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## CIDSAs Update, No. 4

Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa

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# CIDSA Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa

## UPDATE

MAY, 1984

461

No. 4

### 150 Join for Lobby Day

On April 4th, 150 members and supporters of CIDSA from all over Illinois converged on the state capital to lobby for HB 0569. CIDSA Lobby Day included visits to over 60 legislators, a Press Conference, spirited testimony by many House Representatives in favor of the bill, continual film showings, and persistent and energetic efforts by all of us. It went like this....

7:30 A.M.: Pouring rain. 80 people on two full buses leave Chicago. Our goal on this wet morning is nothing less than the divestment of the largest sum of money ever to be pulled out of South Africa. As usual with CIDSA, everything is incredibly well organized; too well organized for so early in the morning. Thick piles of information are passed out along with coffee and donuts, and our work begins. We spend the next three hours learning to lobby, and testing each other on the hardest questions our representatives could ask. We have to be ready; over the weekend the South Africans have prepared for our visit by passing out glossy booklets on the advantages of investing in South Africa.

11:00 A.M.: Springfield. We join CIDSA supporters from all over Illinois; 150 people in all! There are representatives from agricultural, church and community groups. We cheer as each is introduced. Before we disperse to lobby our individual representatives, we hear from exiled South African Collins Ramusi: "I will tell my people: we have friends in this land. When freedom comes to my land, we will always count you among our friends."



Rep. Carol Moseley Braun, Prexy Nesbitt (CIDSA), House Speaker Michael Madigan and Rep. Woods Bowman during press conference at Lobby Day.

11:20 A.M.: So this is lobbying. Run around like a madman trying to find the representative while the rep is being paged; present smile, argument/information and materials; get affirmation or cold shoulder. Other CIDSA people scurry through the halls. Our task seems enormous, but we feel closer than ever to our goal.

12:45 P.M.: Press Conference. Home-made signs denounce investing in racism. A young woman mutters "nonsense" in an accent I've just learned to recognize as South African. Carole Moseley Braun tells us that the South African government has "pulled out all the stops" lobbying against this bill. She, Woods Bowman and Speaker of the House Madigan all pledge their support. Then, we scatter for a last determined round of brilliant persuasion.

2:00 P.M.: Finale. The whole group gathers for the final testimonies of the day, given

by many representatives and supporters from all over the state. Some had not supported the bill before. Had the bill been voted on that day before our lobbying efforts, it would have been five votes short of passage. Many months of hard work, culminating today, are bringing us close to divestment against enormous odds. Tired but in high spirits we leave Springfield, remembering Collins' words:

"When freedom comes to my land, we will always count you among our friends...."

## Some CIDA Activities

**Tribune Demonstration:** CIDA was one of at least 10 organizations which demonstrated in front of the Tribune building from February 15-29 to protest the Trib's printing of advertisements for the South African government. At least 6 different full page ads were run between November and February, portraying a false picture of a changing South Africa. As one demonstrator said, "This ad is just another indication of the media's insensitivity to the issues facing blacks in the world today. For the Tribune to accept an ad from a government that is a major purveyor of institutionalized racism is unconscionable."

**S.A. Theologian in Chicago:** On March 28 a small crowd of 20 persons discussed in depth the role of the church in fighting apartheid with the Rev. & Mrs. Kotze, S.A. exiles who were in town for the day. Rev. Theo Kotze, the deputy director of the Christian Institute for eight years until he and the Institute were banned in 1977, spoke unequivocally in favor of divestment saying, "Investment in South Africa is investment in institutionalized violence and in forced removals." He refuted the argument that corporations can bring about a change, saying, "It is the system that brings the good returns; the corporation is working against itself to bring about a change." The church has yet to be solid and prophetic in meeting the challenge of our economic complicity with apartheid.

**CIDA Letter in Sun Times:** The Feb 27 Sun Times carried a letter written by Carol Thompson, CIDA Secretary, protesting the paper's incomplete coverage of the televised Democratic Senatorial Candidates debates. The paper failed to report that in responding to a question from Leanita McLain, all 4 candidates expressed their support

for state and national withdrawal of economic support from S.A. Besides drawing attention to South Africa, Carol drew attention to the work of CIDA to pass HB 0569.

## Speaking--Who Me?

On Feb. 18th, the CIDA Outreach committee held an extremely interesting and informative workshop on how to get the word out about CIDA. The objective was to enable each member, old or new, to be able to do public speaking and outreach for CIDA. The workshop was geared to four basic questions: "What do we know about South Africa and Illinois divestment? What are the key things we want others to know? How do we present our ideas? and How do we answer the hard questions?"

During session 1, we pooled our collective information on the history of modern South Africa and of CIDA. This included, for example, facts on the history of Apartheid and resistance to it, the new Constitution, and how divestment works against Apartheid. The results of this session will be available in a handout, and should provide a good basic background on the subject.

Session 2 involved sample presentations, including part of a very moving film on SA, and a sample speech. We then discussed the importance of gearing the talk to the particular audience, explaining why SA is an important issue for that particular group (labor, church, school, etc.), the purpose of divestment and HB 0569, and very specifically what the group members can do to help.

For Session 3, we broke into small groups to discuss how to answer "the hard questions" that people might ask. These might include What about communism? Won't divestment hurt the Black workers? Isn't SA already starting peaceful reforms? Aren't there more pressing issues to work on, like Central America or disarmament?

The workshop ended with Session 4, where we summed up the strong and weak points of the morning, and each wrote down one or two places we could immediately speak for CIDA. Generally, we were very pleased with the collective method of gathering information and group discussions, felt a lot less nervous about facing a group as a public speaker, and only wished that there had been more time.

A PRELIMINARY FACT SHEET

APRIL, 1984

SIGNIFICANT SOUTH AFRICA - RELATED CORPORATIONS  
IN WHICH ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS ARE INVESTED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUBSIDIARY</u>	<u>\$ VALUE IN ILL. PENSION FUNDS</u>	<u>FINANCIAL<sup>1</sup> INVOLVEMENT WITH S.A.</u>
1. Mobil <sup>2</sup>	Mobil Oil Southern Africa, Mobil Oil Refining Co. Southern Africa Ltd., South African Oil Refining Co. Ltd.	\$25,980,529	Sales \$500-600 Assets \$426.0
2. General Motors <sup>3</sup>	General Motors SA Ltd., General Motors Accept. Corp. SA	\$61,047,649	Sales \$358.0 Assets \$243.0
3. Ford <sup>3</sup>	Ford Motor Co. SA Ltd., South West Ford (Namibia)	\$33,237,415	Sales \$280.0 Assets \$213.0
4. Goodyear Tire <sup>4</sup> & Rubber		\$897,682	
5. Newmont Mining <sup>5</sup>		\$0	
6. General Electric <sup>6</sup>	SA General Electric CO. Ltd., Reid Mitchell Ltd., Defy Industries & Appl., Southern Sphere Mining & Development Co. Ltd.	\$49,521,741	Sales \$128.0 Assets \$93.0
7. IBM <sup>7</sup>	IBM S.A. Ltd.	\$77,741,777	Sales \$262.0 Assets \$88.6
8. Deere and Co. <sup>8</sup>	John Deere Ltd., John Deere Tractors Ektar (Namibia)	\$17,288,870	Sales \$111.0 Assets \$3.5 plus
9. Coca-Cola <sup>9</sup>	Coca-Cola Export Corp., Paradise Bev., Amalgamated Beverage Industries (Namibia)	\$5,653,125	Sales \$144.0
10. Citicorp <sup>10</sup>		\$77,546,327	
11. Continental <sup>11</sup>	Continental SA	\$28,688,416	
12. First Chicago <sup>12</sup>		\$7,799,225	

Footnotes:

1. In \$ millions
2. 18% share of SA oil market
3. Motor vehicle sales, some to military & police manufacturing
4. Tires & rubber products; sales to military
5. Mining involved in uranium mining, illegal mining in Namibia
6. Industrial & electrical equipment, locomotives
7. Computers, consulting services, military and passbook-related; computerization of ammo dist.
8. Farm & earth-moving equipment used in removals of 315 million Africans
9. Sales of soft drinks and manufacturing
10. Known participant in 1.4 billion outstanding loans branch in SA, contributes thereby to defense bonds, purchases of aircraft for military.

11. Known participant in 100.2 million outstanding loans, many to Escom (nuclear) & steel industries

12. Known participant in 50 million outstanding loans

General Notes:

- A. The above table is based upon an examination of only the Teachers Retirement System, the State University Retirement System, the Ill. State Board of Investments and the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund.
- B. Continental is often the manager of Illinois pension funds.

# Divestment History

A number of organizations and individuals have long been involved in this state in the campaign for divestment from S.A. Some highlights in Illinois' divestment history:

- 1977 - The Chicago Coalition on S.A. targets Chicago banks to stop bank loans to S.A. and sales of Kruggerands.
- 12/77 Five Chicago church groups withdraw their funds from 1st National and Continental.
- 1979 State legislation introduced calling for divestment of state bank accounts from banks loaning to S.A.
- Illinois AFL-CIO passes resolution including resolves that it will:  
"CALL FOR the withdrawal of IL. State funds from banks lending to S.A.;
- WORK WITH its member unions to investigate and find ways to deposit such funds in other institutions and prevent such funds from being invested in corporations with business investments in S.A."  
(IL. AFL-CIO Resolution No. 107, '77)
- 12/81 Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, votes to withdraw account from Continental.
- 4/83 Continental and 1st National announce that they have stopped selling Kruggerands.

URBAN LIFE CENTER  
5004 S. Blackstone  
Chicago, IL 60615

Carlton Odum

1121 E. 54th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60615

## CIDSA Office:

### 606 S. Ashland

Information on HB 0569, South Africa, Divestment, and CIDSA is available at CIDSA's office. Stop in and talk to Lucille Teichert, CIDSA full-time volunteer staff person, or call

## 666-9243

Join us for our regular public monthly meetings held the first Sunday of every month at 6:00 pm at

United Electrical Machine Workers' Hall  
37 South Ashland Ave

Next meetings: Sunday, May 6  
Sunday, June 3

These meetings will include:

- \*\* An update on the situation in South Africa
- \*\* News of divestment campaigns in Illinois and other states
- \*\* Films, slide shows and other presentations on South Africa
- \*\* Participation in setting direction for CIDSA's campaign for Illinois divestment
- \*\* An opportunity for YOU to join one of our active committees

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