

Sheffield Anti-Apartheid



NEWS

September/October 1992

Help us to our £2,000 target

FUNDRAISING FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN NATAL

Raising money for the Mayibuye Health Centre in Natal, the ANC region with which Yorkshire and Humberside AAM is twinned, continues to be a high priority for our activities for the remainder of this year.

Members will recall that we have committed ourselves to providing the money for the ANC to purchase an all purpose vehicle for the health centre - to be used to rescue people from the violence and to transport medical supplies and other goods.

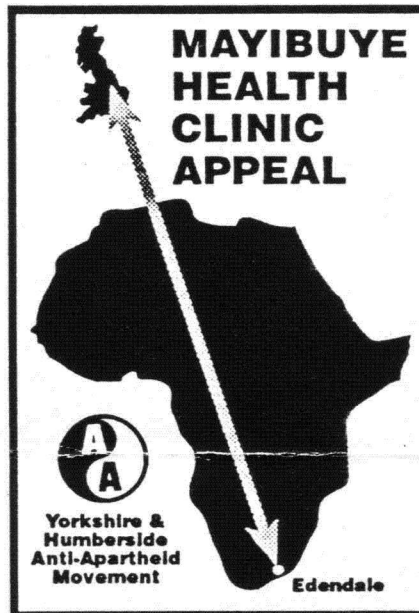
Sheffield AAM and the region as a whole have successfully reached their mid-year fundraising targets. In early September Richard Caborn M.P., Chair of Sheffield AA, will be visiting South Africa. He will present the ANC Natal Midlands Branch with a cheque for £3,500. This includes £1,200 raised by Sheffield members.

However Sheffield AAM still has an ambitious target of £800 to reach by December and therefore the programme of fundraising activities continues:

FLAG DAY Sheffield City Centre	Sat September 26th 10-4pm
ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK Sheffield Round Walk	Sun October 18th 10am
CAROL SERVICE Sheffield Cathedral	Thurs December 9th 7pm

SPONSORED WALK

This year's annual walk is the 10th organised by Sheffield AAM. Let's mark this special event with a special effort to raise funds. Enclosed with this mailing is a leaflet/sponsorship form promoting the walk. Please order extra copies, (just phone 739147), to distribute wherever you can to build support for this important fundraising event.



FLAG DAY - 26 September

The success of flag day depends on having a plentiful number of volunteers willing to shake a tin around the City Centre - Barkers Pool, Fargate, The Moor and so on. The more people who help, the more money we will raise!

Please spare an hour to help the victims of violence such as that seen recently in Boipatong

PHONE THE OFFICE NOW WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP

Leave a message and a phone number and we will get back to you with details for the day.

SPECIAL-SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING-SPECIAL

We will be discussing fund raising activities at our monthly meeting on Friday 4th September at 6:00pm in S.A.R.C. 8 Backfields Sheffield.

Even if you don't usually come to meetings please come and help us plan the Flag Day and the Sponsored Walk in detail.

Also at 7.00 p.m. we will have a chance to hear Nomsa Ndaba from the University of Zululand, South Africa speak on:

"Empowering Rural Women in Kwa Zulu"

Ms Ndaba has recently launched a women and development organisation in South Africa and we are fortunate that she is able to spend some time with us. **ALL WELCOME!**

Dear Member,

At the beginning of this month South Africa experienced the most impressive display of mass action in its history. Although the full impact on the negotiating process is not yet predictable, it is clear that the ANC has confounded its critics with an unparalleled demonstration of united, disciplined and organised protest.

The two day national strike and three days of nationally co-ordinated protests which followed were the climax of the ANC protest actions spreading throughout the country in support of demands for majority rule and an end to the violence. On the 3rd and 4th of August the vast majority of black workers, around 90%, stayed away from work in response to the call from the ANC and COSATU. On the 5th August Nelson Mandela led a march of 50,000 people on the Union Building in Pretoria, the nerve centre of South African government, and tens of thousands held simultaneous demonstrations in cities across South Africa.

The De Klerk regime is now on the defensive, both within South Africa and internationally. It is vital that the momentum of campaigning is sustained if the pressure is to be sufficient to compel De Klerk to accept a democratic settlement. There have been a number of significant developments at the international level which have helped to increase the pressure on the South African government and AAM's efforts locally and nationally have made an important contribution towards achieving this progress.

In mid-July the United Nations adopted Security Council Resolution 765, having considered amongst other documents, the concluding statement of the "International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa" (see over). This resolution represented a major breakthrough for the ANC in that it opened the way for international monitoring of the violence. There has also been a shift in British policy - Britain voted in favour of the resolution - representing a breakthrough for AAM's campaigning work. As a result of Resolution 765 Cyrus Vance was appointed as UN special representative to South Africa and he flew out later in the month for discussions with all parties in order to draw up recommendations on measures necessary to end the violence.

However, there is a danger that the UN monitoring of the violence will suffer the same fate as the National Peace Accord - well intentioned but ineffective. Instead, there is a need for an international operation which will require the apartheid government to surrender many powers which it clings to on the grounds that it is a sovereign state. The UN needs to remind De Klerk that he rules by a constitution which the UN Security Council declared in 1984 to be "null and void". The regime has no legitimacy and the UN presence in South Africa must therefore be one which can effectively bring an end to the violence.

With continued internal pressure and with a prominent role at last being played by the international community, De Klerk seems ready to make some concessions to open the way for a democratic and non-racial future for South Africa. The ANC is on the offensive and it is essential that we in the AAM maintain the momentum of our solidarity through the critical period ahead.

With best wishes,

Diana Mead
Secretary

ACTIVITY IN SHEFFIELD

Boipatong - South Africa's Day of Mourning

June 29th the day of the funeral of 37 of the victims of the massacre at Boipatong was marked in Sheffield by solidarity action. Approximately 30 people gathered on the Town Hall steps with placards and banners and 1000 leaflets were distributed to members of the public.

COSATU General Strike

Anti-Apartheid Movements around the world organised protests and pickets to demonstrate solidarity with the ANC's mass action campaign and the first day of the general strike on August 3rd.

In Sheffield a number of trade unionists joined AA activists outside the Town Hall (picture below) to show their support for majority rule in South Africa and an end to the violence.



STOP THE VIOLENCE - PEACE AND DEMOCRACY NOW!

Sept 13th this year marks the second anniversary of the horrific train massacre in Soweto. The need for pressure for international monitoring of the violence continues to be a priority for the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

September has been designated a month of action on violence, with a special focus on the weekend, 12th and 13th when Britain will be hosting a conference of European Community Foreign Ministers near Welwyn Garden City - South Africa will be on the agenda. A national demonstration has been called, hopefully involving the participation of AAM's in all EC countries.

We would like Sheffield AA to be represented at this demonstration - if you are able to go please contact the office (Fares/transport will be covered).

DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 12th September

Assemble 1:30pm

Welwyn Garden City BR station
(westside) outside the
Howard Centre Shopping Mall

March departs at 2:00pm
to meeting of European
Community foreign ministers,
Brocket Hall

Phone 739147 now for details of the
free transport from Sheffield

ANTI APARTHEID MOVEMENT 1992 AGM

The National AGM this year will be held on 12th December in London. As a local group Sheffield AA is entitled to several delegates. If you are interested in going please phone the office.

NOVEMBER MEETING - SPECIAL!

The General Secretary of the Namibian Council of Churches, Dr Shejavali, will be speaking at our November monthly meeting. *All Welcome.*

Friday 6th November at 7:00pm

following business as usual at 6:00pm,
SARC 8, Backfields S1

British Policy Towards South Africa

On 3rd August, the first day of the strike in South Africa, a delegation from AAM including Sheffield AAM chair, Richard Caborn MP, met with Baroness Chalker at the Foreign Office and presented a detailed memorandum outlining major errors in government policy towards South Africa.

Although a gulf remains between AAM and the Government, recent shifts in Government policy allowed for a reasonably constructive meeting. The government acknowledged for the first time that progress had to be made to end the violence before negotiations could take place. This was a welcome move by the British Government which had previously prevailed upon the ANC to return to negotiations immediately. The Government also indicated that it would support a sizeable international monitoring presence and would respond positively to proposals arising from the Vance mission to South Africa.

International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa

This was convened by Archbishop Huddleston, with the help of the AAM, in London on 14-15th July. It was attended by over 200 participants from 27 countries, including 16 experts and witnesses from South Africa. The hearing helped to focus international attention on the violence in South Africa and the role which the international community could play to help stop it.

The hearing concluded that there is no prospect of bona fide negotiations taking place, as envisaged in the UN declaration on South Africa unless the international community acts immediately to:

- (i) ensure, through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms, not only the effective monitoring of the violence which would require wide investigative and other powers, but also the means to end the violence.
- (ii) apply the maximum possible pressure onto the South African government so that it takes effective steps to stop the violence on the basis of positions set out by the liberation movements as well as religious bodies trade unions and other organisations.
- (iii) participate fully in the process of establishing a new democratic order, in order to prevent the South African government from continuing to frustrate the achievement of genuine democracy.

It was clear from the contributions of speakers that the people of South Africa are desperate for peace and justice. They shared their pain with participants:

"For how many years must we travel the world pleading with the west to listen to our agonised cries". (Rev Frank Chikane)

The concluding statement of the hearing was presented to the UN Security Council meeting in New York the next day.



Sheffield Anti-Apartheid Movement can be contacted at 8 Backfields, Sheffield, S1 4HJ
Telephone 0742 739147 Tuesday 10am - 4pm, Wednesday 10am - 6pm, or leave a message at other times