

# Fusion Energy Foundation

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## Conference Proposal

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Dear Friend,

The Fusion Energy Foundation will sponsor a conference on May <sup>2</sup> 4, 1978, in Washington, D.C., under the title "The Industrial Development of Southern Africa." The conference is the second in a series of conferences on the role of economic development in establishing a positive basis for peace in critical regions of the developing sector; the first such conference, "Middle East Peace and Economic Development," was held on January 24, 1978, at the Americana Hotel in New York. The Foundation is therefore presently engaged in contacting qualified experts in various fields to serve as panelists and speakers at the conference on southern Africa.

The central thesis behind the upcoming conference is that the United States of America, as the world's leader in industrial and agricultural technology, has a primary responsibility to the countries of the developing sector to provide, over a long-term period, the necessary transfer of technology for their development. That is, the United States and southern Africa — all the countries of southern Africa — have a profound common interest in a vast expansion of mutually beneficial trade. An industrially advanced and advancing southern African region should not only be at the forefront of American policy toward the region, but the very process of that development, creating as it will a tremendous market for American high-technology exports and capital equipment, will be a powerful stimulant to the U.S. economy, creating jobs and gearing up industrial capacity.

The Foundation's southern Africa conference will address the problem in all its aspects. Obviously, there can be no real, practical consideration of regional economic development except in the context of a political solution to the crisis in the area. Foremost among these problems is the creation of a lawful and legitimate independent government for the British colony of Rhodesia, and the emergence of a viable administration for Namibia. Equally important is a positive outlook for eventual abolition of the inefficient and unproductive *apartheid* structure — an event which will only occur as part of a general expansion and uplifting of the entire South African population, black and white, to the level at which that nation can no longer exclude its black majority from equal participation in society.

What must be stressed, however, is the crucial importance of preserving the invaluable skilled labor and talents of South Africa's white population as the major contributors to regional development. The ghastly prospect of a racial war in that region clearly signals that there is no alternative to cooperation.

The centerpiece of the conference will be the presentation by researchers and analysts of the Fusion Energy Foundation of a comprehensive program for the development of the region. The program, for which a draft will be ready shortly, will discuss the actual economic parameters for medium-term growth of the entire region. The central idea will involve the cooperation and division of labor between South Africa and the neighboring states in promoting such development, with South Africa itself serving as the leading center for regional capital-formation.

Naturally, that will involve deep political commitments by the parties to the southern Africa conflict. But it is precisely through the interplay between political momentum and economic necessity that a solution will be found — provided that men of vision can guide the process. It is such a vision that the conference itself is designed to foster.

The tentative agenda of the conference will be as follows: The conference, which will last one day, will comprise three panels. Throughout the day, not only the question of southern African development, but the broader idea of Third World development will be discussed in detail. In addition, the crucial question of finding the mechanism to finance the immense requirements of the developing sector in the coming decade will be explored. Briefly, then, the day will look like this:

**9 a.m. — 12 noon: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA:** This panel will evaluate the prospects for southern Africa in the medium term, from the standpoint of a comprehensive regional plan. The mechanization of agriculture, with highly capital-intensive technology, must be the basis for industrial development and urbanization. The construction of a regional infrastructure for transportation, communication, and energy will be discussed. The role of advanced forms of nuclear fission for providing electrical power, and related power grids for industry and mining, will be emphasized. Advanced, ultra-modern mining techniques and their possible application to the region's extractive industry will be evaluated. The special role of the South African capital goods industry will be discussed.

In addition, this panel will deal with the history of southern Africa, from the nineteenth century, to highlight the positive historical basis for economic cooperation between blacks and whites.

**1:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.: THE THIRD WORLD INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY:** This panel will discuss the application of highly advanced technology to the underdeveloped sector. It will answer the question: Can the Third World absorb modern technology — and how fast? The crucial question of the development of skilled labor, managers, technicians, and so forth will be addressed. In addition, modular and integrated systems approaches to Third World development, will be put forth as the forefront of an exciting new vista of the age of fusion energy.

**3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.: FINANCING DEVELOPMENT:** The woeful inadequacy of present mechanisms for financing capital flows of the required magnitude will be discussed, and creative new solutions will be discussed. The expansion of the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the emergence of key European financial centers such as the one presently developing in Luxembourg will be evaluated for the contribution they can make. It is clear that what is necessary, at bottom, is a marshalling of the world's resources for the urgent and unavoidable task of industrializing the Third World.

Please contact us at the telephone number and address listed above for further information.

Sincerely,

Robert Dreyfuss  
Morris Levitt

Robert Dreyfuss  
Dr. Morris Levitt