

YORK STUDENTS BATTLE OVER AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

by Richard Parrish and Mike Adler

TORONTO (CUP) - As the South African debate continues across Canadian campuses, York University students Greg Hopper and Aleem Jeeva bring the distant conflict into clearer focus.

Jeeva is the Canadian youth coordinator for the African National Congress, the banned South African organization fighting for the elimination of apartheid.

Hopper is president of the Liberty Coalition, a newly recognized "pro-individual rights capitalist" group that believes that even if the South African government were to end apartheid and establish a government similar to Canada's, the ANC wouldn't be satisfied "because they would want to take over and they want Marxism."

While Jeeva acknowledges there are communists within the ANC, he says the Congress also includes Christians, Moslems and capital-

ists who are fighting for the end of the apartheid regime.

Banned from political activities within South Africa, the ANC instigates change from the outside by encouraging other governments and peoples of other nations to take up the struggle "for equality amongst all races" in South Africa.

"By aiming itself at the international community," explains Jeeva, "the ANC hopes to make other nations aware of what is going on in South Africa and encourage the use of sanctions - which are the last peaceful resort to quickly end apartheid."

The Liberty Coalition is challenging the ANC's ideology and tactics, because it's "in the news", says Hopper, and there are several on-campus groups who support the ANC.

Hopper and the Coalition are eager to present "the other view," by providing students with literature from

the South African government.

"What students should realize is that it's foreign investment, not ANC violence, that's going to lead to freedom in South Africa," says Hopper. "People that support the ANC are supporting the kind of enslavement that communism brings. It's true that maybe blacks and whites will be enslaved equally, but no one's going to be free and that's not a viable solution."

"We support the capitalist solution," says Hopper, a firm believer in the benefits of foreign investment in South Africa.

"Foreign investment creates jobs for blacks. It makes the South Africans, the whites, the business owners, the government as dependent on blacks as the blacks are on them right now. It will give the blacks a measure of economic independence because their labour will be required, be de-

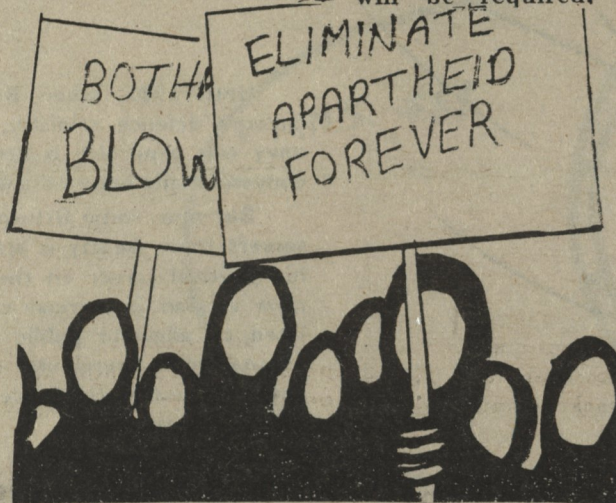
manded. People will have their labour and out of economic necessity the blacks will get their rights."

But Jeeva, who grew up in the South African suburb Lenasia, says sanctions are the most effective weapon against apartheid because the South African economy needs foreign capital to purchase its technology.

"If you block the flow of capital then the country will not have the currency to buy the armaments and machinery that it needs."

Through sanctions, Jeeva says, "you can effectively isolate them and bring them to a position where they have to negotiate."

"The argument put forth by the Reagan administration and Margaret Thatcher is that blacks will suffer because of sanctions, but again the black people will say, 'we've been suffering and have known suffering for 300 years. It's nothing new to us.'"



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