MEMO # 2

JUNE 16 ACTION AT NORTHWESTERN BANK NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION

As you know, June 16 is the national day of action around bank loans to South Africa. We have several actions planned focusing on Northwestern Bank of Minneapolis:
1) Leafletting on the Nicollet Mall from 11-12 noon
2) Leafletting and picketing outside of Northwestern from 12-1 pm
3) Bank account withdrawals
4) Phone-in to Northwestern officials protesting their lending policy

Similar actions are planned in other communities around the country. June 16 is proving to be a day of massive community action against South Africa's racist government.

If you can help us leaflet the Nicollet Mall, please call the office. WE WILL GATHER AT THE CORNER OF 7TH & MARQUETTE AT 12 NOON TO BEGIN OUR PICKETING AND ACCOUNT WITHDRAWAL.

If you have an account at a branch bank of Northwestern, we ask that you withdraw your money before or after the action at the main bank. Be sure to let bank officials know why you are closing your account.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING OF SOUTH AFRICA BEING DEBATED IN CONGRESS

In addition to trying to halt loans from local banks, people throughout the country are also trying to influence Congress to end Export-Import Bank financing to South Africa. This governmental body guarantees loans such as the two from Northwestern against default - an insurance policy of sorts paid for out of taxpayers' money.

If Congress were to end all Export-Import financing to South Africa, local banks would be far more hesitant to risk loaning to that country. Thus, this is an important piece of legislation. We urge everyone to write or phone your Representative and Senators, calling on them to vote in favor of ending EXIM financing to South Africa. The envelope can be simply addressed: Representative _____________, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515; Senator _____________, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

SEE YOU ALL ON JUNE 16!

CLERGY & LAITY CONCERNED

Minnesota Church Center
122 W. Franklin Ave
Minneapolis, Mn 55404
(612) 871-8033
Northwestern Bank$ on Racism
But YOU can help change that

It is true there are blacks working for us...we need them because they work for us...But the fact that they work for us can never entitle them to claim political rights. Not now, nor in the future...under no circumstances.

South African Prime Minister, John Vorster

SOUTH AFRICA TODAY

- black Africans cannot vote, buy or sell land, own factories or organize unions.
- blacks must carry passbooks and are only allowed into white areas to work.
- meetings of over 10 non-whites are prohibited without a permit.
- blacks are being imprisoned, deported and killed for speaking against apartheid.

South Africa's system of apartheid denies blacks power, and it is power to control their own lives which is central to the black demand for change. They want a new order based on equal participation of all.

JUNE 16 - ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO UPRISING

On June 16, 1976, students in the black ghetto of Soweto began a protest against the use of Afrikaans, the white minority language, in black schools. The government finally relented but not before scores of children were killed and hundreds injured by the police. The students again left class in mid-1977 demanding the abolition of the separate and inferior school system for blacks. Forty schools, involving 27,000 students were emptied and as the boycott spread to other communities it involved nearly 200,000 students. The schools in Soweto sit empty today in protest of such conditions as:

- in 1976 $763 was spent on each white pupil, $48 for each black child.
- black teachers are paid $4,485 against $8,370 for white teachers.
- teacher/pupil ratios are 50 to 1 in black schools, 20 to 1 in white.

WHO SUPPORTS RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Because of rampant inflation and other internal problems, South Africa's economy is floundering. U.S. investment has provided a needed "shot in the arm" to their economy and, according to a United Nations report on apartheid: "Foreign investment in South Africa bears an ascribable responsibility for apartheid...." Consider these points:

1) U.S. business claims their investments help blacks by providing jobs. However, the actual earning power of a black worker has not changed since the turn of the century and the gap between white and black wages has jumped from $259 in 1969 to $463 in 1975.

2) Integrating work-place cafeterias or providing recreational facilities for black workers are meaningless when black workers are forced to live apart from their families and when one half of rural black children die before the age of five.

3) U.S. business condemns apartheid yet reaps a profit as high as 20%. This financial benefit which they receive from the apartheid system is the reason for their reluctance to withdraw from South Africa.
BLACK LEADERS CALL FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Speaking in favor of economic withdrawal is termed "terrorism" in South Africa and can result in a long prison term or even death, but black leaders are calling on U.S. business to withdraw from South Africa. Here are excerpts from two of these voices:

"Investment in South Africa is investment in apartheid, and this is immoral, unjust and exploitative."

Christian Institute of South Africa

"The economic boycott of South Africa will entail undoubted hardship for (black) Africans.... But if it is a method which shortens the day of blood, the suffering to us will be a price we are willing to pay. In any case, we suffer already...."

The late Chief Albert J. Luthuli, Nobel Prize winner and Pres. of the African National Congress

WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEGUN

Because of community pressure which included withdrawal of accounts, six U.S. banks have already announced they will stop all loans to South Africa. These include: Wells Fargo of San Francisco, Wachovia of North Carolina and City Bank of Detroit.

In addition, the U.S. Congress is addressing the issue of investment in South Africa through its debates to end Export-Import financing to that country.

The more than 50 U.S. banks that are loaning almost $3 billion to South Africa are supporting that country's economy. Included in this list is NORTHWESTERN OF MINNEAPOLIS, which admits to having two loans totaling $2.2 million. These loans support apartheid but Northwestern officials will not agree to stop all loans to South Africa.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1) If you bank at Northwestern we urge you to close your account until they agree to stop all loans to South Africa. Inform them of the reason for your decision.

2) Call John Morrison, Chairman of the Board, or John McHugh, President of Northwestern, (372-8123) and express your disapproval of their policy of loaning to South African corporations.

3) Join us at Northwestern Bank, 7th and Marquette, June 16 from 12-1PM, to publicly express your opposition to their South African lending policy.

Numerous individuals and organizations have joined our local effort, which is part of the "National Campaign to Stop Bank Loans to South Africa." The list includes: the Southeastern District of the American Lutheran Church, the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, Prince of Glory Lutheran Church, Cedar-Riverside PAC, St. Joseph House, The Early Learning Center, and Haymarket Press.

JOIN WITH US IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO END APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. DON'T BANK ON RACISM!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MINNESOTA CLERGY & LAITY CONCERNED

122 W. Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, Mn 55404