SOWETO COMMEMORATION TO BE HELD ON JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth Day (June 19th) celebrates the freeing of the slaves here in the United States. The Milwaukee Committee on Southern Africa feels that it is appropriate in the spirit of that day to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the student demonstrations in Soweto, South Africa, June 16th, 1976.

On Monday, June 19th, the Committee will sponsor an informational booth at the Juneteenth Day Street Festival on Third Street. In the evening there will be a film and speaker at St. Gall's Church 2628 N. 3rd Street. The film, "There is No Crisis" shows actual footage of the Soweto demonstrations and interviews with students and adult leaders, many of whom were later arrested.

The speaker, Howard Fuller, has long been a supporter of the Southern African liberation movements and visited liberated areas in Mozambique prior to independence. He is currently the Associate Director for the College Program in Marquette University's Educational Opportunities Program.

The film will be shown at 6:30 and 7:30pm followed by Mr. Fuller at 8:00pm. Please come.

LOCAL BANKS RESPOND TO REQUEST TO END LOANS

The Committee's request to local banks to discontinue loans to South Africa has borne some fruit. 1st Wisconsin, which had made loans to South Africa in the recent past, announced in mid-March that it will discontinue loans to the South African government and its agencies. However, it will continue to make loans to American companies doing business with South Africa. Although the denial of loans to the South African government is an important first step, the Committee is convinced that loans to private companies to finance investment in South Africa provide crucial imports for the South African economy and help insure the stability of the White minority government. We will continue to view 1st Wisconsin as a supporter of apartheid until it states its intentions to end all loans of this type.

The Marine Bank replied to the Committee's letter by saying it has not made and does not presently intend to make any loans to the governments of South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. The bank has not yet replied to a second letter concerning its policy towards loans to corporations for investment in South Africa.

The third bank contacted, Marshall and Ilsley, has not made any reply to two letters of the Committee.

MILWAUKEANS PROTEST IN NASHVILLE

Eight members of the Milwaukee Committee on Southern Africa joined over 6,000 people in Nashville on March 17-19, to protest the participation of a South African team in the Davis Cup Tennis matches. Thanks to the well organized and well publicized demonstrations, the matches were a financial disaster for their host, Vanderbilt University, the university sold only 4400 tickets when it needed to sell 12,000 just to break even. Protesters surrounded the gym entrances before each match so that many ticket holders did not even attempt to come and others turned away at the door.

The focal point of the weekend was a march from downtown Nashville to a rally at a park near the gym. Called the largest march since civil rights days, the speakers continually linked the struggle in South Africa with the on-going struggle for equality in the U.S.A.

A few days after the matches, the International Federation announced that South Africa had been expelled from the Davis Cup matches for the next year.

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UPDATE ON THE EX-IM BANK BILL

The Export-Import Bank Authorization Bill (HR 12157) which includes an amendment to cut off ExIm guaranteed loans to South Africa is making its way slowly through Congress. The bill passed the House Banking Committee headed by Milwaukee Rep. Henry Reuss who actively supported the amendment. The bill passed by this committee carried an amendment that called for a complete cut-off of ExIm aid to South Africa. However, on June 2nd when the bill came before the entire House of Representatives a substitute amendment (which was more limited in scope) passed by a large majority. This substitute amendment cuts off ExIm to:

1. entities that help maintain apartheid;
2. South Africa's government and its agencies; and
3. companies that "have not endorsed and are working towards" the implementation of the Leon-Sullivan principals plus the willingness to bargain collectively with African Trade Unions.

In the Senate, the Banking Committee defeated the amendment 9 to 6. Senator Proxmire who heads that Committee has twice informed us that he strongly supports the prohibition of ExIm guaranteed loans to South Africa. We have not yet received a reply from Senator Nelson regarding his position.

Since the U.S.'s primary relationship with South Africa is economic, the prohibition of ExIm guaranteed loans would be a significant national statement of opposition to apartheid which would be strongly felt by the Vorster government. The House action, although not as complete as we would have wished, does demonstrate that they are taking our economic relationship to apartheid seriously. We ask you to write to Senators Nelson and Proxmire urging the Senate to take a stand for total prohibition of ExIm aid to South Africa.

MARQUETTE ASKED TO DISINVEST

Since March the Committee has been in contact with the Marquette administration urging disinvestment of stocks held in companies doing business in South Africa. Although the replies from the University do not rule out discussion of the issue, they question the efficacy of such an action.

A check of Marquette's form 990 filed with the Internal Revenue Service reveals that they have over $9.5 million invested in corporate stocks and bonds. The form does not indicate how much of this in corporations doing business in South Africa.