

## Forum

### Local group supports S. African cause

A group of concerned citizens has come together and become a part of a national movement, the South Africa Crisis Coordinating Committee, in order to refocus attention on the continuing struggle of blacks in South Africa to gain freedom, justice and equality in their homeland. This ecumenical group is united with the persecuted churches in South Africa which have recently been under severe attack, with bombings and other forms of harassment directed against them.

The South Africa Crisis Coordinating Committee, or SACCC, wants to establish a lasting network of dedicated and committed Americans who are willing to stand for truth against apartheid until South Africa is free. It also desires to build a spiritual union and solidarity between local U.S. religious leaders, churches and community groups and the struggling church and people of South Africa.

Thus a call to action has been sent out, titled "From Pentecost to Soweto," which is an initial campaign that will begin with a series of coordinated activities on Pentecost Sunday, May 14, and will continue through June 17, when there will be a major rally and march in Washington, featuring the Rev. Allan Boesak and many other prominent leaders and entertainers. Lobbying efforts will take place on Friday, June 16, both locally and in Washington, in order to bring pressure on our governmental officials to support strong comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa.

June 16 is also significant because on that day in 1976 many children were massacred in the township of Soweto. It is hoped that these activities, which are a part of an ongoing national campaign, will bring attention to the crisis in South Africa.

The situation in that racially divided country is at an intense stage.

Not only blacks but whites who support the anti-apartheid movement are sacrificing their lives on a regular basis. Just last week, prominent white activist David Webster was gunned down by white extremists who con-

Africa is at a standstill or that things are improving for the majority black population there. This is certainly not the case.

Blacks are forced to live in "bantustans," so-called homelands where



#### GUEST COLUMN

By ELWANDA D. INGRAM

tinue to believe that whites are the superior race. Their beliefs echo the white supremacist groups here in the United States, such as the skinheads, the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups.

This should make all of us aware that what is happening in South Africa is not an isolated case. Racism is not only abroad but in our own country and seems to be on the rise. That is why we need to support the efforts of SACCC.

The members of SACCC want to bring attention to the fact that since the imposition of a national "State of Emergency" in June 1986, thousands have died in various disturbances.

More than 40,000 people have been detained, with at least 50 percent of that number being women and children under 18. It is not uncommon for these detainees to be beaten and tortured, no matter how young they are or what sex they are.

An estimated 700 South Africans have been convicted as political prisoners, and more than 400 have been sentenced to death and hanged. Organizations have been banned and churches have been persecuted.

Often U.S. national news shifts its attention to other parts of the world, which may create a false impression that the struggle in South

the land is not suitable for growing their own food. Thousands have to leave their townships daily to work in large metropolitan cities where their labor is needed but not their presence after working hours.

South African males who work in the gold mines are separated from their families at least 10 months out of the year. They have no chance to move up the managerial levels in the company.

There is a high rate of infant mortality in South Africa because poverty is widespread.

Yet the people continue to protest. They are willing to resist, to be jailed, even to be killed, because they are just in their cause.

Local efforts during the "From Pentecost to Soweto" campaign will include prayers, teach-ins, film showings, lectures and an ecumenical service featuring church leaders from South Africa who will be on a national speaking tour to focus attention on the crisis in South Africa.

Plans are being formulated to sponsor a bus to Washington for the June 17 rally. The Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, is coordinating activities here in Winston-Salem.

Dr. Elwanda D. Ingram teaches English at WSSU.

### The Third World needs our help

NEW YORK -- A recent headline told it all: "Rise in Hunger Seen As World's Harvests Fall and Costs Soar."

The story reported on a United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization statement that said 15 countries require "exceptional or emergency" food aid. If the present situation continues, more could be added to that grim list. World food grain production has fallen for the past two years. Food reserves are shrinking. Another drought in the United States or a low harvest elsewhere could lead to widespread famine in the most vulnerable parts of the Third World.

More than half a billion people around the world are undernourished, and the situation will worsen over the next several months. The United Nations expects the tonnage of free food from western countries to decline by about a fourth in 1989.

While the big food-producing countries bicker about subsidies to their farmers and cutting "surplus" production, many millions in the Third World starve.

Rising prices are making it even tougher for paying customers in the Third World to import food through

#### TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

normal trade channels. Many of those countries are over their heads in debt and have cut back living standards drastically in order to pay interest charges.

The world debt issue is too often discussed in terms solely concerned with its impact on western financial institutions, but there should be more focus on its impact on Third World hunger and on the need for development programs.

Proposals floated in western treasury ministries focus on how to relieve some of the debt repayment pressures on Third World countries without endangering the banks, usually through creation of government facilities that would refinance the loans.

The poorer countries are advancing proposals of a different kind -- to limit debt and interest repayment to a portion of foreign export earnings, to forgive some of the debt, or to enact a moratorium on it.

Whatever final agreement emerges, it will have to allow breathing space for the poorer nations to

revitalize their economies and raise their living standards. Their western creditors should understand that it is in their long-term economic interests to prevent the Third World from suffocating in the debt choke-hold.

A big part of the troubling U.S. trade deficit, for example, is due to the drastic slowdown of trade with Latin America. We once had a trade surplus with that region, but the area is in a depression due to the strain of debt repayments, and trade has slowed.

So aid to help develop the poorer countries' economies is a good investment. The better off they become, the more they will import from the industrial world. But United States foreign aid investments are declining. Japan's are rising, and that could hurt us in the long run, since foreign aid donors often become the country of choice as trading partners.

With the Cold War winding down and the Soviet Union expressing an interest in cooperating with the West in regional issues, the time may be ripe for a sustained effort by all of the industrial countries to provide development aid and emergency food supplies to the Third World.

### Chronicle Mailbag

From Page A4

protect us.

I urge each of you to take the time and very small expense to call Rep. Decker in Raleigh at 733-3272 or in Walkertown at 595-4864. Your voice urging Rep. Decker to support these tougher measures could mean the difference in their passage. Last year 378 lives were lost in North Carolina in alcohol-related crashes, and 14,803 people were injured. We need to let those who would drink and try to drive know that we will no longer tolerate their crime. New legislation would send this message.

Frances G. Wells, State Director  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

#### A cocaine story

To The Editor:

She is a very bad girl. She has a desire that is very strong and wicked. When she is around, there is no more

love. She makes a dog out of a man and a woman. With her strange taste and possessive way, she take full control over your mind. She causes so much pain and sorrow. She makes you believe in her and then robs you for everything you have. She steals your love, tender mercy, money, homes, cars, lives and respect for yourself and others. She will take you for a walk all night long.

I have seen her make a righteous man lie to his Saviour, and rob him, for his own pleasure. This is a very, very bad girl. I have seen her raging through neighborhoods killing and laughing. This bad girl is worse than a terrible storm. If you see her, please turn her away. Don't give her a chance to introduce herself to you. She has made so many mothers weep and moan. She has made so many fathers scream and shout to their sons and daughters, "You get out!" Will someone please listen and hear. That girl,

that very bad girl, will kill.

I've never known someone so bitter and cruel. If you see her anywhere tell her to please go away. She will fool you and will make you think that you can really handle her, when all along she slowly pulls you down. She will possess you and tell you lies. When you start to believe in her and really think that she will be here for you, what a surprise you will get.

Go to the mirror and look, and you will see that she is not here at all, but she will leave her mark upon you. Your body will look so small and drained and your mind will feel so much pain from what she has done to you. She has a name, and I'm sure by now you know. Stop -- don't call her name! Neither will I, because she just might hear us and make a show. God help us to destroy her, please.

Sylvia Boyd  
Winston-Salem

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