

AGREEMENT  
CONCERNING VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

BETWEEN

Martin Media Communications  
and  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Todd Martin, d/b/a Martin Media Communications, hereinafter MARTIN, of 140 Maple Avenue, Catskill, New York and Merton Simpson, as co-chair of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, hereinafter COALITION, P. O. Box 3002, Albany, New York hereby state for an agreement regarding the filming and production of a video documentary about Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism and its history.

1. The COALITION and its' member will cooperate in providing MARTIN access to clipping archives, organizational files, personal recollections, resource people, etc. All COALITION materials remain the property of the COALITION or individual member.

2. The COALITION is entitled to copies at cost of all "raw" video footage filmed by MARTIN or provided to him by other source.

3. No documentary or other video product shall be released or distributed to the public or any third party by MARTIN without the written agreement of the COALITION.

4. Any obligation of the COALITION to participate financially in the expenses of the production of this documentary shall be in writing and signed and acknowledged by two (2) members of the Coalition Steering Committee.

Dated: March 22 , 1991

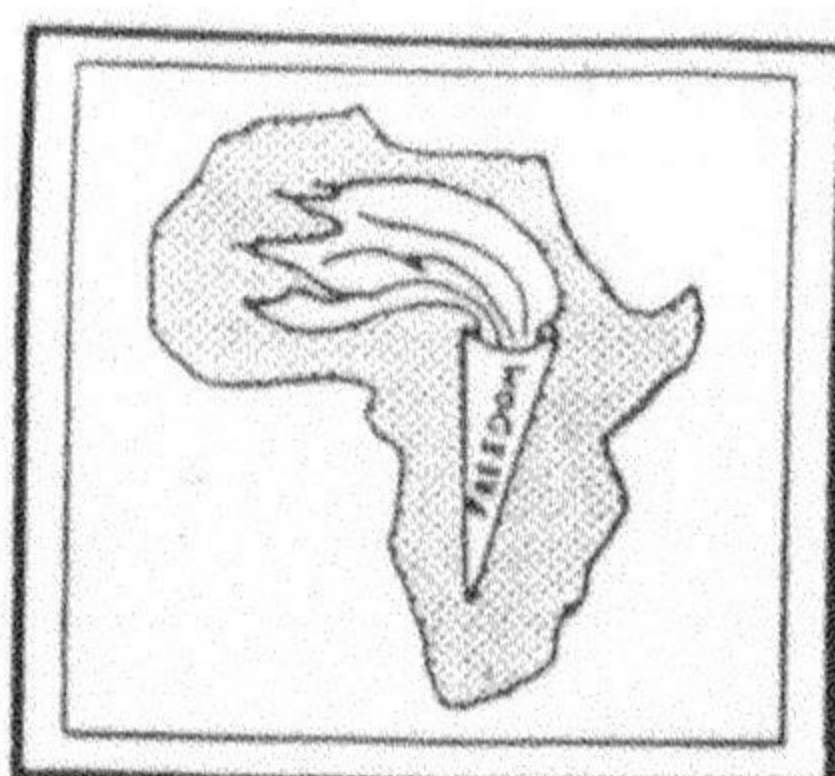
Martin Media Communications

By: Todd Martin  
Todd Martin

Dated: March 22 , 1991

Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism

By: Merton Simpson  
Merton Simpson



Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

2/12/91

Ms. Anne Pope, President  
NAACP  
95 Livingston Ave  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Anne,

At the recent January CDCAAR meeting, members reviewed a number of activities we had sponsored or worked on in the past several weeks. Among these events was the Anti Klan Counter Rally co-sponsored by the NAACP and the CDCAAR.

What follows is a summary of the strengths and weaknesses noted by some of our members.

It was felt that the event was an overwhelming success. The attendance, 1,500, went far beyond our expectations and the crowd was extremely diversified. In part this could be attributed to the endorsement of over 30 organizers.

It was felt that the people responded quickly to the call for assistance, the Marshalls were well trained and much was accomplished in a very short period of time.

Advance press was good and comprehensive. The working relationship between the NAACP and CDCAAR was seen to be positive.

The goal of the counter rally had been to provide a way for broad sectors of the community to concretely unify behind the Klan in a peaceful way. That goal was achieved despite the altercations that occurred after the rally was over.

There were a number of areas that we felt needed strengthening and could be instructive for future events. They are:

1. Marshall Buddy plan may have been too restrictive and may have left some Marshalls feeling that they couldn't move without their buddies.
2. More Marshalls were needed due to the size of the crowd.
3. Marshalls may have been positioned incorrectly at one point (outside the picket line and spectators).

4. Counter Rally area become too defuse and spread out
5. More security was needed at the podium. Speakers' backs were not covered. Marshalls need to provide a buffer between speakers and the crowd i.e. preventing open access to the microphone.
6. More thought should be given to contingency plans for heckling, being overpowered by other megaphones, and dispersal.
7. More thought to be given to youth representatives particularly African American youth expressing different points of view (looked like we were shutting youth out). Most felt this was important but must be dealt with realistically. The inclusion of more youth as Marshalls was also suggested.

Some have also mentioned that the lack of an early and obvious presence by the Capital Police might have led demonstrators to feel as though they had access to Klan members who appeared. Also better sound system needed. Walkie talkies great idea but they were dead.

It was agreed that we were not prepared for the incredible size of the crowd or the Klan not appearing in an organized manner.

Media after the event focused on "violence" and did not give the whole picture, although it was quite clear from all accounts which included most New York papers, The Amsterdam News, Daily World, Jewish Forward, New York Times and local papers, that Albany said no to the Klan.

It was suggested that we (CDCAAR and NAACP) write our own review of the event, perhaps for the Scene, so that we have the final analysis and not the mainstream media. In spite of the objections of the naysayers, we concluded that we "did the right thing" and the 1,500 people who were there became proof of that.

In closing we say to you Anne and members of your board that we were pleased to have collaborated with the NAACP Albany Branch on such an important issue. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Toward Peace and Justice

Vera Michelson, Co-chair

Merton Simpson, Co-chair

July 15, 1991

Mr. Rand Condell, President  
PEF  
1170 Troy Schenectady Rd.  
Latham, NY

Dear Rand,

It is with great sadness that we send this message to you marking the end of your presidency at PEF.

You and those who have worked for you have been a tremendous source of support to the anti apartheid movement in New York State. Locally CDCAAR has had open access to your staff and the organization. This kind of support only demonstrates the progressive kind of leadership that was yours.

We are pleased to have worked with you and wish you success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson  
Co-chair

Merton Simpson  
Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

8/15/91

resubmitted on 8/24/91

Times Union Editor  
PO Box 1500  
Albany, NY 12212

Dear Editor,

*Not  
printed bc  
length*

Recent revelations of the South African government's covert funding to Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha Party come as no surprise to anyone who has closely studied the South African scene.

Buthelezi was appointed by the regime to become "Chief" of the Kwazulu homeland, an apartheid structure established to disenfranchise Black South Africans. He has been doing the government bidding for many years. He has worked against everything the African National Congress and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa have struggled for. He has attempted to sabotage the sanctions campaign internationally. He has organized Inkatha thugs to attack those who participate in rent strikes or boycotts. His death squads have hacked and shot people randomly on buses and trains. They have also targeted anyone suspected of sympathizing with the ANC. The police and security forces have been seen assisting them in these attacks.

In your July 31st editorial you say that by secretly funding Inkatha, de Klerk did the "wrong thing for the right reasons". You say that "the covert payment helped level the playing field between the non violent antimarxist Chief Buthelezi, who opposed sanctions but whose organization could not hope to match the world-wide network enjoyed by the pro Soviet ANC which supported the economic boycott".

~~Posing~~ Buthelezi and Mandela as equal players in the anti apartheid movement with different perspectives on violence and marxism is misleading at best.

It is true that the African National Congress has received support for its struggle from the Soviet Union. It also got support from the Scandinavian countries, most African nations and millions of people around the world. Does this make the ANC "pro Soviet" and therefore not worthy of support? Does this make Mandela a bad guy and Buthelezi a good guy.

What is the justification for concluding that Buthelezi is non violent? Should it be inferred then, that the ANC is pro violence?

It is true that the ANC has long conducted an armed struggle to liberate their country, much like the patriots who founded this country, much like many others who fight for their freedom. But the ANC has always seen the armed struggle as a last resort and has never called for the kind of horrific random violence that Inkatha is guilty of.

In fact the ANC, in an extraordinary move has put it's military struggle on hold, an indication of the seriousness with which it regards the negotiation process.

In addition, Mandela and the ANC has been successful at calling for sanctions and isolating South Africa because apartheid is a crime against humanity and sanctions have been seen by Black South Africans and the international community as an effective weapon against apartheid. The popularity of the African National Congress inside the country has been demonstrated over and over.

By comparison, Buthelezi has recruited members into Inkatha with force, intimidation and the giving of "favors" to those who live in his homeland; favors like water, electricity, schooling and medical care. The Inkatha organization has created so much fear and terror inside the country that the very process of peaceful negotiations is being threatened. When the government takes responsibility for stopping Inkatha, not funding it, then and only then will the playing field be leveled.

The situation in South Africa is extremely dynamic now and the ANC along with other anti apartheid organizations will have to make many difficult decisions in the months to come. One such decision is the need for the ANC to establish self defense units in the township to defend the people against Inkatha attacks. Another has been the renewal of the call for sanctions.

We are hopeful in the future that rather than leaping to defend President De Klerk the Times Union will spend a little more time trying to understand the ANC position and why it has to resort to certain measures on the road to freedom.

*Vera Michelson*

Vera Michelson  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism  
370-7366 (to verify)



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

September 5, 1991

Chicago Resource Center

To Whom It May Concern:

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CDCAAR) fully supports the goals and objectives of the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project of the Capital District. CDCAAR has been working to combat racism in general and police abuse in particular over the past ten years.

Based on our experience we ask that you give the maximum possible grant support to the Anti-Violence Project.

The Struggle to combat lesbian and gay violence is a protracted one but with your support we will be able to develop the much needed infrastructure which will allow us to move forward.

Sincerely,

*Merton Simpson*  
Merton Simpson  
Co-Chair CDCAAR

*Vera Michaelson*  
Vera Michaelson  
Co-Chair CDCAAR

Arbor Hill Community Center, Inc.



50 North Lark Street Albany, New York 12210  
Tel. (518) 463-1516  
FAX - 463-2217

September 30, 1991

Ms. Vera Michaels  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism  
P.O. Box 3002  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Ms. Michaels:

Hello!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and especially the youth of the Arbor Hill Community Center, Inc., we thank you for providing five of our youth and three of our adults with tickets to attend your Tenth Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 21, 1991.

Our youth enjoyed all the many talented groups that performed; especially the "Last Poet". I can truly say that it was sincerely an educational experience that they will never forget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin Smith".

Marvin smith  
Community Mobilization  
Program Specialist

MS/mlb



United Way  
of Northeastern New York, Inc.





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 8, 1991

Dan Auerbach  
73 Whitehall Rd.  
Albany, NY 12209

Dear Dan,

We have sent several thank you notes over the past few days but this one is very special.

We enjoyed working with you and we appreciate your sense of timeliness and excellence. Most of all everyone was thrilled with the final product.

Thank you for getting us over a very rough hurdle.

Forward In Struggle,

Pat Trowers Johnson, Anniversary Chair

Vera Michelson, CD CAAR Co-chair

Merton Simpson, CD CAAR Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 8, 1991

Azzaam Hameed  
312 Duane Ave  
Schenectady, NY 12307

Dear Azzaam,

On behalf of CD CAAR we would again like to thank you for helping us out so willingly at the last minute.

The anniversary committee has reviewed our revenues from the benefit event and we have decided (happily) to double our initial financial commitment to you. (Enclosed find a check for \$200).

We count you as a dear friend to CD CAAR and if there is anything we can do to be of service to you please let us know.

Forward In Struggle,

Pat Trowers Johnson - Anniversary Chair

Vera Michelson, CD CAAR Co-chair

Merton Simpson, CD CAAR Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 8, 1991

Frank Lownes  
44 Barrow St.  
Albany, NY 12209

Dear Frank,

Just a brief note to thank you for video taping our anniversary event and for the resulting videos.

We appreciate the effort that went into this on your part. You are a good friend to CD CAAR.

Forward in Struggle,

Pat Trowers Johnson - Anniversary Chair

Vera Michelson, CD CAAR Co-chair

Merton Simpson, CD CAAR Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
**A Project of the Social Justice Center**

October 8, 1991

Joe McDermott  
President CSEA  
143 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Joe,

Just a brief note to thank you for your assistance with our Ten Year Anniversary event. The posters were beautiful and they decorated Albany.

I've enclosed a Journal for you to look at. Please notice the back page where we acknowledged CSEA.

Thanks again Joe. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson, Co-Chair

Merton Simpson, Co-Chair

As-Salaam - Alaikum!

Oct. 29th, 1991  
Dear Pat, Vera and Merton,

Thank-you for your recent thoughtfulness regarding the check you sent.

As always it's both a pleasure and privilege for us to be able to participate in your very positive and uplifting endeavors.

Your additional financial contribution will help support our latest recording project, which is already under way.

Your brother & friend,

'Azzam  
Tayheed  
Hameed

P.S. - We'll keep you updated on our recording project, which we anticipate will be completed by the early part of '92.



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

November 16, 1991

Ambassador Tunguru Huaraka  
Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations  
135 East 36th Street  
New York, New York 10016

Honorable Ambassador Huaraka,

Greetings on behalf of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. By way of introduction, we are a grassroots solidarity group in upstate New York. (Enclosed you will find some materials about our organization) We have been in existence for ten years and during that time, the solidarity struggle with the people of Namibia for independence has been one major focus of our work. We have sponsored SWAPO speakers at public forums in Albany and took a very active part in the Dollars for Democracy in Namibia campaign. We worked to include the church, labor, government and student communities in Namibia work. In many ways, too numerous to mention here, we have been a friend of SWAPO.

Last month a delegation of ten Namibian legislators were in the Capital District, we believe at the sponsorship of the New York State African American Institute and the Rockefeller Institute. They were apparently in Albany for approximately two weeks. During that time, no one informed us of their presence here or included us in any of the activities that were planned around their visit. In fact, we only found out that they were here after they left, through a chance conversation with someone in the community who had met with them. We find this to be an untenable situation.

A first hand report from Namibian legislators would have been extremely beneficial to anti-apartheid activists in Albany who remain actively involved in the struggle for justice in Southern Africa. To hear of the effects of independence on Namibia would have helped to broaden our vision and strengthen our continuing work and commitment.

Honorable Ambassador, is there any way that an oversight like this could be prevented in the future? Is it possible that the staff of the Namibian Mission could be made aware of the itinerary of similar delegations and in turn notify solidarity groups of impending visits to their cities? We respectfully make this request out of a sincere desire to enhance the efforts of U.S. anti-apartheid work.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson, Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

November 16, 1991

President Patrick Swygert  
Office of the President  
SUNYA  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12222

Dear President Swygert:

We would like to express our appreciation for your support of the recent visit of Ambassador Hipolito Patricio of Mozambique to the Capital District. The situation in Mozambique is critical as the South African-backed Renamo forces continue to destabilize that country causing death and destruction everywhere. Most Americans are unaware of this war of destabilization and therefore, it was of great significance to have the Ambassador in our community.

We most enjoyed working with the students of Sigma Phi Rho and the African Student's Association. They were very committed to making the event a success and were very well organized in their efforts. In particular, we were pleased to have worked with Nyam Smith and Saru Zvoma, leaders from these groups.

Finally, your \$200 contribution and the financial support of others on campus made it possible to cover the plane fare for the Ambassador.

Once again, on behalf of CD CAAR, thank you. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson, Co-chair



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

November 16, 1991

A. J. Williams Meyers  
African American Institute  
State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

Dear A. J. .

On behalf of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, thank you for your participation in our November Mozambique event.

It was clear from your inspiring introduction of Ambassador Hipolito Patricio that we had chosen the right person to welcome him. Your warm reminiscences and your commitment to the struggle for justice set the perfect tone for the evening.

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson, Co-chair





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

November 16, 1991

Marvin Smith  
Arbor Hill Community Center  
Lark Drive  
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Marvin,

On behalf of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, thank you for your participation in our recent Mozambique event.

The presence of the Arbor Hill Community Center Ensemble definitely added a special meaning to the evening. We heard many comments at the end of the evening which indicated that the people were moved by their performance.

Please also tell Lynn that the Ambassador was especially touched by her gift.

We enjoyed working with you and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson, Co-chair

cc: J. Collins, Acting Director

# **Capital District Brother to Brother**

*P.O. Box 2528  
Albany, New York 12210*

November 26, 1991

Vera Michelson  
13 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Ms. Michelson:

On behalf of Capital District **Brother to Brother**, I extend my gratitude for supporting our organization by joining us at our one year anniversary celebration held November 19. All of us were gratified to see the wonderful turnout. Everyone with whom we spoke said they enjoyed the evening tremendously.

The work we are doing is extremely important to us, and as evidenced by the turnout, important to many other members of our community as well. The support you gave to us is in fact support directed at helping to reverse the negative trends confronting our youth.

We pledge to continue our efforts to reverse the trend of endangerment facing our youth, and our people as a whole, and we have become even more energized by knowing that your support is there for us.

**Brother to Brother** would like to say, "*ASANTE*" to you for being there, and wish to you and your entire family a joyous holiday season.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sincerely,



Bill Barnette, Chairman

<thankyou.N19>



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia  
to the United Nations**

135 East 36 Street, New York, N.Y. 10016  
Telephone: (212) 685-2003; Telex: 237249; Fax (212) 685-1561

Our Ref... nun/ahd/Parliament/0212

Your Ref...

2 December 1991

Dear Ms. Michelson,

Thank you very much for your letter, dated 11 November 1991, in which you drew our attention to the recent visit to the United States by ten Namibian Parliamentarians.

May I also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism for the selfless support rendered to the Namibian people, through SWAPO, during the difficult years of the struggle. The continued support of CDCAAR to the people of South Africa clearly depicts its dedication to the annihilation of apartheid.

With regard to the visit of the ten Parliamentarians, I am pleased to furnish you with some background information concerning this visit. The Parliamentarians were invited by the State University of New York to come and study legislative practices in the United States.

/ . . .

Ms. Vera Michelson  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
P.O. Box 3002 - Pine Hill Station  
Albany  
New York 12202

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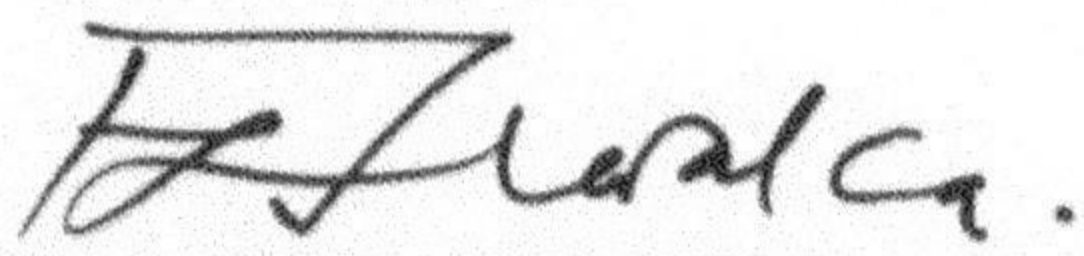
Their programme was pre-planned and we had no input at all. During the half day that they spent in New York, they were at the Namibian Mission for fifteen minutes. We even had to cancel the programmes that we planned for New York due to the above explanation.

However, stemming from this experience, which was our first, we discussed with the Parliamentarians the need to point out to the organizers the necessity to involve the Mission in the planning of the itinerary in the future.

This was, therefore, not an oversight in our part but, as I explained, we had no input whatsoever. We hope that all future visits will be organized differently.

We look forward to continue working with you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Tunguru Huaraka  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative