PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

URGE YOU PUBLICLY DENOUNCE ARREST TODAY OF CHURCH LEADERS BY SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME AND THE INCREASINGLY BRUTAL AND WIDESPREAD REPRESSION OF STUDENTS AND OTHERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Over 50 South African church leaders were arrested this morning as they marched in procession along the streets of Johannesburg toward the John Vorster Square police headquarters singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.

They were protesting the detention Saturday of the Rev John Thorne, who has been close to the students boycotting classes for six weeks. Word came this afternoon he now has been released.

The group arrested today is being held incommunicado and must appear in court tomorrow morning. It is not known what the specific charges will be. Their lawyer was refused permission to see the churchpeople by the South African Police - after he noted that unless they were charged under the Terrorism Act he had a right to see them. Among them are:

- Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches
- Ms Leah Tutu, the bishop's wife
- Ms Fourie
- the Rev Stanley Pitts, Methodist, chairman, church committee of the SACC
- the Very Rev Simeon Nkoane, Dean, Anglican Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin
- Father Kingston Erson, prior of St Peter's Anglican Community of the Resurrection
- the Rev Joseph Wing, general secretary of the Congregational Church
- the Right Rev Timothy Bavin, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg
- Christopher Aitken, general secretary, Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa
- the Rev Peter Storey, Methodist, a vice president of the SACC

Over the weekend in the Johannesburg area alone, South African Police arrested 2,000 Africans in a vast dragnet. In Cape Town, 4,000 demonstrating students were scattered by heavily armed police and 183 arrested with excessive brutality. Black protesters in Bloemfontein could not be dispersed by teargas and police fired on stone-throwing youths. In Kwa Zulu, University of Zululand students were unsuccessful in preventing bantustan Chief Gatsha Buthelezi from entering the campus; they fired a university building. The six-week old school boycott is mounting in intensity and appears uncontrollable - with firm support of parents.

CALL UPON PRESIDENT CARTER, YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

MESSAGES TO OUR SOUTH AFRICAN COMPATRIOTS:

South African Council of Churches
P O Box 31190
Braamfontein 2017
SOUTH AFRICA

PROTEST TO:

Ambassador Donald B. Sole
South African Embassy
3051 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20008