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## A Note on 1983 and The Work Ahead

Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa

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# CIDSA

## Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa

P.O. BOX 578413

Chicago, Illinois 60657

312/660-8671

1/5/84

### A NOTE ON 1983 AND THE WORK AHEAD

by  
the Steering Committee  
CIDSA

1983 was for CIDSA a good year. In six months CIDSA has grown from a collection of 10-12 individuals to a formal coalition of over forty organizations and 100-125 individuals. HB 0569, which was only a notion in April of 1983, has become a substantive and controversial piece of legislation before the Illinois House within the same six month period. And in early December over seventy people spent an entire day in a working conference planning and deliberating about what will be Illinois' first divestment law!

We need, however, to make 1984 a very good year. The major tasks for CIDSA yet lie ahead. To assure the passage of divestment legislation in the State of Illinois the following are some of the things which must be done:

- Educationals. many speaking engagements must be arranged and met. it will necessitate a large number of CIDSA members doing speaking engagements with films, slide shows, CIDSA materials. for this the steering comm is planning a training session so that everyone's communicating skills can be enhanced. speaking engagements must include tv, radio, churches, union mtgs, community mtgs. they may be two minutes, they may be an hour. the main purpose is to get the news of HB 0569 out there (and incidentally we will be addressing ourselves to another purpose of CIDSA, namely, helping to make SA a foreign policy issue for '84)
- Press coverage. a major weakness is our inability to get substantive and regular press attention. we must develop better and more regular ways of getting divestment and South Africa in the Illinois press. we've got to find more ways of making divestment an issue in the press and media. Besides doing more specific releases and stories on various dimensions of corporate activity from those corporations included in the Illinois pension funds, it might be good to develop a long term table of press releases all the way through to Thompson's approval or veto. In this we need to plan press releases in such a way that we always have a contingency release ready to go. We also need to cultivate more relations with members of the press who might be sympathetic or at least willing to give us space and time to compete with the SA government's current offensive, i.e., the old hearing both sides predisposition
- Work on the legislators In 1984 we must increase the amount of attention which we pay to the various legislators.

We can do this specifically through getting more people to call and/or to write the legislators. (perhaps especially the former may be fruitful if done in such a way that they are not irritating). We've got to get more petitions signed and sent to Springfield.

Clearly, the day of lobbying in Springfield will be of critical importance. But it must not be limited to simply going to Springfield but also using the time there to maximum advantage. In this regard, it has been suggested that the thrust should be one of educating folk there to the realities of South Africa. So perhaps the lobbyists should include some films, slide shows, photo exhibits, theatre troupes as well as those who will visit various House and Senate legislators.

A major piece planned for production and subsequent wide distribution is VOICES FOR ILLINOIS DIVESTMENT. This one page, two-sided broadside will feature as many prominent politicians and others as possible with two or three sentences (and maybe a picture) supporting divestment. The idea would be to get the big names and especially the candidates projecting themselves in their most anti-apartheid, pro-divestment garb. It is also to distribute this so widely that those politicians not included will be furious not to be listed. Some possible names are: Jesse Jackson, Paul Simon, Roland Burris, Rock Percy, Mayor Washington, Charlie Hays, Gus Savage, Danny Davis, Cardiss Collins, etc., etc. We should particularly try to take advantage of those races which are hot and bound to get hotter!! (Are not all legislators from the House up for re-election in the March primaries?). Voices should become like a moral measuring rod of a candidate's anti-racist position. To be not in Voices should be to risk a public association with the forces of racism.

- Two major constituencies need more attention, much more, namely, the labor movement and community organizations, including organizations of the elderly. Some motion has now begun with Chicago teachers but more must be done with judges and state employees - the latter group being critical (AFSCME's participation herein is very important)

In short, 1983 was the starting blocks. We're now out of them. But the the course of the track itself lies fully before us with the finish line an illusive, unreliable thing which might be 100 yds away could be a mile or might be only a 40 yard dash!

# CIDSA

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P.O. BOX 578413

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approximate membership as of 1/84

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Friends Service Committee  
Black Press Institute  
Bloomington and Normal Against Apartheid  
Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Mental Health Center  
Champaign-Urbana Coalition Against Apartheid  
Champaign-Urbana Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Chicago Black United Communities  
Chicago Clergy and Laity Concerned  
Church in Society, Trinity United Church of Christ  
Coalition of Black Trade Unions  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
Dennis Brutus Defense Committee  
Disarm Now Action Coalition  
District 925, Service Employees International Union  
8th Day Center for Justice  
Evanston Progressive Students Committee  
First Church of the Bretheren  
International Committee Against Racism in Sport (ICARIS)  
Independant Voters of Illinois/ Independant Precinct Organization  
Latino Youth Staff  
Lutheran Coalition on Southern Africa  
National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression/Chicago Branch (NAARPR)  
National Anti-Imperialist Movement in Solidarity with African Liberation (NAIMSAL)  
National Lawyers Guild  
Northern Illinois Religion and Labor Coalition  
Northwestern University Library Africana Collection  
Peoria Task Force on South Africa  
Social Concerns Committee, United Church of Rogers Park  
Synapses  
Toward Freedom, Inc.  
Troubadour Press  
TransAfrica, Chicago  
United Electrical Radio Machine Workers Union  
United Legal Workers, UAW  
Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ Outreach Committee  
Venceremos Brigade  
Women United for a Better Chicago  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Chicago

100- 125 individual members