organised by SATIS and the AAM, produced postcards, leaflets, stickers, posters and other imaginative campaigning material. It culminated in a mass response outside South Africa House following the news that the execution was to be carried out and an all-night vigil of South Africa House prior to the execution.

The AAM was honoured to receive a message of thanks from Solomon's mother, Martha Mahlangu, expressing her appreciation of the efforts of the AAM and others in seeking to save her son's life.

CROSSROADS

A new development in campaigning against repression was the international action to stop the destruction of the Crossroads squatter camp. As reported in the last *Annual Report*, the Crossroads community appealed for international action in support of their struggle, and in Britain this resulted in the formation of the Crossroads Action Campaign. The Campaign

Committee, which included AAM but was mainly sponsored by different church bodies, held a press conference in November and a public meeting in London in December. The International Defence and Aid Fund produced a photographic exhibition for the campaign, which was presented at the Methodist Central Hall and Westminster Abbey. The campaign produced a leaflet on the situation at Crossroads which was widely distributed.

The campaign within South Africa and the international support led to the South African regime backing down from their original threat to destroy Crossroads by Christmas 1978 and subsequently the regime announced that it would rehouse some of the community. However, the campaign issued a statement explaining that the regime's concessions did not satisfy the Crossroads community. This retreat by the South African authorities turned out to be part of a new strategy by the apartheid regime to exclude Africans from white areas which requires employers to ensure that their African labour is legally able to reside in the area.

OCTOBER 11 and 18

October 11, the UN-designated Day of Solidarity with South African political prisoners, was marked in London by a large demonstration outside South Africa House. The demonstration, as well as being part of the campaign to stop the execution of Solomon Mahlangu, focused attention on other trials taking place in South Africa, including the 18 alleged members of the PAC on trial at Bethel and the trial of the SASM 11. A further demonstration took place on the day of sentencing of the SASM 11 - their case having been taken up by a number of groups in Britain, including the NUS and the British Council of Churches.

On October 19 the Fellowship of Reconciliation held a protest outside South Africa House to mark the first anniversary of the banning of the Christian Institute and of prominent South African Christians including Beyers Naude.

EEC DEMARCHE

A significant development in the international campaign for the release of political prisoners was the action by the nine members of the EEC, who presented a démarche to the South African authorities on 29 December 1978 calling for the South African Government to 'complete the release of all those imprisoned or restricted because of their beliefs'. This action reflected the growing pressure being mounted in Western Europe by the anti-apartheid and solidarity movements demanding that their governments act to secure the release of political prisoners in South Africa. Although the démarche was simply a diplomatic move, it produced a bitter response from the South African authorities.

A similar démarche was made by the nine EEC members shortly before the execution of Solomon Mahlangu urging the regime to grant clemency.

ANC TREASON TRIAL

A new development in South African political trials was the decision of the regime to charge a group of 12 alleged freedom fighters with treason. The trial also made legal history when the defendants refused to recognise the legitimacy of the court to try them.

A special campaign committee was established in London involving a number of groups, including the AAM, ANC and SATIS, called the ANC Treason Trial Defence Committee, which prepared a major campaign for the autumn of 1979.

The bulk of the work in campaigning against political repression in South Africa has been coordinated by the

Southern Africa-The Imprisoned Society (SATIS) Committee whose Chairman, Des Starrs, has ably combined his SATIS responsibilities with the Presidency of the AUEW (TASS) during 1978/79. Many organisations have taken up the cases of individuals who are banned or detained, or have organised their own activities. The most effective was undoubtedly that organised by the Mandela Pioneers, the Children's Section of the ANC, who organised a most impressive demonstration outside South Africa House at the beginning of the International Year of the Child to protest at the imprisonment and detention of children in South Africa.

SATIS has taken the initiative in calling a conference on the theme 'Repression and Resistance in Southern Africa' which it is hoped will assist in ensuring that the campaigns of solidarity with political prisoners and detainees in Southern Africa are made more effective. Special thanks should be expressed to the International Defence and Aid Fund and their staff for all the assistance which they have given to this area of the AAM's work.

'Muldergate'

The revelations of the 'Muldergate' affair confirmed many of the allegations which the AAM and others have made about the activities of the apartheid regime. Not only did they result in a whole series of front organisations but they also established the extent of the operations which the South African regime is prepared to undertake to hoodwink international opinion and to undermine the work of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Dr Rhoodie, in an interview on BBC television in March, whilst making a number of general statements about the Department of Information's operations, specifically admitted to the organising of 'disinformation' campaigns against the AAM. The AAM Chairman, Bob Hughes MP, at a press conference the following day, called for a full governmental inquiry into these operations and for the immediate expulsion of the Information Department attachés at the South African Embassy. The Foreign Secretary replied that he would consider very carefully any evidence of improper activities.

Earlier the AAM had taken up reports that the Department of Information was involved in trying to take over a number of publications in Britain and the publishing house of Morgan Grampian.

The exposures in the British and international press, whilst gaining considerable publicity and revealing a number of front organisations, have not resulted in any effective measures by the British Government to prevent such activities continuing. This is a matter which needs to be pursued with renewed vigour by the AAM.

Bantustans

The South African authorities have persisted with their Bantustan policies in the face of massive opposition from the black population of South Africa against a policy which has resulted in untold suffering. In September 1979 the South Africans granted so-called 'independence' to Vendaland.

Much of the AAM's work in this area has been the monitoring of any links with the bantustans. One issue taken up was the recognition of 'Transkei' stamps; another was an apparent link between Capital Radio in London and a new radio station of the same name in the Transkei. An apology was received from the BBC Monitoring Service, which had taken to having a special section on the Transkei.

FRONT LINE STATES

An important development in the work of the Anti-Apartheid Movement during the past few years has been the need to provide solidarity with the front line states, which have not only been providing essential support for the liberation movements but have also been repeatedly the victims of aggression by the racist regimes.

During the period covered by this report, relations with the front line states have been strengthened considerably. The AAM's Chairman, Bob Hughes MP, was a member of the ICOSA delegation which visited Angola, Mozambique and Zambia in October 1978, where he met the late President Neto and President Machel and Prime Minister Lusulo. In April 1979 an AAM delegation attended the AAPSO/UNIP conference in Lusaka and met leading Zambian officials, together with representatives of Angola, Tanzania and Mozambique. Again, in August 1979 an AAM delegation consisting of Bob Hughes MP, Joan Lester MP and Abdul S Minty attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference where they met Presidents Kaunda and Nyerere.

Relations with the High Commissions of Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia, and the Mozambique Angola and Guinea Information Centre (MAGIC) in London have also been strengthened during the past 12 months.

The practical needs of the front line states have resulted in an encouraging response to the appeals of the liberation movements for assistance to refugees in their care living in the front line states. Local anti-apartheid groups have raised considerable sums for the Solomon Mahlangu School in Tanzania, AAM supporters have been encouraged to respond to the fundraising campaign organised by the International Defence and Aid Fund for refugee children, and there was a massive response to the appeals of the Namibia Support Committee. The Anti-Apartheid Health Committee is planning to raise funds for medical assistance for the Patriotic Front.

Much of the general campaigning of the AAM has concentrated on the aggressive character of the racist regimes in Salisbury and Pretoria and their constant threat to the peace and security of the front line states.

Obituary

President Agostinho Neto



President Agostinho Neto, first President of the People's Republic of Angola and President of MPLA during Angola's long and difficult struggle for liberation, died on 10 September.

His great achievement was to lead the Angolan people to independence while never losing sight of the wider implications of Angola's struggle and success.

He believed that his people's struggle was inextricably linked with that of the peoples of the whole of Southern Africa and that Angola's independence could never be secure until the racist regimes in Salisbury and Pretoria had been overthrown. As soon as Angola became independent in 1975, he and his Party and Government turned at once to give practical aid to the African National Congress of South Africa, to SWAPO of Namibia and to the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

President Neto met many leading members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, both during MPLA's long struggle for liberation and subsequently as President of liberated Angola. He never failed to emphasise the role of international solidarity in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. Earlier this year he agreed to be one of the Founding Patrons of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, initiated by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

His death is an incalculable loss to the struggle for freedom in Southern Africa.

CAMPAIGNS

Military and nuclear collaboration

Campaigns to halt all military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa have been a central feature of AAM work throughout its history. The period covered by this report provided an opportunity to assess the effect of the UN mandatory arms embargo imposed against South Africa in November 1977. It has become increasingly clear that the embargo is interpreted in such a way by those states which are most capable of providing South Africa with the necessary military equipment and technology as to enable South Africa to continue its massive programme of military expansion unabated.

World campaign

In March 1979 the Anti-Apartheid Movement launched the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa at the Zambian High Commission in London. The launching meeting was presided over by the Zambian High Commissioner. The proposal for a World Campaign originated at the Lagos UN World Conference for Action against Apartheid in August 1977 and was endorsed by the following meeting of the AAM National Committee. The World Campaign has been established with the objective of working at the international level and in liaison with anti-apartheid movements at the national level to ensure that all military and nuclear collaboration is terminated.

The World Campaign has been honoured with the Patronage of the Heads of State of Tanzania, Botswana, Nigeria and Zambia, and the late President Neto of Angola. Its Sponsors include Coretta Scott King, Joan Lester MP, Olof Palme and David Steel MP. The Campaign's Director is Abdul S Minty.

The first action of the World Campaign was to publish the report of the UN Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa (see below). Further publications are currently in preparation: Abdul Minty was invited by the UN Security Council Committee on the arms embargo to give evidence at its first public session in March 1979.

Nuclear seminar

The Anti-Apartheid Movement was invited by the UN Special Committee against Apartheid to host a Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, which took place at the International Coffee Organisation from 24-25 February 1979. The Seminar was chaired by Ambassador Harriman, former Chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, and the Seminar's rapporteur was Abdul Minty. It was attended by a delegation of the Special Committee, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Southern African liberation movements, front line states, anti-apartheid movements and other non-governmental organisations. A number of experts and individuals prepared special papers for the Seminar.

The conclusions of the Seminar were adopted at a meeting of the Special Committee immediately following the Seminar and submitted to the UN Security Council for consideration. The Seminar called, inter alia, for a mandatory ban on all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa.

Currently a pamphlet is under preparation by a former Secretary General of CND, Dan Smith, based on the material prepared for the Seminar, which should prove to be invaluable as an instrument of campaigning.

ICL

The AAM continued to investigate the role that ICL play in providing computers for military and police use in South Africa. Based on information obtained by the AAM, a pamphlet was published and the material it contained was used in representations made by the trade unions organised within ICL to the management of ICL regarding their activities in South Africa. The AAM was able to establish that ICL computers were being used by both the Atlas Corporation and the South African police.

Although publication of this pamphlet succeeded in publicising the issue, as did the action taken by trade unionists at ICL who refused to work on equipment destined for use by the South African military and police, it was not possible either to stop the export or to persuade the Government to implement an embargo on computers for use by the South African military or police.

Plessey

In the summer of 1979 the AAM obtained reliable information that South African Defence Force personnel were training in Britain on a Plessey radar system, which was to be exported to South Africa for use by the South African military, and that the system included computers manufactured by Digital Equipment Corporation, a US computer company (the US arms embargo explicitly prohibits the export of US computers for use by the South African police or military). The AAM wrote to the Foreign Secretary asking for a full investigation and expressing concern about a possible breach of the arms embargo. The Foreign Office admitted that the equipment was to be exported but originally claimed that it was for civilian purposes only. However, following representations to the Foreign Secretary at the Commonwealth Conference by the World Campaign, the Prime Minister promised that the matter would be fully investigated. In September the Foreign Secretary wrote to the AAM confirming the presence of defence personnel and admitting that the system was for military use, but refusing to cancel the licences. The AAM again wrote seeking answers to five specific questions, but the Foreign Secretary refused to supply this information.

Representations were also made by the World Campaign to the US and Irish Governments (it is possible that the DEC computers were assembled in Ireland), backing up representations made by the Irish AAM and groups in the US. The UN Special Committee asked the Security Council to investigate the matter when this report was being compiled.

Economic collaboration

The major area of the AAM's work has continued to be campaigning against British economic collaboration with South Africa. These campaigns have involved supporters in the trade union movement, students, local activists and, in an encouraging development, much greater support from within the churches.

In addition to exposing the role of particular companies and banks, and campaigning against particular examples of economic collaboration, much of the AAM's work continues to be devoted to bringing about a shift in Government policy.

In the 1977/78 Annual Report, reference was made to the statement of the Foreign Secretary on the eve of International Anti-Apartheid Year apparently reflecting a governmental

decision to discourage economic relations with South Africa. However, the Labour Government refused to take any practical measures which would actually affect economic collaboration with South Africa.

Following the election of the Conservative Government, policy returned to that enunciated by the then Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan, in 1974. Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State at the Department of Trade, in a statement to the House of Commons on 24 May, said: 'The policy of Her Majesty's Government is that civil trade with other countries should be determined by commercial considerations and not by the character of the governments of those countries.' And he added that 'we cannot allow our trade with South Africa to be reduced'.

Clearly the AAM has to give serious consideration to the activities required to secure the adoption of a policy of sanctions by the British Government. Increased pressure by the international community will almost certainly lead to further moves by the UN Security Council to impose mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa and every effort must be made to prevent a British veto.

During the past year much of the AAM's work has concentrated on sustaining existing campaigns. Brief details are given as follows:

Leylands

Following discussions with the British Leyland Trade Union Committee, preparations are in progress for a joint campaign involving the production of leaflets, meetings, a pamphlet, etc. The campaign against Leyland's collaboration with South Africa received a special boost when the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford organised an exhibition of the work of Hans Haacke which featured a series of posters exposing Leyland's activities in South Africa. One of the posters was reproduced by the Museum of Modern Art and distributed widely in BL plants

ICL

The section on Military and Nuclear Collaboration in this report gives brief details of the campaign against ICL (see page 12). The pamphlet referred to, *Computerising Apartheid*, gave extensive details of ICL's operations in South Africa. The distribution of this pamphlet amongst ICL workers produced an encouraging response. In the pamphlet the AAM revealed that ICL were planning to establish a manufacturing plant in South Africa and the AAM was given an assurance that ICL would have to obtain Government approval for such a development.

Barclays Bank

Campaigns against Barclays Bank have continued to be one of the most popular forms of action in this field. Two days of action were organised on banking links with South Africa on 1 December 1978 and 4 April 1979. New campaigning material was prepared by AAM and NUS for the new academic year in 1979.

The AAM continues to work closely with the End Loans to Southern Africa (ELTSA) campaign in this aspect of its work. Further support for the end of all banking links with South Africa came with the publication of a report by the Christian Concern for Southern Africa, which reflected a major shift in CCSA's general policy.

The UN Centre against Apartheid published an invaluable report listing all known bank loans to South Africa, which was prepared by the US research group, Corporate Data Exchange.

Other campaigns on banks have focused on Standard Chartered and Hill Samuel.

Oil embargo

The possibility of an effective oil embargo against South Africa was greatly increased following the change of government in Iran. The AAM launched a major campaign following the publication of the Bingham Report calling on the Government to support a mandatory oil embargo against South Africa. This involved the distribution not only of AAM material but also the various publications produced by the UN.

In January there were reports that during the Guadeloupe summit a trade-off was agreed whereby the UK and US would guarantee South African oil supplies in return for South African cooperation over Namibia and Zimbabwe. The AAM took this up immediately with the Government and was assured that there was no trade-off. However, shortly after the return to power of the Conservative Government, it was disclosed that the new Government had permitted BP to swap North Sea oil for non embargoed oil, thus enabling it to meet its South African requirements. In a dramatic move on 1 August, the Federal Government of Nigeria nationalised all BP's assets in Nigeria.

Such retaliatory action by an OPEC member clearly further enhances the possibility that an effective oil embargo could be made a reality. This explains why South Africa has embarked on a series of programmes to find oil substitutes. Significantly, both BP and Shell are involved in some of these projects.

Consumer boycott

There have continued to be large numbers of local initiatives on the consumer boycott, the largest being that organised by the South East Region of the TUC which held a trade union week of action including picketing of shops selling South African produce from 30 October—5 November 1978. Plans for a nationally coordinated month of consumer boycott in June 1979 had to be postponed because of developments on the Zimbabwe campaign.

Trade missions

An important focus of local action has continued to be opposition to trade missions to South Africa and missions from South Africa to Britain. In the summer of 1979 the AAM published a list of 16 known missions during the next 12 months and called for local action to try and stop them proceeding. An encouraging trend has been the involvement of local trade unionists in opposition to such missions, despite the obvious consequences for local unemployment.

General work

Throughout the last 12 months the AAM has continued its general background work: a seminar on disinvestment was held for students in November; a further seminar for local activists and trade unionists took place in London in January; a range of background papers has also been prepared. Local AA Groups have been encouraged to promote discussion with church groups following the publication of the BCC report *Political Change in South Africa: Britain's Responsibility* (see *Churches*).

Further information is included under the Areas of Work section of this Report.

Sports boycott

The 1978 AGM of the AAM resolved that much greater pressure should be exerted on the Government to ensure the termination of all sporting contacts with South Africa. The

relevance of this resolution has become clearer throughout the year.

Early in 1979, *AA News* obtained a list of six rugby clubs which planned to tour South Africa during the summer of 1979. This disclosure led to major campaigns, of which the most effective were those coordinated by the South Wales Campaign against Racist Sport. This Campaign, which was initiated at a meeting in Llanelli, succeeded in arousing widespread opposition throughout South Wales to the three teams — from Llanelli, Cardiff and Newport — which visited South Africa. The Campaign culminated in a mass picket of the 'Bon Voyage' dinner at Llanelli on 28 June. Guests at the dinner included Edward Heath MP and the South African ambassador.

In August 1979 the Commonwealth Heads of Government met for the first time since the adoption of the Gleneagles Agreement. For the benefit of Commonwealth delegations, the AAM prepared a list, with the assistance of SANROC, of all known violations of the Gleneagles Agreement involving Britain. Although reference was made to Gleneagles at the Conference, no decisions were taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement.

During the summer the AAM, in cooperation with SANROC and Stop All Racist Tours (SART), began making plans for more intensive campaigning on the issue. This process was accelerated with the news that South Africa was inviting a group of top-class cricket players to visit South Africa in the spring of 1980, and the announcement that the Four Home Unions had invited a Barbarians rugby team to tour the British Isles in October 1979. Hectic preparations were in hand to oppose the tour as this report was being finalised.

Cultural and academic boycott

An extremely crucial area of collaboration between Britain and South Africa is in the cultural and academic fields. The numerous links which exist in this area play a major role in sustaining the apartheid system. The importance attached by the apartheid regime to collaboration in these fields was revealed by the exposures which emerged as a result of the 'Muldergate' affair (see page 10). A number of front organisations of the Department of Information, such as the Club of Ten, have since ceased to function.

The AAM's activities in sustaining the cultural boycott have not received a major priority during this period. The main focus of action was against the film *The Wild Geese*, which was picketed effectively in many towns and cities. The AAM also organised a series of protests against meetings called to mark the 10th anniversary of the Friends of the Springboks. In London the meeting at the Royal Commonwealth Society was only allowed to proceed following an undertaking that there would be no reference to South Africa during the proceedings.

A much greater priority has been attached to the area of academic collaboration with South Africa. Following the AGM, at which a resolution was adopted on this subject, a number of representations have been made to the Government regarding the British Council's programme of academic collaboration with South Africa. In addition, extensive research has been carried out into these and other links. It would appear that a major expansion of academic links with

South Africa is envisaged both by the British Council and by other bodies. This collaboration appears designed to give credibility to the institutions of apartheid.

Highly successful campaigns have been organised at the local level against individual academics visiting Britain. The best publicised example was the case of Professor Bekker of the University of Zululand, who was in Britain as guest of the British Council but who was refused permission to visit a number of universities and colleges.

It is planned that a more effective and coordinated campaign in this field of collaboration will be organised following the 1979 AGM.

War resisters

War resisters from South Africa and Rhodesia have continued to arrive in the UK and those with bona fide cases are being granted permission to remain in this country on the basis of the Home Office's policy as spelt out to the AAM delegation in 1976.

Through its continued discussion with war resisters, the AAM was instrumental in the formation of the Committee on South African War Resistance (COSAWR) at the end of 1978. Since its inception COSAWR has liaised closely with the AAM and its work has gone from strength to strength, most notably in the publication of its bi-monthly bulletin *Resister* which has been favourably received in a variety of circles. COSAWR's programme includes:

- The provision of assistance to war resisters in the form of advice regarding residence in Britain, employment, housing, education, etc.
- The involvement of war resisters in discussion groups, seminars and public meetings on the South African situation, as well as in anti-apartheid solidarity work in Britain.
- The raising of the issue of the increasing militarisation of the apartheid state and the resultant resistance to it, as well as campaigning for the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling on member states to grant asylum and assistance to refugees from the South African military.
- Research into South African militarisation and war resistance.
- The production of publications, information booklets, campaign documents, etc.
- Liaison with other organisations and groups in Britain and abroad on the issue of war resistance in South Africa.

At present COSAWR, in consultation with the AAM and SATIS, is in the process of launching a campaign to draw attention to the repression of war resisters within South Africa.

For the first time in UN history, the General Assembly gave recognition and support to the concept of conscientious objection to military service, when it approved by acclamation a resolution recognising the right of persons in South Africa to refuse service in military or police forces used to enforce apartheid. The resolution called on all appropriate UN bodies to provide all necessary assistance to conscientious objectors to apartheid. Members States were urged to grant such persons 'all the rights and benefits accorded to refugees under existing legal instruments'.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

During International Anti-Apartheid Year there was an encouraging development of interest in international solidarity with the liberation struggle in Southern Africa, which was manifested not only by intensified campaigning in areas with a history of anti-apartheid activity but also by the formation of new groups in areas which have previously expressed little interest in Southern Africa.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement, as one of the most experienced organisations in this area, has inevitably found it necessary to respond to these developments by increasing the scope and extent of its international work. However, it has sought to resist any pressures which could lead to this work developing at the expense of local and national work in Britain.

United Nations

Work with United Nations bodies concerned with Southern Africa has continued to be a vital aspect of the AAM's international work. During the period covered by this report, this has been demonstrated in a number of practical ways. The most significant was the invitation by the UN Special Committee against Apartheid to the AAM to host a Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration (see page 12). The Anti-Apartheid Movement also participated in two other meetings organised by the Special Committee — a Seminar in Jamaica in May 1979, which was officially opened by Prime Minister Manley, and a Seminar on Children under Apartheid, which took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in June 1979. Abdul S Minty was also invited to give evidence to the UN Security Council Committee on the Arms Embargo against South Africa in March 1979.

The United Nations General Assembly in January 1979 called for an International Mobilisation against Apartheid, and this was endorsed by the AAM National Committee when it met in February 1979, at which E S Reddy, Director of the UN Centre against Apartheid, was the guest speaker. Representatives of the Special Committee and the Centre against Apartheid have visited London on several occasions during the past 12 months and on these occasions there have been extensive meetings and discussions.

The AAM has been asked by the UN Special Committee to organise a Seminar on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa in November 1979, and plans were proceeding when this report was being prepared.

ICSA

As reported in the *1977/78 Annual Report*, at a meeting in London hosted by the AAM in March 1978 a Continuation Committee of the Lisbon World Conference was formed. This Committee was subsequently renamed the International Committee against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in Southern Africa, or ICSA. In October 1978 an ICSA delegation, including the AAM's Chairman Bob Hughes MP, visited the front line states of Angola, Mozambique and Zambia for extensive discussions with the liberation movements and the front line states' governments.

The AAM was represented by its Honorary and Executive Secretaries at the ICSA Praesidium Meeting in Paris in December 1978; the AA Health Committee participated in a workshop on material aid in Leiden in June; and the AAM has also participated in a number of meetings of the ICSA Secretariat. The AAM Executive Committee agreed that it

should be formally represented in ICSA by its Chairman, who is also a member of the ICSA Secretariat.

European Economic Community

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement hosted a major conference on the EEC and South Africa in January 1979, which provided the first opportunity for discussion of coordinated opposition to EEC collaboration with South Africa. The conference was attended by leaders of the Southern African liberation movements, including Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC of South Africa, together with representatives of the various anti-apartheid movements.

Following the conference, the anti-apartheid movements in the EEC countries prepared a joint appeal to the EEC electors which was released on the eve of the EEC parliamentary elections in June 1979, at a press conference in Brussels. Various discussions have taken place between the relevant anti-apartheid movements on means by which cooperation in this area can be improved.

Commonwealth

The AAM has liaised closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat on a number of matters relating to Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe and the Gleneagles Agreement. It was also decided that a delegation from the AAM should attend the Lusaka Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in August 1979. Thanks to the generosity of the Zambian Government, it was possible for a delegation of three officials of the AAM to visit Lusaka: Bob Hughes MP (Chairman), Joan Lestor MP (Vice President) and Abdul S Minty (Hon Secretary). The delegation presented a Declaration on Zimbabwe to President Kaunda and had useful meetings with a number of Commonwealth delegations. The presence of the AAM delegation in Lusaka received extensive publicity in the Zambian press and provided an opportunity to inform the people of Zambia and other Commonwealth countries of the extent of opposition in Britain to Government policy on Southern Africa.

Other international exchanges

The AAM has participated in a number of other international events. These include a conference on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, held in Bonn in November 1978; a conference held in New Delhi in September 1978, jointly organised by the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) and the World Peace Council; a joint AAPSO/UNIP conference in Lusaka in April 1979; and a seminar organised by the USSR Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in May 1979.

During the period covered by this report, liaison has been maintained with a large number of anti-apartheid and solidarity groups. Frequent meetings are held with representatives passing through London. In addition, groups from France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland and Canada were able to attend the events on 26 June organised to mark the 20th anniversary of the AAM.

In addition to anti-apartheid and solidarity movements, the AAM liaises with a number of international organisations concerned with Southern Africa, including the World Council of Churches, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the UN Non-governmental Organisations' Subcommittee on Apartheid, the World Peace Council and AAPSO.

AREAS OF WORK

The work of the Anti-Apartheid Movement would be impossible without the support which it obtains from a wide variety of different organisations and groups amongst different sections of the population. The Annual Report of the AAM has sought in the past to give a detailed account of the work done in different sectors, together with an assessment of the progress achieved. For reasons of brevity and expense, this Annual Report only covers the main features of work in different areas. This should in no way be interpreted as reflection any reassessment of the importance attached to any particular group within our society.

Local groups

Local group work has changed little in character from that outlined in previous Annual Reports, with most groups combining support for national campaigning work with local initiatives. The role of local groups has been especially noticeable in the national campaigns in support of the liberation movements' material aid projects and various aspects of the campaign against economic collaboration, especially the consumer boycott and banking campaigns, and more recently in Zimbabwe and the sports boycott. Local group activities in relation to specific campaigns are reported at greater length in other sections of the Report. Groups have continued to play an important role in extending and consolidating local links with the trade union movement and in fundraising, where the most successful activity of all was the second annual Walk for Soweto. This year there were more than 35 Walks and over £4,500 was raised for the Solomon Mahlangu ANC Freedom School and the educational work of the AAM. Two Walks raised in excess of £800 each.

In September 1979 there were 62 AAM local groups. Seven new groups have been formed during the year in Richmond (Surrey), Basingstoke, Aberystwyth, Tyneside, York, Swansea and Southwark. Four local groups have had to close — in Colchester, Eastbourne, Chelmsford and Loughborough. The Newham and South Essex group is being revived as the Newham group and attempts are continuing to form groups in a number of other centres, including Harrogate and Shrewsbury. There have also been efforts to form a Wales Committee of the AAM to coordinate anti-apartheid activities in that country in a similar way to that of the Scottish Committee, which has been linking together the work of the Scottish groups over the past two years.

Anti-Apartheid groups in Wales have been especially active in opposing tours to South Africa by three South Wales rugby teams in the summer of 1979, and played a major role in forming the South Wales Campaign against Racist Sport (see *Sports Boycott*).

The Scottish Committee hosted the AAM National Committee in December 1978 and held a 'Pot Luck' lunch as an alternative to that held by the Provost for the South African ambassador. The Committee also held a conference during the year of Women under Apartheid, and has formed a subcommittee on the International Year of the Child, which has had considerable success both in raising funds for the ANC Freedom School in Morogoro and in organising activities on children in South Africa. The Committee produced a four page broadsheet to mark International Anti-Apartheid Year. The Scottish trade union committee has expanded its work during the year and organised a highly successful conference for trade unionists on the theme Sanctions against South Africa, which was attended by over 60 delegates from throughout Scotland.

Amongst the special contributions that local groups in England have made in the last year have been those of two London groups, one of which — Camden — sold a record number of 250 copies of *Anti-Apartheid News* in one weekend. Camden has a consistently impressive record of such sales and other fundraising activities. Another — Barnet AA Group — has taken on the task of producing, marketing and

distributing tee-shirts and sweatshirts with the AAM logo.

Outside London, Manchester AA has developed a particularly close relationship with the North West Regional Council of the TUC, with which it now has a joint committee following a North West trade union conference on South Africa. Southampton AA Group achieved a particular success with a local campaign against the training of police from the Hampshire County Constabulary in South Africa. The arrangement was ended early in 1979. A number of groups played an active part in stimulating support for International Anti-Apartheid Year and in forming local Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committees, of which there were seven, mainly based on AAM local groups, by the end of the period covered in this Report.

Local groups have continued to meet together, usually in London, on a three-monthly basis, to exchange ideas and campaigning experiences and to discuss the AAM's work with members of the Executive. It is hoped that there will be a weekend conference for activists from local groups in January 1980 with local groups being closely involved in its preparations.

As noted in last year's *Annual Report*, local groups have consistently underlined the need for further resources to be allocated to local group work and there have been a number of criticisms during the year on aspects of the servicing that groups have received from the London office. Local group activity has expanded greatly in the period covered by this Report and this has led to an even more acute problem. The office has continued to produce a monthly Local Groups Mailing which provides background information on current and future campaigns.

Trade union movement

The AAM has continued to make a major priority of its work in the trade union movement, and during the last year has made a particular effort to secure support from trade unionists for the AAM's campaigns against economic collaboration with South Africa and for the imposition of UN mandatory sanctions.

The first major trade union conference since 1976, held in June 1979, had Sanctions against South Africa as its theme and title. The conference was attended by 174 delegates from national trade unions, union branches, trades councils and shop stewards committees. Speakers included the Assistant General Secretary of AUEW Engineering Section, Bob Wright, John Gaetsewe, General Secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), Arthur Chadzingwa, Chief Representative of the Patriotic Front-ZAPU, and Abdul S Minty, Hon Secretary of AAM. The conference adopted a Programme of Action which was subsequently distributed widely; it has been adopted by five national trade unions at the time of writing.

The Programme of Action includes a pledge to do all in the power of those adopting it to ensure that sanctions are

imposed on South Africa both by the action of trade unionists in Britain directly and through pressure on the Government to ensure that it no longer vetoes such action at the United Nations, and linked this campaign firmly to support for SACTU and the liberation movements in Southern Africa. The Programme itemised 12 points of action for trade unionists. It is intended that stimulation of support for the Programme should be at the centre of the AAM's trade union work over the next 12 months.

Another result of the conference was the adoption in July by the Transport and General Workers Union Biennial Delegate Conference of a comprehensive resolution pledging support for sanctions and full political and material support for the liberation movements.

Amongst other important decisions during the year were those of NUPE, which decided to withdraw its account from Barclays Bank, and the GMWU, which sold all its shares in companies with South African interests. The NUT decided to sell the remaining shares it has with such companies. In a different area, the National Union of Journalists produced a special pamphlet for distribution to union members entitled *Journalists: Repression and Truth in Southern Africa*. A number of national union journals carried information about AAM activities and special articles on Southern Africa.

A number of unions have been closely involved with the work of the AAM Health Committee, and the General Secretary of COHSE chaired the 'Apartheid or Health' conference organised by that Committee in February 1979. One further area in which trade unions have continued to play an important role is in campaigns against repression in Southern Africa, and the Solomon Mahlangu campaign attracted major support from a number of unions.

During the year the AAM has continued to send speakers to trade union meetings of all sorts, including national and sector schools organised by ASTMS and SCPS. The AAM was again present at several trade union conferences: meetings were held or bookstalls organised for the NUT, NUPE, ASLEF, USDAW, CPSA, Women's TUC and Scottish TUC conferences. The meeting at the Women's TUC heard a representative of SWAPO, Martha Ford. This was the first time that AAM has held a meeting at the Women's TUC. The AAM again held a successful meeting at the TUC Congress in Blackpool, which was attended by over 70 people who heard a representative of the Patriotic Front, the National Organiser of the TGWU, Ron Todd, and Gerry Gillman, General Secretary of the SCPS. The meeting was on the theme 'Zimbabwe - No Sell Out'.

Full details of TUC activity on Southern Africa are given in their report. Of particular interest to the AAM, however, was the reaction of the TUC General Council to the report of the Wiehahn Commission on Labour Structure in South Africa. The TUC refused to meet Professor Wiehahn when he came to London in June.

The TUC also assisted the work of the International Anti-Apartheid Year Coordinating Committee. Following a meeting between Lionel Murray, TUC General Secretary, and representatives of the Committee the TUC circularised all its national trade union affiliates and trades councils, regional councils of the TUC and the county associations of trades councils with details of the Committee's work and specifically drawing attention to a number of publications, including the booklet *Workers under Apartheid*, large numbers of which were distributed to trade union bodies throughout the country as a result.

The TUC Congress adopted a significant resolution pledging to do all in its power to ensure the full implementation of UN sanctions against Rhodesia 'until there is a settlement acceptable to the people of Zimbabwe and the international community' and recognising that if no settlement is reached 'United Nations sanctions should be extended to South Africa as the main sanctions breaker and

supporter of the illegal regime'. Congress reaffirmed its commitment to genuine majority rule and urged the TUC at all levels to respond to appeals from the people of Zimbabwe for humanitarian assistance. Twenty-two members of the TUC General Council subsequently sent a message of welcome to the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front on their arrival in Britain for the Lancaster House talks.

The AAM's campaign in support of the Patriotic Front's liberation struggle and the campaigns of the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee have attracted some support from the trade union movement, and the AAM has attempted to ensure a higher level of involvement by trade unions. ZECC's Statement of Intent on sanctions (see *Zimbabwe*) has been promoted by the AAM in order to ensure the creation of a strong trade union campaign for the retention and extension of sanctions.

One national trade union has affiliated to the AAM during the year - the National Union of Railwaymen. A number of trades councils and other trade union bodies have affiliated (see *Membership*).

Trade unions have continued to make an important contribution to the AAM's finances and the Trade Union Committee has decided that a major extension in trade union membership of AAM at a local level should be a priority for the year to come. The Committee has drawn up detailed plans for new publicity and background materials, and plans a series of five regional trade union conferences. Seventeen national trade unions are now represented on the Committee, although the AAM continues to have close relationships with the other 18 unions which are nationally affiliated.

The Trade Union Committee continues to enjoy a good working relationship with SACTU, whose advice has continued to be invaluable.

The 1978 AGM welcomed the involvement of AAM local groups in work with trade unions and urged even more attention by local groups in this area. While there has been no trade union week of action similar to the international trade union weeks of action referred to in the two previous Annual Reports, local groups have continued to extend their work in this area. This is an aspect of the AAM's trade union work which the Trade Union Committee has sought to emphasise and further attention will need to be given to this crucial aspect of our work in the coming year.

One especially encouraging development during the year was the Week of Action organised by the South East Regional Council of the TUC, in cooperation with the AAM, against Barclays Bank and South African goods in shops in the South East. Over 50 trades councils organised pickets and a special leaflet was produced by SERTUC.

The AAM has worked closely with trade unionists from a number of companies during the year, especially ICL (in connection with the sale of computers to South Africa), and has sought to generate support in the trade union movement for the Ever Ready and Glacier Bearings workers in South Africa. A seminar on investment in South Africa was organised in January to extend AAM links with trade unionists from major British-based multinationals. The AAM has continued to work closely with the British Leyland trade union committee, the national BP shop stewards committee, and has circulated a new poster on British Leyland Landrovers widely in BL plants in Britain.

In Scotland the Scottish Trade Union Committee has been successful in building up a strong relationship with the Scottish trade union movement at all levels and there has been a major involvement by trade unionists in their activities. The Committee held a trade union conference on 16 June 1979 in Glasgow on the theme Sanctions against South Africa which was attended by over 60 delegates from trade unions throughout Scotland.

A number of publications have appeared during the year which have been especially useful in the AAM's trade union

work, especially *The Workers of Namibia* produced by the International Defence and Aid Fund. *Anti-Apartheid News* will be reviving its special trade union page in the coming year.

Youth and students

The AAM has continued to benefit from extensive support from the student community, whilst a number of new initiatives have been taken to involve other young people in the AAM's work.

The main focus of student work has been through our work in cooperation with the National Union of Students. During the period covered by this Report, there has been a highly successful Disinvestment Seminar at Warwick University on 25 November; a series of seven regional student conferences in January 1979 and the annual NUS/AAM Southern Africa Conference in July, again at Warwick University, which proved to be one of the most successful student conferences ever held.

Student campaigning has continued to focus on the disinvestment campaign. Significant successes have been achieved during the year at the University of Wales, Aberdeen University, Birkbeck College London, University College London and Leeds University. The students at the London School of Economics sustained a highly effective hunger strike as part of the disinvestment campaign but failed to force the College authorities to disinvest. Other student campaigns have included opposition to academic collaboration with South Africa, picketing of recruitment campaigns, in particular that undertaken by Roberts Construction, and a planned boycott of the products of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries which culminated in their withdrawal from South Africa.

Work with different youth groups has proved to be much more painstaking. Liaison with the British Youth Council continues and the AAM has been invited to serve on the UNA Youth Council's Southern Africa Group. Most encouraging was the response of youth organisations to the Walks for Soweto, which it is hoped will be followed up during this year.

The AAM's work at a local level amongst students has in the recent period received less priority than our liaison with the NUS. To rectify this situation, the AAM established a student committee with activists from different parts of the country, meeting regularly to advise the Executive Committee and Student Organiser, and to help with much of the practical work. Paul Blomfield, an AA activist of many years standing and a former member of the NUS Executive with responsibility for Southern Africa, was chosen as Chairman of the Committee. One encouraging result of the Committee's work has been the growth of student AA groups. A number of members of the student committee were able to participate in the International Youth and Student Conference on Southern Africa.

Churches

There have been a number of encouraging developments with the churches in Britain during this year. The most significant will almost certainly prove to be the publication of a British Council of Churches pamphlet entitled *Political Change in South Africa: Britain's Responsibility*, which argues for a policy of sanctions against South Africa. If such a policy is endorsed by the British Council of Churches, it will represent a significant change in the BCC's policy. During the period covered by this Report, the AAM has continued to work closely with the officers of the BCC and arranged for the President of the ANC of South Africa to meet the BCC when he was in London for South Africa

Freedom Day.

A further significant development was the publication by Christian Concern for Southern Africa of a pamphlet on banking which called for the withdrawal of British banks from South Africa. Again, this reflected a major change of policy by a group which had originally argued vigorously for 'constructive engagement'.

The AAM has continued to develop links with particular denominations and other groups such as the Catholic Institute for International Relations, Pax Christi and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The church press has also reported on a number of AAM campaigns.

At an international level, not only does the AAM liaise closely with the World Council of Churches but numerous links exist with church groups in many parts of the world.

Schools

The AAM has been unable to devote major resources to this important area of work but has continued to develop some of the activities which have been noted in earlier Annual Reports.

One of the principal means by which we have been able to stimulate interest in schools has been through contact with local Teachers Associations of the NUT and the AAM once again held a successful meeting at the NUT conference this year in Scarborough, which was attended by over 80 representatives of these associations. There was considerable interest in the work of the Movement and as a result the Teachers Network, which the AAM has been establishing over the last two years, is more firmly developed, with some 200 teachers on the mailing list. It is intended to use this network of teachers to disseminate information about developments in education in South Africa and to ensure that campaigns against South African propaganda in schools and other collaboration are more widely supported.

Partly through the Teachers Network contacts, a number of teachers and their school students took part in the Walks for Soweto in May and June 1979, and one Teachers Association — Brent — organised its own walk. A number of schools already have a special relationship with the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom School in Morogoro, Tanzania, and it is hoped that we will be able to build on the new contacts to encourage further relationships of this sort. Support for the Walks was also received from the National Union of School Students.

The Scottish Committee of AAM has established a sub-committee on the International Year of the Child which has been sponsored by the Scottish IYC Committee. This has greatly enhanced the Committee's school work and as a result the campaign to raise funds for the Freedom School has gained major support. The Scottish Committee has also produced a broadsheet for use in activities connected with the International Year of the Child on Children in South Africa. A number of local groups in Wales and England have also organised special activities for the year of the child involving school students.

The AAM has sent a large number of speakers to schools during the year, and the IDAF publication for school use, *This is Apartheid*, continues to be of great value in this work. The SARAT publication, *Children of Soweto*, the AAM's posters for school use (on health and housing in South Africa, jobs and wages, repression, land and education), together with the slides and exhibitions produced by IDAF, have also been useful in this connection. The publication by UNESCO of a leaflet, *Apartheid in Black and White*, and a set of slides on apartheid has been a useful contribution to the range of material for use in schools. *Anti-Apartheid News* has carried a centre page spread on Children under Apartheid in its September 1979 issue and in June a centre spread on the

apartheid education system and the alternative of the African National Congress.

The AAM attended the International Seminar on Children under Apartheid organised by the UN Special Committee against Apartheid in Paris in June, where the exhibition, *Child Victims of Apartheid*, was displayed. It is hoped that this exhibition will be widely available during the coming year for use in schools and elsewhere.

Towards the end of the period covered by this report, the AAM had discussions with the National Association for Multiracial Education, and it is hoped that further support for our work with schools will result.

Black community

It is not possible to report any major development in support from the black community in Britain. Although relations exist with a range of organisations and they have regularly supported various AAM initiatives, it remains the case that the AAM's work does not make a significant impression in either the West Indian or Asian communities.

However, there has been some significant increase in support from anti-racist organisations. At a local level there is usually close liaison between AA groups and local ANL or similar groups. At a national level the ANL Conference in London in July voted to support a number of AAM campaigns.

This area of the AAM's work is one which requires much closer attention in the future.

Political parties

The Anti-Apartheid Movement continued to stimulate support for its policies from political parties and other political groups. The AAM again organised successful public meetings at the Labour and Liberal Party Conferences. An encouraging development was the decision of the Tory Reform Group, which held a meeting during the Conservative Party Conference as a contribution to International Anti-Apartheid Year. The speakers were Richard Luce, subsequently appointed Minister responsible for Southern Africa, and Garfield Todd. International AA Year and AAM literature was distributed at the meeting.

The AAM has continued to liaise closely with the Labour Party's International Committee and the staff of the International Department. Joan Lester MP, the AAM's Vice President, was elected Chairman of the International Committee following the 1978 Party Conference. The Labour Party has supported a number of AAM activities by distributing material and in other ways. The General Secretary, Ron Hayward, sent out a special circular urging support for the 30 June demonstration on Zimbabwe.

Liaison with the Liberal Party has been primarily with the Young Liberals and Union of Liberal Students, together with the Parliamentary Party.

The formation of the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee has led to the AAM working closely with a wide variety of political groups. In addition to the parties referred to above, ZECC is supported by the Socialist Workers Party, the International Marxist Group, Big Flame and other left groups. The Communist Party is also actively involved in ZECC and has supported the AAM's major campaigns, as has the Labour movement press, in particular the *Morning Star*, *Tribune* and *Labour Weekly*.

Parliament

Southern Africa has developed into one of the major, if not the most important, international issues and this has been reflected in the attention given to the subject in Parliament. One of the functions of the AAM is to supply material to MPs, encourage them to take up various issues — either in debates or through questions — and to respond to enquiries from MPs. Meetings are also arranged by the AAM for MPs to meet visiting liberation movement leaders and others concerned with Southern Africa.

In November 1978 a special meeting was held at the House of Commons addressed by Bob Hughes MP, who had recently returned from a visit to the front line states, and by Abdul S Minty, to which MPs of all parties were invited. A number of other meetings have taken place at the House of Commons.

The General Election provided an opportunity to bring the issues concerning Southern Africa both to the electorate and to candidates. A questionnaire was produced which local AA groups circulated to candidates asking their attitude to certain key questions, and an election leaflet was prepared which was distributed widely at election meetings, etc. A press conference was held during the election campaign to publicise the AAM's General Election campaign and to give the response of the AAM to the various Manifesto statements on Southern Africa.

A large number of MPs continued to give support to the AAM and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation for this assistance.

Health

One of the most encouraging developments for the AAM this year has been the effective activities of the AA Health Committee for Liberation in Southern Africa. This Committee, composed of AAM supporters studying or working in the health services, has organised a number of activities, of which the most significant was the conference on 'Health or Apartheid?' which took place in London on 3 February. The conference was chaired by the General Secretary of the health service trade union COHSE, and amongst the speakers was Dr Jablensky of the World Health Organisation. Two of the papers for the conference have been subsequently reproduced by the UN Centre against Apartheid. The conference helped to create a basis of support for the AAM in this area.

Following the conference the AA Health Committee decided to launch a bi-monthly publication, *Health or Liberation*, which, although a modest beginning, has the capacity to become a major weapon in the solidarity movement.

The example of the Health Committee also shows the potential for other areas of the population if it proves possible to find a group of individuals who are prepared to work in a dedicated way as the Health Committee has done.

In addition to general educational work and specific campaigns on medical collaboration with South Africa, the Health Committee is planning to raise funds for the medical needs of the liberation movements.

INFORMATION

Anti Apartheid News

During the year *AA News* has covered the escalating struggle in Southern Africa and played an important role in mobilising AA supporters in Britain in solidarity action.

It carried reports of action in International AA Year, including the 21 October demonstration, and of AAM initiatives such as the demonstration on Zimbabwe on 30 June, the Zimbabwe Month of Action in March and the formation of the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee. One of the newspaper's priorities during the year was the campaign to save the life of Solomon Mahlangu: when he was hanged on 6 April, *AA News* carried his last message on its front page.

The newspaper has given extensive coverage to events in Zimbabwe. Articles have included an analysis of the manoeuvres of the white regime by Reg Austin (October); a report on the Rhodesian economy by Rupert Pennant Rea (November); a report on the Zimbabwean refugee camps by a representative of the International Defence and Aid Fund (December); an analysis of the 'internal settlement' constitution (January/February); and a report on Tory MPs' links with Rhodesia (June). *AA News* has also campaigned against the hangings of freedom fighters by the Salisbury regime and exposed the torture and killings carried out by the Rhodesian security forces.

On Namibia, *AA News* has reported on the abortive negotiations between the Western Five and South Africa and on South Africa's fraudulent elections and stooge administration. It has also publicised appeals for clothing and medical supplies and educational materials for the refugees in SWAPO camps.

In-depth features have included an examination of the Wiehahn Commission's report (June); of the Muldergate

affair (July/August); of the war resisters' movement (May); of South Africa's oil crisis (October); and of education under apartheid (May).

The centre pages have carried photo features of 'The Crimes of P W Botha', on 'One Year of the March 3 settlement in Rhodesia' and a special report on a UN Seminar held to mark International Year of the Child, 'Children under Apartheid'.

The newspaper has featured a series of important interviews with leaders of the liberation movements – among them the President of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, Patriotic Front-ZANU leader Robert Mugabe, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Patriotic Front-ZAPU George Silundika, SWAPO Administrative Secretary Axel Johannes and B G Karuera, member of SWAPO's Executive Committee.

Other contributors have included Basil Davidson, Brian Bunting, Frank Hooley MP, Bob Hughes MP, James Wilkie, Africa Secretary of the British Council of Churches, Peter Mandelson, Chairman of the British Youth Council, E S Reddy, Director of the UN Centre against Apartheid, Sam Ramsamy and Chris de Broglio of SANROC and Abdul S Minty.

It has also reported on several important international conferences – among them the UN Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa held in London (April); the Dublin conference on links between the EEC and South Africa (March); the AAPSO/UNIP conference in Lusaka (May); and the Workshop organised by ICSA in Leiden (July/August).

AA News's circulation has remained steady at around 7,000 copies and it has held its price at 10p.

Publications

There have been only two new AAM publications during the year covered by this report – *Computerising Apartheid*, a short pamphlet on the role of ICL in South Africa, and *Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa*, the report of the UN Seminar on the subject published by the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa.

In addition, the UN Centre against Apartheid has reproduced a number of AAM papers and, of course, the AAM continues to promote the Centre's Notes and Documents Series as a whole.

The main material produced during the year has been campaign material for particular campaigns, eg leaflets, stickers and badges for the Solomon Mahlangu campaign, material on Zimbabwe including a highly popular 'No Tory Sell-out' badge.

The AAM office has during the year updated the literature list, which is distributed to all new members and in response to any inquiries. Once more the International Defence and Aid Fund has published a number of excellent pamphlets which are invaluable to AAM supporters, and there continues to be a tremendous demand for their full range of publications. Also a range of liberation movement publications are distributed through the AAM office.

A number of new posters have been produced during the year for particular campaigns or events, most of which have been designed by David King, to whom we would like to

express our appreciation. Two of the series of posters which he designed for AAM won international prizes in poster competitions in Warsaw and Helsinki.

Services

In the course of the year the AAM sent speakers to 168 meetings of different organisations and groups. This number itself is only an indication of the total number of meetings taking place on Southern Africa, since it is only the number of AAM speakers. In addition, the AAM office works closely with the liberation movements and with organisations like MAGIC and NSC to ensure a comprehensive speaker service on Southern Africa.

In addition to requests for speakers there has been a dramatic increase in demand for slides and exhibitions. A new slide show on apartheid was obtained from UNESCO and there continued to be a great demand for the IDAF slide show on Soweto. IDAF also produced two new photo exhibitions in poster form on Zimbabwe and on Nelson Mandela. These have been hired out by the AAM office.

The AAM office no longer distributes films itself but makes use of the services of a number of film distributors. The AAM 'Open Door' film is now available from Concord, as are several new films on Southern Africa. However, much time and effort is still involved in advising groups on suitable films and ensuring that they are able to obtain the appropriate film.

Media

The media's reporting of events in Southern Africa has developed into a major issue in campaigning on Southern Africa. The AAM has found it necessary to complain on a number of occasions at the biased reporting of events, in particular by the BBC. There has been considerable research undertaken on the subject and at the NUS/AAM Student Conference Tony Trew of the University of East Anglia lectured on the subject. The AAM also cooperated with the Namibia Support Committee in a study of the press coverage of the 'elections' in Namibia in December 1978. The Campaign against Racism in the Media has also been working on the issue and invited the AAM to a

number of meetings to discuss the convening of a Conference on the Media and Southern Africa. The National Union of Journalists produced their own pamphlet on the subject which contained very interesting material.

The AAM's task remains to try and secure sympathetic coverage of the liberation struggle and to seek publicity for its own campaigns. Despite the increased hostility to the liberation struggle, it remains possible for the AAM still to make an impact in the press and other media. AAM spokesmen have been interviewed on television and on BBC, LBC and Capital radio, and there has been publicity of a number of AAM campaigns. It remains the case, however, that it is extremely difficult to obtain publicity about the AAM itself. For example, the 20th anniversary of the AAM received negligible publicity.

AAM regularly distributed press releases and statements to the media and a number of press conferences have been held for liberation movement leaders in London, on Zimbabwe, ICL, nuclear collaboration, etc. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many journalists who have helped us the AAM during this period.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

The 1977/78 *Annual Report* stated that the AAM's financial situation would have to be a major priority during the coming year and so a number of initiatives have been taken to raise the income of the AAM.

These included a fundraising concert on 10 February, which was so successful that many had to be turned away; an International Anti-Apartheid Year Raffle and a special appeal to supporters to give a day's pay to AAM. In addition, the AAM has received grants from the World Council of Churches and the International Defence and Aid Fund (the latter to assist with the preparations for the AAM's 20th anniversary activities).

Despite these initiatives, the AAM's financial situation remains far from satisfactory. Staff wages have had to be

increased and costs of printing have continued to escalate dramatically. It will prove necessary to increase the cost of *Anti-Apartheid News* because of increased production costs.

As reported earlier, the AAM is seeking alternative accommodation and this will almost certainly lead to increased rent and rates.

The AAM would like to thank all those who have contributed to the AAM's fundraising campaigns, including those who have performed at fundraising functions and those who donated prizes for the raffle. Above all, we would like to thank the AAM members, many of whom regularly give large donations to the AAM and respond generously to the President's annual appeal.

ORGANISATION

MEMBERSHIP

AAM membership has remained almost unchanged over the past year and now numbers 2,450 individual members and 340 affiliated organisations. There has been a drop in new members: last year 641 people joined the Movement, compared to 429 having joined this year.

A number of measures have been discussed to ascertain why the AAM continues to have such a large turnover of members and to encourage new members to become involved in AAM work. There remains a great disparity between the number of supporters and the actual number of members.

However, to end on a more optimistic note, affiliation within the trade union section continues to increase. There are now 123 national and branch trade unions and trades councils contributing to the Movement.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is the major opportunity during the year for AAM members to play a part in formulating the activities of the Movement for the year ahead. Every year the July newsletter invites members and affiliated organisations to submit resolutions to the annual meeting and to nominate individual members to serve on the National Committee. At the AGM itself, usually held towards the end of October, members discuss and vote on the resolutions and elect the 30 individual members from those nominated.

The 1978 AGM was very well attended. Fenner Brockway, who had just celebrated his 90th birthday, was invited to address the meeting, together with the President of the USSR Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee who was in London as a guest of the AAM. Resolutions were adopted on the major questions confronting the AAM, although time was such that not all resolutions could be formally debated.

The National Committee subsequently reviewed the arrangements for the AGM and agreed on means of ensuring that all matters can be discussed. These new arrangements will be put into operation for the 1979 AGM.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee is the policy-making body of the Movement. Its members comprise the President, Vice Presidents and Sponsors, the 30 individual members elected by the AGM, representatives of up to 20 national organisations affiliated to the Movement and representatives of local Anti-Apartheid Groups. The National Committee also invites observers to its meetings from Southern African liberation movements and from organisations or groups supporting the aims of the AAM. Up to 10 individuals may be coopted to the Committee.

The National Committee met on six occasions during the past year. The first meeting following the AGM elected the new Executive and other officers of the AAM. The first full meeting was on 6 December in Glasgow, where detailed proposals were put forward by the Executive Committee for campaigning during 1979. At its meeting on 26 February, E S Reddy, Director of the UN Centre against Apartheid,

introduced a discussion on the International Mobilisation against Apartheid.

The most significant National Committee meeting was that held immediately following the General Election on 12 May, at which a number of important steps were agreed, including the calling of an Emergency Demonstration on 30 June and the reforming of the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee. Meetings of the National Committee also took place on 3 July and 14 September. At the latter the Political Report of the AAM was adopted.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, which advises the National Committee and sees to the execution of policy decided on, is the working committee of the Movement. It is elected by and from the National Committee and consists of six officers of the Movement — the Chairman, two vice Chairmen, Hon Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Secretary — and eight individual members. It can coopt up to six individuals to assist it in its work.

It meets at least monthly but can also be called upon to meet more often should the situation demand it. In addition, the Executive Committee calls occasional meetings for in-depth discussion on particular aspects of the situation in Southern Africa.

AAM OFFICE

The headquarters of the AAM at Charlotte Street are now far from adequate to meet requirements and so the Executive Committee has been involved during the year in seeking alternative accommodation, so far without success. Lack of space has also prevented any increase in the staff of the AAM and adequate facilities for volunteers.

There have been a number of changes in the office staff. Sheila Allen, who served as Clerical Secretary for some 15 years, decided to move to New Zealand following a major operation. Her cheerful personality and loyal support are missed by all who knew her. Also, Betty Northedge had to resign as Membership Secretary because of a serious operation following over five years of dedicated work ensuring among other things that *AA News* actually reached every subscriber. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ilva Mackay, who served as a temporary Membership Secretary whilst Betty was in hospital, and to Garth Strachan who worked for 18 months as Student Organiser up to June 1979.

The new staff at AAM — Charlotte Sayer, Clerical Secretary, Sue Longbottom, Membership Secretary, and Cate Clark, Student Organiser — have had to accept very heavy responsibility during a period of intense campaigning, and we hope very much that members and supporters will give them all the support they need.

It has been true of this year, more than any other, that the AAM would have ground to a halt if it had not been for the many volunteers, without whom only a fraction of our work could be done. Their willingness to help out at all times and in all manner of ways ensures that the AAM makes the impact it must if the British people are going to contribute to the cause of freedom in Southern Africa.

