

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY...For Immediate Release: March 17, 1993
Press Conference Paschals Motor Hotel - Monday, March 22, 11:00 am
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Organizations Call For Re-Examination of U.S. - Africa Policies In Wake Of U.S. Military Involvement In Somalia And Negotiations In South Africa

International Delegation in Atlanta to Launch Africa Peace Tour in Southeast U.S.

The American Friends Service Committee's Southern Africa Program, Concerned Black Clergy (CBC) and Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) will jointly hold a Press Conference on Monday, March 23 at 11:00 am at Paschals Motor Hotel to call for informed decisions by U.S. policy makers and fair treatment for Africa. An announcement will be made regarding the launching of the Africa Peace Tour throughout the Southeast U.S. (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana).

This year's theme for the Africa Peace Tour is "Africa Securing It's Own Future" which is indicative of the serious concern Africans hold about the end of the Cold War and America's emergence as the singular world superpower.

While focusing on the challenges facing the future of the African Continent, the Tour participants will also discuss the on-going negotiations in South Africa and U.S. long-term policies toward Africa in trouble spots such as Somalia. Additionally, Tour participants express the need for an informed U.S. populace. As Tanzanian Abdul Babu notes, "The U.S. is emerging as the leader of a unipolar world which carries with it heavy political responsibility for it's citizens. A citizenry ignorant about Africa implies that it's leaders can get away with bad or malicious policies toward Africa without public scrutiny. That is very dangerous for all of us, and why I believe the Peace Tours are important -- more now than at any time in the recent past.

Press conference participants will include members of the Africa Peace Tour such as Abdul Babu, who is presently based in London, served as Tanzania's foreign minister and is a noted scholar of African and "Third World" political development; Francisco Campbell, an associate professor at the Center for International Studies at the Central American University in Managua; Thelma Ravel-Pinto, a South African presently living in the Netherlands, who is a professor of African Women's literature and has taught at Spelman College and Temple University; Fatima Tibrell, a Somalian, who coordinates relief programs in the Horn of Africa for development organizations.

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