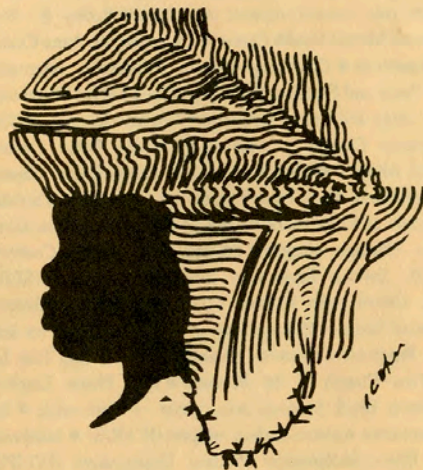


**CIDSA**

Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa  
343 S. Dearborn, #919, Chicago, IL 60604

# CIDSA

## Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa



### Stop Illinois Money from Being Invested in Racist South Africa

#### 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.

#### Why South Africa?

South Africa is the only country in the world today where white supremacy is written into the constitution and laws. A white minority in South Africa benefits from the oppression of the black majority through a social and economic system known as apartheid. In this system 87% of the land is reserved for the 16% of the population which is white. Over 3.5 million blacks — Africans, Asians and "colored" (people of mixed descent) — have been forcibly relocated under apartheid; over 2.5 million Africans have been resettled to remote, barren areas known as bantustans or "homelands." In these homelands 50% of all children die before the age of five.

Officially, blacks are not citizens of South Africa, cannot vote or form political parties. Some independent black trade unions exist, but they operate under strict government control and their leaders are frequently harassed, detained and tortured. Malnutrition, high unemployment, and a lack of all political rights are the reality for black people in South Africa, while white South Africans enjoy the highest standard of living in the world.

#### Is the U.S. Involved?

Over 300 American corporations now support the South African economy through direct investments and trade. In 1980, U.S. exports to South Africa jumped by 50% to make the U.S. the largest trading partner of South Africa. U.S. multinational corporations and banks have over \$15 billion shoring up the South African economy; they control 43% of the South African petroleum market, 23% of its motor vehicle sales, and 75% of its computer business.



#### Does U.S. Investment Help Blacks?

As U.S. investments increased over the past two decades and particularly since 1980, conditions for South African blacks have become steadily worse. Black unemployment is over 30% and rising, while whites enjoy nearly full employment and salaries four to 100 times higher than blacks. Between 1960 and 1983, more than 15,000 people were "banned," at least 6,500 detained without trial, and at least nine million arrested. During the five minutes it takes you to read this brochure, 26 blacks will have been arrested for passbook violations.

Since 1984 the struggle has moved to a new and critical level. Constitutional reforms which attempted to include "colored" and "Indian" populations in a minimal parliamentary chamber were rejected as farcical by those groups and by the "Africans" who — as 73% of the population — were totally excluded from these reforms. The successful boycott of the August 1984 elections has been followed by non-stop resistance and unrest, organized demonstrations, boycotts of schools, rent and white merchants, and massive work stoppages.

Such defiance has been met with violent repression from the apartheid machine. Over 2,000 people have been detained, 6,500 arrested and over 700 people killed between September 1984-August 1985. On June 21, 1985, the apartheid government declared an indefinite state of emergency. This made official the suspension of all civil rights and ended all accountability from the South African police and security forces.

## 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 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 detention 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."

Despite it being illegal in South Africa to advocate divestment, all major anti-apartheid organizations inside South Africa — including the African National Congress (ANC), the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU) and the South African Council of Churches (SACC) — have now publicly endorsed economic sanctions. And contrary to the State Department-supported survey of December 1984, a poll in mid-1985 by a Gallup-affiliated organization found that 77% of urban blacks support economic sanctions against South Africa. The divestment of publicly controlled Illinois funds from South Africa will be a significant contribution to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and help create circumstances for the South African people to forge fundamental change in their country.

## What is CIDSА Doing?

CIDSА is currently focusing its efforts in task forces which work together toward the passage of city and state divestment bills and increased public awareness of South Africa.

The Outreach/Education Task Force is committed to educating Illinois residents to the evils of apartheid through speaking engagements and

workshops. Efforts are being made to target those areas where support will be key to the legislative process, particularly downstate.

Following their successful efforts to pass an anti-apartheid resolution in the Chicago City Council in 1984, the City Task Force is working for the adoption of Chicago divestment measures which were introduced in March 1985. Research continues to determine the scope and sources of city investment in South Africa. Work is progressing in other cities — including Carbondale, Peoria and Champaign — to get those city councils to take action as well. CIDSА works with the Free South Africa Movement organizing protests against South Africa's presence in Illinois, ranging from the consulate to sports teams.

The Steel Task Force is committed to halting the importation and use of South African steel and related products in public buildings throughout Illinois. Strategies include research on where South African steel has been used in the state; public educationals and speaking engagements; working with the steel workers on this issue; and pushing for legislation which would prohibit the importation of South African steel for public buildings.

CIDSА's State Task Force's major effort is to cut the economic ties between Illinois and apartheid South Africa. A number of divestment bills have been introduced in both the state House and Senate. CIDSА organizes testimony and public support statewide for these bills. Two additional committees facilitate the nuts and bolts of CIDSА's internal building process: the membership and fundraising committees.

## What Can You Do?

1) Support CIDSА through your membership and active participation in a taskforce and monthly meetings which take place the first Sunday of each month, 6 p.m., at 37 S. Ashland, Chicago.

2) Urge your organizations (whether church, civic, community, union, professional or other) to become an active part of CIDSА and a financial contributor to CIDSА. Urge them to issue a public

statement in support of the work being done by CIDSА.

3) Arrange an educational program by CIDSА for your church, union or organization.

4) Write to your state representatives urging them to support the divestment of Illinois public funds from South Africa.

## CIDSА Endorsers

• Afro-American Firefighters League • All People's Congress • Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union — Textile Division • American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) • American Friends Service Committee • American Lutheran Church — Illinois District Task Force on Racism • Black American Law Students Association • 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 • Chicago District — Illinois Synod Lutheran Church in America • Chicago Peace Council • Chicago Taxi Alliance • Church in Society, Trinity United Church of Christ • Coalition of Black Trade Unionists • Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) • Democratic Socialists of America — Chicago chapter • Disarm Now Action Coalition • District 925, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) • District 65, United Auto Workers (UAW) • Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena — Chicago Region • 8th Day Center for Justice • Evanston Progressive Students Committee • Faith and True Light Mission • First Church of the Brethren • Hull House Employees Union • Illinois Black Students Association — Carbondale • International Committee Against Racism in Sport (ICARIS) • Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization (IVI/IPO) • Jewish Council on Urban Affairs • Latino Youth Staff • Local 372, Service Employee International Union (SEIU) • Lutheran Coalition on Southern Africa • National Alliance Against Racism 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 • Organization of Black Students — University of Chicago • Organizational Consultants • P.E.C. • PILSOM • Peoria Task Force on Southern Africa • The Renaissance Women • Sara Levin Chapter/Emma Lazarus Organization • Social Concerns Committee — United Church of Rogers Park • Synapses • Toward Freedom, Inc. • Troubadour Press • TransAfrica, Chicago • United Electrical Radio Machine Workers Union • United Black Christians • United Legal Workers • United Mine Workers Union • Venceremos Brigade • Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ • Wheadon United Methodist Church • Women United for a Better Chicago • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom — Chicago •

Please return to: CIDSА

343 S. Dearborn, Suite 919  
Chicago, IL 60604

312/922-3915

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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(home)

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Enclosed:

Organizational member donation \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual member donation \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information.  
Please contact me.