

**IRISH ANTI-APARTHEID
MOVEMENT**



Anti-apartheid poster submitted to the Irish AAM competition (Mayibuye Centre, UWC: artist unknown)

Background

The third volume in *the Road to Democracy in South Africa Series* examines the role of anti-apartheid movements around the world. The global anti-apartheid movement was very successful in creating awareness of the liberation struggle in South Africa, and in contributing to the downfall of the apartheid government.

This volume's strength is that it brings together analyses which in the main are written by activist scholars with deep roots in the movements and organisations they are writing about. This is a major resource for historians, scholars and anyone interested in the history of South Africa, and will be valued by future generations for its sensitive collection of highly significant historical material.

A forthcoming volume will focus on the contribution of anti-apartheid movements on the African continent.

Where it all started: The South African Democracy Education Trust (SADET)

The South African Democracy Education Trust (SADET) was established as a project Trust after President Thabo Mbeki indicated his concern about the paucity of historical material on the arduous road to South Africa's peaceful political settlement after decades of violent conflict. Core funding for SADET was provided by MTN as leading sponsor; Nedbank, the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and the Department of Arts and Culture .

SADET's activities are overseen by a Trust Board, chaired by the Minister in the Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad. The project management and research team consists of Dr Gregory Houston (Executive Director), Prof Bernard Magubane (Editor-in-Chief), Dr Sifiso Ndlovu (Director of Research) and Mrs Elsa Kruger (Project Administrator).

Focus of the *Road to Democracy Project*

The *Road to Democracy Project* is about events leading to the negotiated settlement and democracy in South Africa with a focus on:

- the events leading to the banning of the liberation movements;
- the various strategies and tactics adopted in pursuit of the democratic struggle;
- the events leading to the advent of democracy; and
- the dynamics underpinning the negotiation process between 1990 and 1994.



Poster of the Radio Freedom campaign, designed by Opland (Photograph provided by Sietse Bosgra)

This current volume is the first of SADET's second main series of publications which focuses on International Solidarity with the liberation struggle.

The series covers the contribution of various international organisations, governments and their peoples, and solidarity organisations, to the liberation struggle in South Africa.

In the upcoming second volume the focus will be on African solidarity, with an emphasis on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and its Liberation Committee; various countries in the southern African region, including the role that Tanzania and Zambia played; as well as countries in west, east and north Africa.

The Road to Democracy project is a chronological analysis of four decades: 1960-1970; 1970-1980; 1980-1990; 1990-1994; bearing in mind the four areas of focus above with the following themes for each decade:

- **Political context:** the political dynamics of each decade, such as the banning of the liberation movements, the formation of insurgency structures, exile and the containment of resistance in the 1960s.
- **Key organisations and individuals:** the formation, policies and objectives, membership and activities of the major organisations during each decade; and the role of key historical, as well as lesser-known but significant actors.
- **Strategy and tactics:** the evolution of the strategy and tactics of key organisations, including debates around changing strategies and the impact of adopted strategies and tactics on revolutionary developments.
- **Regime response:** the response of the apartheid regime to the activities of the liberation movements, including changes in the nature of the apartheid state, the evolution of policies to contain resistance, and repression and counter-revolutionary strategy.
- **International context:** the role of the international community in the liberation of South Africa and international events and processes that impacted on the liberation struggle.
- **Regional context:** regional events and processes that had an impact on the liberation struggle and the decision to adopt a negotiation strategy; and studies of provincial and local involvement in the liberation struggle.
- **Outcome:** the major outcomes at the end of each decade.



Anti-apartheid poster: Forward to Freedom in SA (Mayibuye Centre, UWC: artist unknown)