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Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa

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CIDSA UPDATE

Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa

343 S. Dearborn, Suite 919, Chicago, IL 60604 312-922-3915

City of Chicago Divests from South Africa

The city of Chicago overwhelmingly passed a selective purchasing ordinance on May 30, 1986, making Chicago the 67th city in the United States to begin the process of severing all economic, political, and economic linkages to the racist apartheid regime of South Africa. The passage of this ordinance was the result of work done by CIDSA and a coalition of anti-apartheid forces over the past year in Chicago. This is the first legislative divestment victory in Illinois.

Alderman Danny K. Davis of the 29th Ward, sponsor of the ordinance, said, "It sends a message to our public pension funds that they're next and it sends a message to Gov. Thompson and the General Assembly that we're coming after them, too. And it also tells the private sector that they ought to be careful about how they make their money. It reinforces the fact that apartheid is a divine shame and it must be eradicated."

The ordinance was changed several times during the year that it was in the city Council's Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. During April, there was an unsuccessful attempt by a coalition of Chicago businessmen to exclude Sullivan principles signatories from the sanctions imposed by the ordinance. This was defeated by the anti-apartheid forces, supportive city alderpersons, and members of the city's Corporation Counsel which was studying the ordinance.

The ordinance has three major sections. The first prohibits the City of Chicago from using banks which underwrite loans or lends money to the Republic of South Africa. If banks want the city's business, they must not only establish that they have no loans to South Africa, but under the ordinance, they must promise not to make such loans for the time period that they are Municipal Depositories. This section of the ordinance went into effect upon passage of the ordinance.

The second section prohibits Chicago's Purchasing Department from entering into contracts with

South Africa and with U.S. companies doing business in South Africa. This section becomes effective four months from the date of passage and applies to all City contracts to the extent that the application does not violate existing federal or state laws. The final major section of the ordinance requires that, within two years from passage, the city of Chicago divest itself of any investments it has in companies doing business in South Africa.

Copies of the ordinance can be obtained by calling the CIDSA office, (312) 922-3915.

U.N. and CIDSA Hold Namibia Conference

CIDSA and the United Nations Council for Namibia co-sponsored a U.N. Regional Seminar entitled U.S. Policy in Namibia: Prospects to Hasten Independence. The seminar, held from 9-5 on March 29, 1986 in Chicago, informed people of the situation in Namibia and motivated them to develop and execute strategies to aid Namibia in its independence struggle. Attended by approximately 100 people, the seminar was one of five such U.N. sponsored seminars in five major United States cities.

Theo Ben Gurirab, the SWAPO (Southwest African Peoples Organization) representative to the UN, Charles Singham, and the Indian U.N. representative participated in the seminar, sharing their insights

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SWAPO's Theo Ben Gurirab gives Tim Wright of CIDSA an award as Charles Singham looks on.

Photo: Anti-Apartheid Student Alliance (AASA)

Next CIDSA Meetings: Sunday Oct. 5, Nov. 2 at 6 pm
Access Living, 815 W. Van Buren, Chicago

African National Congress Press Release April 30, 1986

The Pretoria racist regime's "decision" to repeal the pass laws is just another hoax. This is revealed by the regime's insistence on replacing the pass-system by other measures to ensure the "orderly urbanization" of Blacks, a standard euphemism for the physical regimentation of Black people's lives which in the first place is what the pass-system is all about. As such it is nothing more than the re-christening of the same old objectionable and detested pass-system.

This hoax, like all its predecessors, is designed to deceive the International Community into believing that apartheid is willing to dismantle itself—thus postponing the total isolation of the racist regime. It is also an attempt to avert the nation-wide general strike which Black South African workers under the banner of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), have threatened to call if the pass-system is not abolished by June 1986.

The people of South Africa have seen through this transparent hoax and that is why there is no jubilation in the Black townships. They understand that to enforce the Group Areas Act, which is still very much in place, by some form or another of the pass-system is indispensable. They know that you cannot abolish the pass-system without abolishing its *raison d'être*, the Group Areas Act.

Who is CIDSA?

The Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa was founded in June 1983 to push for the passage of a divestment bill in the Illinois State Legislature. Over 65 organizations and 300 concerned individuals from across the state now comprise CIDSA's growing membership.

TASK FORCES REPORT

STEEL TASK FORCE REPORT

On Monday, April 21, 1986, H.B. 317, the bill which prohibits the importation of South African Steel for use in public buildings, was passed out of the Urban Redevelopment Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives. The vote to pass the bill out of committee was unanimous. Patrick McFadden of the CIDSA Steel Task Force was present and testified in support of H.B. 317 and H.B. 330, the state pension divestment legislation. District 31 of the Steelworkers Union sent supportive telegrams to the legislators before the vote.

CIDSA was greatly encouraged by the progress of these bills. This was the first time that any anti-apartheid legislation has been voted out of any committee in the Illinois state legislature.

In Chicago on the weekends of May 10 and 11 and May 17 and 18 there were tables set up at targeted

Nothing would be more mistaken than to applaud Pretoria on account of its latest trick. Properly understood, Pretoria's move must be read as one more indication that the regime remains intransigent in its resistance to genuine change as is otherwise evidenced by its escalating reign of state violence, terrorism and terror against the people. It should thus be taken as a signal to further intensify the all-around international campaign to jettison the Reagan Administration's pro-apartheid policy of "Constructive Engagement" and for the total isolation of the Pretoria racist regime, consonant with the wish and will of the South African people!

Why Divest?

U.S. investments strengthen the apartheid economy, thereby increasing the ability of the white government to preserve its power. The past twenty-five years disprove the claim that investments can be an agent for change because the apartheid government's repressive power has only increased during this time. Yet even if every U.S. firm in South Africa practiced commendable labor policies, apartheid would still not be threatened.

The companies must comply with South African law and coexist with disenfranchisement, population control, and forced removals, as well as detentions and bannings. The black community, from 1959 Nobel Peace Laureate Albert Luthuli to 1984 Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, has continually said "we don't want our chains polished, we want them removed." The divestment of publicly controlled Illinois funds from South Africa will be a significant contribution to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and will help create circumstances for the South African people to forge fundamental change in their country.

locations throughout the city for citizens to send letters to their legislators. On May 14, 1986 people throughout Illinois called or visited their representatives to voice their support for H.B. 317 and 330. On May 16, 1986 there was a summit meeting of religious and legislative leaders at the State of Illinois Building in Chicago regarding the state bills.

Although the steel bill was not successful this year, CIDSA is enthusiastic about the growing support. The Steel Task Force wishes to thank all of its members and all of the people throughout Illinois who diligently worked for passage of the steel legislation.

STATE TASK FORCE REPORT

The state pension divestment bill, House Bill 330, successfully passed out of committee on April 21 in a packed hearing room in Springfield, Illinois. Although

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Anti-Apartheid Movement Events

Soweto Demonstration Calls for Divestment

Soweto Demonstration Calls for Divestment

On June 16, 1986, approximately 500 people marched and rallied at the State of Illinois Building in Chicago Illinois to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising in South Africa. The demonstration was one of many actions taken by thousands of people throughout U.S. cities to exhibit solidarity with the people's struggle in South Africa which has intensified since 1976. The Chicago demonstration was sponsored by a coalition of groups, including the Free South Africa Movement of Chicago, the National Black United Front of Chicago, and the Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa.

Among the speakers at the rally were Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, South Africa, Congressman Charles Hayes, and a representative of U.S. Senator Paul Simon. A proclamation from Chicago Mayor Harold Washington declaring June 16, 1986 as Soweto Solidarity Day in Chicago was read to the enthusiastic crowd. The speakers strongly supported economic sanctions by the U.S. and called for the U.S. Government to join other countries in pressuring the Botha regime to totally dismantle the apartheid system.

ANC Secretary General Visits Chicago

African National Congress Secretary General Alfred Nzo visited Chicago for one week in June during a nationwide tour sponsored by the Reform Church in the U.S. Secretary Nzo is second in command to President Oliver Tambo of the ANC. Prior to coming to Chicago, Mr. Nzo met with U.S. representatives in Washington prior to the House of Representatives overwhelming vote to impose strong economic sanctions on South Africa.

Here in Illinois, Mr. Nzo met with a group of businesspersons who have investments in South Africa and explained to them the need for divestment. He also spoke at Operation PUSH, Trinity Council in Chicago, and at several private gatherings in Chicago. In each presentation, he gave an update on the activities and political movement in South Africa. He stressed the need for the U.S. to apply economic sanctions on South Africa and for the U.S. people to give direct material aid to the people of South Africa.

Mr. Nzo clarified that the May border attacks by the South African government on Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia were unsuccessful in causing any significant damage to the ANC. He said no ANC casualties occurred and only in Zambia did minor property damage result from the bombings. He also noted that the organized efforts of labor in South Africa have had great impact on the liberation movement when millions of workers remained home in protest on May 1st and June 16th.

Illinois Legislature Passes Anti-Apartheid Resolutions

On Tuesday, June 17, 1986 the Illinois State House of Representatives passed two resolutions which related to the current struggle in South Africa. These resolutions, albeit much weaker than the passage of divestment legislation, send a message to the South Africa government that the people of Illinois support the struggle against apartheid.

House Resolution 595, sponsored by representatives Braun, Bowman, Shaw, and Greiman urges boards of trustees of each pension fund in Illinois to give great consideration to risks attached to doing business or making investments in foreign counties that are economically or politically unstable, including the Republic of South Africa. This resolution passes the House 81-23.

House Resolution 920, sponsored by Representative Flowers, calls for the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela from prison. This resolution also passed, although no roll call vote was taken. The "Free Mandela" resolution sparked a heated and lengthy debate among the House legislators with respect to Mandela's guilt or innocence.

The ANC Secretary General said that the struggle for the liberation and democratization of South Africa is widespread and very strong among the people of South Africa. The current news censorship prevents the world from viewing how mobilized the S.A. people have become and how repressive the S.A. government is. Mr. Nzo explained that the new military laws passed by Parliament allow a state of Emergency to be in effect continually.

Mr. Nzo was positive and enthusiastic about the ultimate victory of his people's struggle. He encouraged the U.S. people to continue in their efforts for divestment from South Africa and said that the ANC was grateful for the work that has been accomplished here.

House of Representatives Votes for Sanctions

The United States House of Representatives voted on June 18, 1986 in a voice vote to impose strong economic sanctions on the South African government. Congressman Ron Dellums (D, Calif.) sponsored the bill which is more meaningful than the executive order signed by President Reagan in October 1985. The Senate voted in favor of the sanctions in August. It now remains to be seen whether Reagan will veto the sanctions and again replace them with an executive order.

South African Update

- Feb. 3**—While P.W. Botha was announcing in Parliament that the government intended scrapping of the pass laws, a pass raid was carried out in Honeydew, north of Johannesburg. "I thought it was rather ironic," said a white Honeydew woman.
- Feb. 18**—The US government confirmed that it had decided to provide military aid to UNITA, and that "the process is in motion".
- Feb. 19**—Bishop Tutu, Rev. Beyers Naude, and Rev. Allan Boesak urged foreign banks to reject South African proposals for ending its debt crisis, calling the foreign banks to freeze South African bank balances and get court orders seizing Pretoria's aircraft, ships and other assets abroad.
- Feb. 20**—International banks agreed with South Africa on a set of repayment proposals on South Africa's \$10 billion short-term foreign bank debt.
- Feb. 20**—400 cashiers, packers and shop assistants went on strike at four Pick'n Pay outlets in Pretoria, protesting the dismissal of a shop steward and the company's use of black staff from Pretoria to break a week-long stayaway by black workers in Witbank. The Witbank stayaway grew out of the arrest of 820 people for attending a prohibited meeting of the Unemployed People's Congress.
- Feb. 21**—At least 24 people were killed thus far in unrest in the black township of Alexandra. Nearly all those killed were at the hands of the police. One resident stated, "I saw police shoot dead three children . . . between 12 and 14 years old."
- March 24**—Coca Cola is providing an initial \$10 million to establish new foundations in South Africa. According to Coca Cola, the foundations operate with a free hand, with a seven-member board including Bishop Tutu and Allan Boesak.
- March 23**—All together, 755 out of 878 national servicemen were classified as conscientious objectors between February 1984 and February 1986, according to government statistics in South Africa.
- March 31**—Five black homeland doctors were forced to quit their jobs in hospitals in the KwaZulu homeland because of their opposition to the homeland government. The five doctors had refused to sign a pledge of allegiance to Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha organization and the KwaZulu legislative assembly.
- March 31**—Defying a ban on outdoor gatherings, about 20,000 blacks attended a memorial service outside of Port Elizabeth for Moses Mabhidu, an ANC member who had died in Mozambique on March 8.
- March 31**—At a large gathering of black students, parents and teachers in Durban, the National Education Crisis Committee endorsed stay-away actions by workers on May 1 and June 16-18. The committee also agreed to return to school in order to change the ungovernability of the black townships into an arena of control by the people.
- April 1**—Winnie Mandela's 24 year old banning order was not renewed. Within a few days she called for "immediate and total sanctions" against South Africa, and urged blacks to enter a new phase of "direct action" to physically dismantle South Africa's apartheid system. "The real terrorists are not in prison or exile, but in Pretoria and Cape Town," she said.
- April 3**—Bishop Tutu called for sanctions against South Africa, a call supported by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the United Democratic Front and the ANC, but rejected by the South African Association of Chambers of Commerce, the US and Britain.
- April 6**—Large numbers of Stinger missiles are already in the hands of UNITA, apparently routed through Zaïre.
- April 20**—The Transkei homeland's leader Mantanzima seized the body of ANC member Chief Sabata Dalindyebo, who had died in exile in Zambia, and buried it against the wishes of Dalindyebo's family and friends. Mantanzima said the ANC member was to be buried in common ground and not in the royal graveyard. Dalindyebo was Nelson Mandela's nephew.
- May 1**—A reported 1 1/2 million people did not go to work, virtually closing South Africa for business purposes on May Day.
- May 19**—South Africa launched an attack on Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana bombing ANC installations in each country. This was the second border attack on Botswana by South Africa this year and the first attack on Zimbabwe and Zambia.
- May 30**—47 Black and White South African students were arrested after participating in a protest in Johannesburg of over 1000 students. The protesters were brutally attacked by South African police yielding bull whips, clubs and using attack dogs.
- May 31**—The White government of South Africa celebrated its 25th anniversary as a Republic. Celebrations were low key and demonstrated the severely weakened and divided apartheid regime.
- June 5**—South African government announced that it was banning any June 16 commemorations honoring the 10 year anniversary of the Soweto uprising.
- June 16**—Nationwide strike in South Africa in commemoration of Soweto is successful.

U.N. & CIDA Hold Namibia Conference

Continued from page 1

and information with the crowd. Opening comments were made and then the audience divided into smaller groups for workshops. Among the workshop topics were Women in Namibia, The Church in Namibia, and Liberation Strategies.

Representative Gurirab made the keynote speech during lunch, detailing the history of the Namibian struggle and its current status. He

explained how South Africa has illegally occupied Namibia since 1966 and what military occupation has meant to the people of Namibia. In the afternoon session, the workshops reported their resolutions to the group. For example, the Church workshop suggested that the religious community organize around Namibia and southern Africa similar to how they organize on Central America issues, using such methods as passive

resistance, civil disobedience, and perhaps form a Pledge of Resistance.

Each group committed itself to include Namibia in its work. Mr. Singham told the crowd that it should think about southern Africa and not just South Africa, if it wants to truly defeat apartheid. The conference culminated in a festive evening at Chicago's DuSable Museum with refreshments and live entertainment.

State Task Force Report [continued]

the legislature did not vote on the divestment bill by the close of this legislative year on June 30, HB 330 may still succeed. There are six days in late 1986 when HB 330 could be voted on and signed by Gov. Thompson. CIDA will alert its membership in October so that all efforts can be made toward passage of HB 330.

There are, however some important developments to be noted and lessons to be learned from the committee process. First, the bills which passed out of committee were amended versions. HB 330 was amended, with House leadership participation, to be a no new investments bill, prohibiting future investments of pension fund money in firms doing business in South Africa. While weaker than a divestment mandate, CIDA decided to accept this initiative because it had leadership support and full divestment looked doubtful. Also, because the rate of sales of the major Illinois pension funds is high enough to justify this bill having significant impact. HB 317 was amended, with CIDA's approval, to be the Steel bill, prohibiting the importation of South African Steel into Illinois for use in the construction of public buildings.

Second, we have reason to believe that last hour lobbying from our state-wide memberships and leaders of the religious and labor communities was influential in bringing about positive movement on these bills. While time and person power constraints made us unable to contact our entire membership, action by those who did hear—including two consecutive telegrams sent to Speaker of the House Michael Madigan and other representatives by a group of 17 religious leaders—provided the kind of public pressure needed for this legislation to be taken seriously. THANKS to all those who responded! We must continue to step up the pressure until victory is won.

Third, we should be greatly encouraged by the impressive list of organizations which have officially joined the fight for substantive anti-apartheid legislation in Illinois. In fact, organizations registered as proponents of HB 317 and HB 330 at the committee hearing outnumbered opponents 14 to 9. If you are members of or somehow related to any of the organizations listed below, urge them to support future anti-apartheid

legislation.

Lastly, the actual committee vote on HB 330 was 6:1, with the only dissenting vote from Judy Koehler (currently campaigning for Dixon's seat as Senator). Both Timothy Johnson and Roger McAuliffe were absent. HB 317 passed 7:0.

CIDA wants to publically thank the Urban Redevelopment Committee Chairperson Wyvetter Younge for her assistance and support during the Committee process. We thank Representatives Wyvetter Younge, Ethel Alexander, Arther Turner, Jerry Washington, Anthony Young and James Kirkland for their YES votes and ask for their continued support.

Finally, we thank those who took the time to attend the committee hearings, and we especially thank Rich Wood of the Consortium on Governmental Concerns, Finian Taylor of the Community Renewal Society, and Steve Apotheker of the Champaign-Urbana Coalition Against Apartheid for their ongoing efforts in the struggle against apartheid.

Registered Opponents

Associated Employers of Illinois
Caterpillar Tractor
Teachers Retirement System
Illinois State Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Manufacturer Association
John Deere and Company
Illinois Municipal Retirees Fund
Illinois Education Association

Registered Proponents

Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois Public Action Council (IPAC)
Illinois Consortium on Governmental Concerns
AFSCME
Illinois AFL-CIO
Chicago Urban League
Illinois Federation of Teachers
Illinois NOW
Urbana Education Association
UAW Local 65, Chicago
Champaign-Urbana Coalition Against Apartheid
CIDA
UA Local 65, Forsyth

U of I Divestment Movement Mounts a No Re-election Campaign

With 85 universities across the nation having passed divestment actions, according to the Washington Office on Africa, Illinois remains disgracefully behind. While student movements are strong and growing at almost every Illinois university, the intransigence of the respective Boards of Trustees is unconscionable. The strongest (sic) position any of the Illinois schools have taken is a stance accommodating the Sullivan Principle signatories. This article will discuss the divestment movement at the University of Illinois. Other student groups are invited to submit articles for inclusion in subsequent newsletters.

When the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) at the U of I submitted a request in 1965 that the trustees divest their South African-related investments, little did they know how long and hard a struggle it would be. Since 1977, when a new wave of organizing began which led in 1979 to the unsatisfactory trustee response of adopting a policy based on shareholder resolutions and the Sullivan Principles, a solid student movement has been building steadily.

In the Fall of '84 they got the trustees to pass a resolution to conduct a thorough study of their position on South African related investments. An 8 month student-led campaign of lobbying the trustees culminated in providing 4 hours of testimony in favor of divestment with expert witnesses covering every pertinent financial, moral, legal, racial, local and international consideration. The next day, after almost no discussion, the trustees voted against divestment. After playing the game for so long by the administration's rules to no avail, the only action left to students was to disrupt the meeting, which in turn led to more arrests.

The students, through the Divest Now Coalition (DNC), continued to organize and protest at each trustee meeting during the summer and fall of '85. They were not sidetracked when the trustees tried to diffuse the issue by sponsoring an invitation-only "retreat" on the "University Responses to Public Policy Issues" in February 1986. Structured to accomplish nothing substantive, the retreat did precisely that.

The most recent events coincided with actions happening around the nation as part of April actions against apartheid.

Following an anti-apartheid Rally at the Champaign-Urbana campus on April 4, 1986, participants marched to President Ikenberry's office to submit a list of 4 moderate demands. On Monday, April 7th, students constructed a Shantytown on campus. That Wednesday 1400 people participated in a rally, with 400 of them proceeding to take over part of the Student Union, staying until the next morning's trustee meeting. At the trustee meeting the students presented a resolution that the trustees put their policy in line with Rev. Leon Sullivan's call for divestment in '87 if apartheid is not yet abolished. The trustees response: 60 people arrested and a deadline for dismantling the Shantytown.

With 60 people facing serious arrests, organizers threatened with additional disciplinary action by the University and NPR quoting President Ikenberry's claim to have put in a call to the Illinois National Guard, the students staged some guerrilla theatre while taking down the shanties. They had a press conference to launch a No Re-election campaign against Trustees Nina Sheperd, Galey Day and Dean Madden. One week later the Shantytown was up again, strategically done during Mom's Day Weekend festivities. Many parents engaged in discussion and wore red ribbons to show their support. Early Sunday morning, after giving a one minute warning to the shanty dwellers, the police destroyed the shanties.

As their struggle continues and over 150 students attend DNC organizing meetings, the students are calling for outside support. Specifically, they ask the public to:

1. Send letters to President Ikenberry asking that all charges against the students be dropped. Administration Building, U of I, Urbana, IL 61801.
2. Publicize support for students and divestment in local papers across the state.
3. Help build a state-wide No-Reelection campaign. The slating occurs this summer and the elections next November. Contact the DNC office, 270 Illini Union, Urbana, IL 61801 or local CIDSA contact person, Steve Apotheker (217) 344-0300.
4. Contribute to the Legal Defense Fund, which needs an estimated \$15,000 to defend the 60 arrested students.

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