

United States-Southern Africa

SPRING PROTESTS PLANNED

[AN] Buoyed by two well-attended national conferences in New York last month, anti-apartheid activists are gearing up for "Two Weeks of Action in Support of Southern African Liberation Movements" next Spring. Organizers want to mobilize the diverse groups working on southern African issues for a cooperative effort to arouse public concern.

The largest of the two New York gatherings — the Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggles of the Peoples of Southern Africa, held October 9-11 at New York's Riverside Church — attracted some 1,000 delegates from political, religious, trade union, and other organizations across the country. The National Student Anti-Apartheid Strategy Conference at Hunter College a week earlier drew participants from fifty campuses in twenty states.

The American Committee on Africa, which organized the student meeting, proposed the Spring action to both conferences, where it won strong backing. The kick-off date for the two weeks is March 21, the anniversary of the Sharpeville demonstrations in South Africa in which 67 protesters were killed by police. The end date is April 4, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination.

To prepare for the action, regional sessions are being held — in California earlier this month, in Amherst, Massachusetts (for New England), on November 21, and in New York City (for New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Washington,

D.C.) on December 5. Northwest, mid-west, and southern regional meetings are planned for February, probably in Eugene, Oregon, Champagne-Urbana, Illinois and New Orleans.

Much like the two New York conferences, the Spring action will mobilize around four political themes: support for liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa; calls for the withdrawal of U.S. corporations from South Africa and for an end to all academic, cultural, and sporting ties with that country; opposition to the Reagan administration's warmer relations with the white government; and linkage of the southern African issues with opposition to racism in the U.S.

Last month's solidarity conference adopted what is being called The New York Declaration, which outlines the three purposes that brought participants together: "1) to expose the increasing collaboration of the U.S. government and corporations with the South African apartheid regime and its continued illegal occupation of Namibia; 2) to mobilize the people of the U.S. to compel our government and corporations to end their collaboration with racism, colonialism and military aggression in southern Africa; and 3) to organize mass support in the U.S. for the liberation movements of southern Africa, led by the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia."

The Spring action proposal differs in one respect from the Solidarity conference. The liberation movement

support clause is not limited to SWAPO and the ANC, but by implication includes the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), the other outlawed South African movement, which is also recognized by the Organization of African Unity.

The ANC and SWAPO were listed as co-sponsors of the Solidarity Conference, while PAC was excluded

from participation. "We are inspired by the example of the men and women of SWAPO and the ANC, who having exhausted all peaceful means, have been compelled to take up arms," the New York Declaration says.

The conference document goes on the lambast the American government for "forging a deepening alliance with the criminal apartheid,

France/Africa

DIPLOMACY PAYS OFF

[AN] An unprecedented thirty African nations gathered in Paris last week for the annual Franco-African summit, an event that provided French President Francois Mitterrand with a vote of confidence in his foreign policy.

Nineteen African heads of state attended the sessions, as well as delegations from non-French-speaking African countries such as Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

France's Socialist government, which took office in May, has not abandoned efforts to maintain French influence and economic ties with its former colonies and other African states. But it has sought to avoid the heavy-handed interventions of the previous government of Giscard d'Estaing, and it has shied away from the confrontational stance now being advocated in Washington.

In the view of many observers, then, the high turnout and amicable tone of the discussions at last week's summit reflect a degree of African enthusiasm for

Mitterrand's low-key approach to France's role on the continent.

In September and October the French leader received visits from seven African heads of state, not only from former French colonies Chad, Cameroon, Benin, Comoros and Madagascar, but also from Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola. Earlier visitors included President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Prime Minister Habib Thiam of Senegal, and Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius.

Among those leaders not received earlier, though in attendance at the summit, is President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, the head of state originally slated to host this year's Franco-African summit. Mobutu was a close friend of Mitterrand's predecessor, Giscard d'Estaing, who sent paratroops to help suppress the Shaba uprisings in 1977 and 1978. Now, however, Paris is concerned to distance itself from Mobutu, and, in



NAACP Meets With St. Aug. Students

Several student leaders at St. Augustine's collaborated during an All-college assembly which led to a joint interview with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Emmett Burns, Regional Director, NAACP. L-R: Ms. Sammie Brown, editor, THE PEN, Student newspaper; Muhammed Jah, president, International Student Association; Rev. Dr. Emmett Burns, Regional Director, NAACP; and Austin Cooper, vice president, Student Government Association (SGA). Rev. Dr. Burns spoke on "The Reagan Administration: Impact and Response of Blacks, Women, and The Poor."

addition to moving the summit site, the Socialist government has refused to pledge future military support in the event of a new crisis for the Zairian leader.

A similar stance of restraint in the use of military power was evident with respect to the Central African Republic, where in 1979 French troops had played a prominent role in removing Emperor Bokassa and replacing him with President David Dacko. As Dacko moved this year to suppress opposition, France pointedly refrained from signs of support, and in September, when army commander Andre Kilingba took over from Dacko in a bloodless coup, French troops in the country stayed in their barracks and made no move to intervene.

North-South economic issues and Chad were the major items of discussion at last week's summit. In September, Mitterrand hosted a United Nations conference on the plight of the "least developed countries," including 22 nations in Africa. And in talks with other world powers, as in Cancun, Mexico, last month, France's conciliatory stand toward negotiations on economic issues has contrasted sharply with that of the United States.

On the Chad question, France has shared the American concern about the expansion of Libyan influence, especially into French-speaking areas of west Africa such as Chad, whose President Goukouni Oueddei called in Libyan troops last December. But while the U.S. news media have often portrayed Libyan involvement as a 'take-over,' and while close U.S. allies Egypt and Sudan have supported Hissein Habre's guerrilla opposition to the Chad central government, France has sought to enable President Goukouni to gain more independence from his Libyan ally.

Last week the strategy appeared to pay off, as Libyan troops began to depart N'Djamena on the eve of the Paris meeting, following a request from President Goukouni.

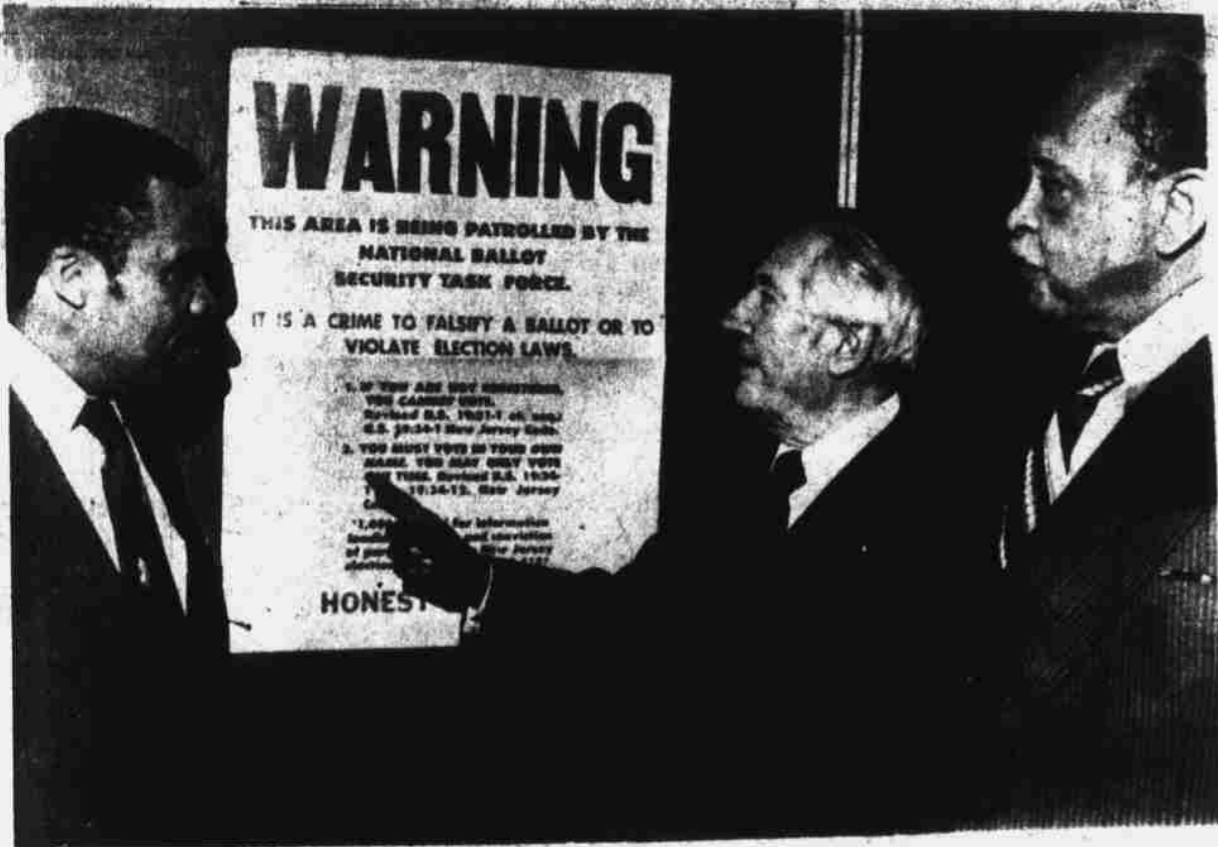
The exodus was to have been completed by the end of the week, and Libyan troops have already reportedly been withdrawn from eastern Chad, where they have faced Habre's guerrillas.

Reportedly as a result of French pressure, Habre declared a cease-fire last week, and an inter-African peacekeeping force is envisaged to help maintain order in the country.

Organization of African Unity Chairman Daniel Arap Moi, Kenya's president, is overseeing preparations for the deployment of the neutral force in Chad. The OAU has failed in past attempts to mediate the Chad conflict, and the organization's prestige will be

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TRENTON, N.J.—Kenneth Gibson, Mayor of Newark; Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) and Civil Service Commissioner S. Howard Woodson look over one of the "warning posters" found posted illegally within 100-yards of the polling places election day as they hold a news conference. The three Democratic leaders charged the posters were placed by a group calling itself the National Ballot Security Task Force to intimidate voters and are linked to the National Republican Party. UPI Photo



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