Keeping the pressure on

Despite arrests, anti-apartheid protests continue

By Ronald R. Hanna
AFRO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

South Africa can expect continued protest by black American leaders before its U.S. consulates, and prominent leaders jailed at the South African Embassy this week emerged from confinement to announce expanded opposition here to the white-minority-ruled nation.

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Thus far three U.S. congressmen and four prominent black leaders have been arrested either within or outside of the South African Embassy, 3051 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Following the Thanksgiving eve detainment of Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.) and Randall Robinson, head of the foreign policy group TransAfrica, Rep. Charles Hayes (D-Ill.) and Rev. Joseph Lowery, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference head, were jailed Monday evening.

At a Tuesday protest outside the embassy, Rep. John Conyers (D-Mi.) and William Simons, president of the Washington Teachers' Union, were also arrested. Additional protesters continue to march outside of the embassy, and protest organizers announced this week that the "Free South Africa Movement" will continue, intensify and expand nationwide.

After their release from jail Tuesday morning, Lowery and Hayes were joined by Fauntroy and Robinson outside the courthouse to voice their continued commitment to the protest. Lowery and Hayes were released on personal recognizance after pleading not guilty to charges of unlawful entry, and a trial was scheduled for Jan. 4.

In addition to protesting the apartheid policies of South Africa, protesters are demanding the release of 13 trade unionists arrested in South Africa following a two-day strike Nov. 5 and 6. The unionists have not been heard from since their arrest, an issue Fauntroy and Robinson attempted to address to South Africa's ambassador, Bernard G. Fourie, when they were arrested Nov. 21 for refusing to leave the embassy.

The protest is also aimed at altering the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, and following their release Tuesday morning, both Hayes and Lowery hinted that the trade unionists might be harmed while in custody of the Pretoria government.

"Our colleagues knew where we were last night," Lowery said. "In South Africa, we don't know where they (the trade unionists) are."

After initial silence concerning the protest, Ambassador Fourie issued an angry denouncement of the movement when the arrest of Conyers and Simon gave indication that the protest was mounting. He compared the actions to the Iranian takeover of the U.S. embassy, as protest orgahizers said the movement was growing around South Africa consulates in other American cities.

"There's going to be a broadening and widening of the movement," Lowery said. "This is not a black and white (issue). It's a good and evil issue."

Robinson, TransAfrica's head, joined Lowery in laying the blame for increased action against blacks in South Africa on Reagan's reelection and the continuation of the administration's policy of "constructive engagement."

"It's no accident that South Africa intensified (oppressive measures) after Reagan's reelection," Robinson said.

Hayes, whose arrest Monday followed Fauntroy's and was reinforced by Conyers in highlighting the involvement of black congress members in the protest, also pointed to U.S. support for the Solidarity labor movement in Poland as indication of the administration's "two-fold approach" towards South Africa's black labor movement and those in other foreign nations.

"I've had a longstanding interest in bringing about justice for black people in South Africa," Hayes said, adding that he would continue actions aimed at gaining the release of the 13 trade unionists "if they're still living."

PROTEST — The anti-apartheid protest in front of the South African Embassy here continues. Shown here is Rev. Joseph Lowery being led to a police car. Among those arrested with Lowery was Congressman Charles Hayes (D-Ill.).

Proposed budget cuts include social programs

President Reagan was handed a "Draconian" package of proposed federal program cuts for the 1986 budget but he delayed making a decision on the matter.

The meeting lasted for 90 minutes.

"It will be a full-fledged menu," an administration official said, with cuts for the next fiscal year totaling around $40 billion.

The goal, the official said Tuesday, is backing the $200 billion deficit down to $100 billion by 1988 with nearly every domestic program, except for Social Security, on the chopping block.

"You can say the cuts will be Draconian," said the official.

Reagan will meet with his budget "core" group headed by director David Stockman. Aides emphasized that the budget cutting is a group effort and not a scalpel wielded by Stockman alone.

During the session, the president, who has already had an overview of the projected cuts, was expected to issue his marching orders to Stockman on how to proceed and what the spending ceilings will be.

Reagan, who sailed through his re-election campaign without specifying how he would curb growing budget deficits, has flatly ruled out cuts in Social Security and opposes slowing the growth of Pentagon spending.

Along with interest payments on the national debt, those programs add up to two-thirds of a budget that is expected to approach the $1 trillion mark for the first time.

Among programs facing deep cuts, according to reports that have not been denied, are farm supports, veterans' benefits, Civil Service and military retirement and student loans.

Other options that have been discussed include raising the cost of Medicare premiums for the elderly, cutting subsidies for Amtrak and rural electrification, abolishing federal agencies such as the Job Corps, the Export-Import Bank and the Federal Aviation Administration and eliminating some urban programs.

Aides said Reagan will try again to dispose of several agencies, including the Legal Services Corp. and the Economic Development Administration, which Congress has so far kept alive.

The current budget allocates about $297 billion to the Pentagon. $260 billion for Social Security and Medicare and about $125 billion in federal debt payments.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes characterized the process as one of telling the president which programs can be cut by how much to hit the 1988 deficit target.

The administration has said little publicly about the president's plan, which is predicated on his refusal to raise taxes to reduce the deficit.

Reagan is not expected to comment on his plans until formal submission of the budget to Congress in late January or early February.

"There's no budget till there's a budget," spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

One idea raised in recent years — an across-the-board spending freeze — is not likely, Fitzwater said.

"Every year that's always an option," he said. "Every year it's discarded. It takes away your flexibility to make budget policy. It's an easy answer, but you lose all control."

Cong. Mitchell announces military appeals process

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th-MD) announced today that the military is implementing an appeal process for service personnel discharged as a result of drug urinalysis tests.

Congressman Mitchell stated, "For some time I have been concerned that the drug urinalysis tests used by the military affected primarily black and other minority service persons, resulting far too often in their discharge from the service under less than honorable conditions. Therefore, I am very pleased that an appeal process is now being implemented."

The Maryland Representative indicated that he had sent letters to twenty-four young black men who had filed complaints with his office, advising them of their right to appeal. Mitchell also strongly recommended that all persons who believe they are victims of a faulty military urinalysis test to file an appeal.

"Despite the fact that a substantial number of appeals have been turned down, any person who feels that they have not been treated fairly should exercise the right to file. Some appeals have been approved," Mitchell stressed.

Any person interested in filing an appeal is advised to contact the nearest branch of the American Red Cross. Trained counselors are on hand to give free advice and help in filling out DD Form No. 149. In all cases, the date, location and name of the urinalysis testing procedure utilized will be very helpful. DD Form No. 149 may be obtained at any Red Cross branch office, any local Veterans Administration organization, or at any recruiting station.

The conditions of the appeal process are as follows:

ARMY:

1) Any Army personnel still on active duty has two options

a) Submit Department of Defense (DD) Form No. 149 to the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records (BCMR).

b) Submit DD Form No. 149 to the Department of Army Suitability Board.

2) Out of Service Army personnel must submit DD Form No. 149 to the Arms BCMR.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS:

Any Naval or Marine Corps personnel — active or out-of-service — may submit DD Form No. 149 to the Naval BCMR. (Note: The Marine Corps has initiated special investigations separate and apart form the BCMR into allegations of faulty urinalysis test.)

AIR FORCE:

Any Air Force personnel — active or out-of-service — may also submit DD Form No. 149 to the Air Force BCMR.

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Volunteers are a vital entity at Urban Services Agency

Annually, more than 2,000 persons give their free time to assist the Urban Services Agency. This agency offers a variety of programs to the low-income population of Baltimore City. Services include, but are not limited to early childcare, energy and weatherization assistance counseling and referral, senior citizen and youth programs, transportation, sanitation, cultural arts, etc. "Our programs could not operate without volunteers," says Dorothy M. Jordan, the agency's Volunteer Services Coordinator.

"Volunteers have been an integral part of the agency since its inception," says Jordan. Urban Services, prior to the 1974 merger, was the Community Action Agency and the Model Cities Agency. At that time, Community Action Programs were mandated, by the Office of Economic Opportunity, to have a volunteer component. However, the federal mandate no longer exists, but volunteers continue to make valuable contributions in all facets of the agency.

While many of the volunteers are community residents, the agency provides an invaluable on-the-job experience for many college students aspiring to enter the field of social work. Student volunteers in the agency have not only come from the local schools such as Coppin and CCB; but from schools as far away as Amherst College (Mass.) and Spelman College (Atlanta).

Some of the jobs volunteers serve in at Urban Services are: community aides, receptionists, clerks, messengers, drivers, assistants to counselors, economic development aides, information and referral assistants, advisory board members, members of the Urban Services Commission, income tax assistants, and energy advisors.

Doris Epps, volunteer at Center No. 13, 1401 Hollins St., runs weatherization workshops, not only weekdays, but on weekends. Head Start Volunteer, Lincoln White, logged in 3,000 hours during 1983, and is still going strong. There are volunteers like Mattie Richardson who worked 40 hours a week during the winter months to aid Neighborhood Center No. 9 at 1079 N. Gay St. Many volunteers are retired. Others are still in high school. Volunteers are professionals like dentists and doctors who do health screening and speak at various workshops. Head Start has a special volunteer category of teacher aides.

One of the major recruitment drives, says, Mrs. Jordan, is devoted to AFRAM. Over 150 volunteers, including Urban Services staff volunteers, as well as many community people work the concession stands, parking lots, the outdoor stage, and perform other duties as required.

If you care about people and want to lend a helping hand, contact Dorothy Jordan at 396-5186.

Doris Epps, a volunteer at the Urban Services Agency Center No. 13. She is a trained Energy Assistance Intake Worker and a Weatherization Workshop Facilitator for the agency.

Black couple alleges bias at downtown apartment building

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

A black couple, Carlton and Valicia Young, has filed a $1 million suit alleging racial discrimination in the rental of a downtown apartment at 1301 St. Paul St., at the Earl Court Apartments.

According to the suit filed on October 13 in Baltimore Circuit Court, the plaintiffs were given false information as to the availability of an apartment.

The action was brought by Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI), a non-profit civil rights agency that monitors housing practices.

The BNI routinely uses testers, black and white volunteers who pose as housing applicants in order to test housing practices.

The suit charges that four black applicants, two of whom were testers from BNI, were discouraged from renting at 1301 St. Paul St., while two white testers were encouraged to rent.

The suit also charges that the plantiffs were harmed by being given "untruthful information" about available apartments and "denied housing in the area of their choice, thus causing them serious insult and loss of dignity."

The suit further charges that the defendants, Albert G. Aaron and Jonathan P. Aaron the building's owners and Ada Kling, the rental agent "have engaged in a pattern and practice of discriminating against black persons" in leasing apartment units in the building.

These actions are in violation of both the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

The suit is the second such action brought against the defendants in recent months. Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. was a plantiff in the earlier lawsuit, which was filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court on August 13, 1984.

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Low-income families urged to join winter heating plan

The State Department of Human Resources is encouraging all eligible low income Maryland families who have not joined the Winter Heating Protection Plan to join the program as a protection against utility shut-offs this winter.

The Winter Heating Protection Plan, which was developed by the Public Service Commission, is in effect from November 1 - March 31, 1985. The plan will enable eligible low income families to pay a minimum amount each month to keep their gas and electric service turned on this winter.

In addition, households who have already had their service turned off can get it turned back on without any reconnection fee or additional security deposit by paying a minimum amount or a percentage of their bill, whichever is greater, and joining the Winter Heating Protection Plan. By joining the plan, families will be protected from subsequent turn-offs as long as the minimum monthly payments are made.

"The Winter Heating Protection Plan is an excellent option for anyone who is income eligible," said Shirley Marcus, director of the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. "Even those families who generally pay their entire utility bill each month may find that one month this winter they are in a bind. By joining the program, they can pay the lesser amount and keep their service on."

Eligibility for the Winter Heating Protection Plan is the same as for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. A family must apply and be found eligible for MEAP in order to participate in the Winter Heating Protection Plan. Eligibility is based on 50 percent of the federal poverty level. Depending upon income, a household can expect to pay from 20 percent - 30 percent of each month's current bill while on the plan.

Registration for the plan is being taken at local intake centers for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (see attached list) and at public and private agencies throughout the State.

For more information call (phone no.). Baltimore City residents may call the Urban Services Agency at 396-5555 for the location of the intake center nearest their homes. Outside of Baltimore City a statewide toll free number 1-800-352-1446 is available.

Dr. Reesby, 88, weds divorcee age 63

Dr. Delmonico McKinley Reesby, 3115 Walbrook Ave., a longtime and prominent physician and Mrs. Cleaver Reynolds Poag, 4515 Spring Ave., Baltimore County, were wed Nov. 21.

Court records reveal the 88-year-old doctor and his 63-year-old bride were married by Rev. Reginald J. Daniels at his Madison Avenue residence.

The new Mrs. Reesby, a native of South Carolina, has twice been divorced with the latter occasion in August, 1984. Records show she applied for the marriage license at the Court House on Nov. 15. The license was issued Nov. 19 and signed by Mrs. Saundra E. Banks, clerk of the court.

Dr. Reesby's wife, Mrs. Beatrice Reesby, died in June, 1983.

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