The issue of the University of Washington's over $3 million worth of investments in corporations operating in the Union of South Africa came to a head at the April 14 Board of Regents meeting. In support of divestment letters and/or testimony came from the UW Out Of South Africa Committee, The American Friends Service Committee, The NAACP, the International Boilermakers Union, United Workers Union, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Campus Christian Ministry, and other organizations and individuals, including faculty members, students and community people, and demonstrations were organized by the Black Student Union, the African Student Union, and the UW Out Of South Africa Committee. However, the Regents voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations of the Administration. These recommendations call on the University to apply so-called "human rights" criteria for investments and to act through shareholder avenues to encourage corporations to adopt and implement the Sullivan Principles, a set of six principles formulated by Leon Sullivan, a black minister who sits on the Board of Directors of General Motors (see box).

The human rights guidelines state that human rights concerns will be considered in UW investment management "only insofar as they affect the economic stability or productivity of the company." This guideline clearly puts the priority on profitability, rather than people. Human rights becomes a consideration only if the violation of rights and the people's response to such violations causes an unstable economy in a given country, thus affecting profits.

The Sullivan Principles relate to such things as desegregation of toilet and eating facilities, higher wages for blacks, etc.—in effect, Affirmative Action principles. But does Affirmative Action make sense within the South African context? The fallacy that adherence to the Sullivan Principles or to any other set of Affirmative Action guidelines can foster economic, social, and political justice for South Africa's majority stems from either an incorrect analysis of the situation or from an out-and-out attempt to cloud the real issues.

First of all, we must understand the nature of the struggle in South Africa. Repeatedly, black leaders in South Africa have called for the total withdrawal of U.S. corporate investment in South Africa. (See "Voices For Withdrawal", Southern Africa News, March/April edition.) For it is capital, technology, and training from the West that gives the South African government the strength and viability to maintain itself and its oppressive system of apartheid. Black South Africans are not interested in loosening their chains through Affirmative Action. Their struggle is to throw off their chains completely. The primary struggle in South Africa is against Western Imperialism, i.e., the economic dominance of the Western nations which makes minority rule and institutionalized slavery possible. And the more U.S. corporations invest in South Africa, the more they will become entrenched in the economy and the more their interest will be to maintain a "stable investment climate".

Corporate officials and elements within the Carter Administration argue that corporations can be agents for progressive change in South Africa, as they were in the civil rights movement in the U.S. But Affirmative Action has NOT worked in the U.S., where unemployment in black and other Third World communities is at...
movement in this miseraebly at Affirmative Action in this widened over the last when Depression Africa.

happiness". who have been constitutionally deprived of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

Affirmative Action will not work in South Africa because it does not address the fundamental issues. Moreover, if we examine the history of the past 20 years/when U.S. corporate investment has grown phenomenally (increasing 400% in the last 10 years), we see that U.S. corporations have not been agents of change in South Africa. Over the 20 year period the wage gap between blacks and whites has widened (just as it has in the U.S.) and during the same period, the South African government has passed more repressive laws--over 100--than it or its colonial predecessor did in the previous 300 years.

Today, 80% of the African population lives below the Poverty Datum Level and 90% of the adult population has been arrested, at one time or another, for violations of the Pass Laws.

With all due respect to Leon Sullivan, his principles are "too little, too late". They will not promote liberation, only frustration. And we who support liberation and self-determination for the South African majority must not allow U.S. corporations or the UW Board of Regents to disguise their support for apartheid with high sounding phrases and do-nothing policies.

Not only at the UW, but all across this country, students are organizing and mobilizing around University investments in corporations operating in South Africa. At the University of Wisconsin and at the University of Massachusetts, divestment has actually taken place. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education recently voted to divest; that decision is being challenged on legal grounds, but the Board members are standing firm on their decision. Virtually every major university and college have divestment campaigns going. The cumulative effect of such pressure on our institutions and corporations can create a climate in which the South African question can no longer be swept under the rug.

Our task is to build a movement in this country to demand USA OUT OF USA—to demand that not only UW get out of the Union of South Africa, but also Boeing, Pacific Car and Foundry, SeaFirst Corporation and the other more than 350 corporations profiting off the cheap labor afforded under conditions of oppression in South Africa.

The UW OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA COMMITTEE will be sponsoring a series of educational and actions throughout the summer. For more information, call 543-1480 or 632-0500.

SULLIVAN PRINCIPLES

1. Non-segregation of the races in all eating, comfort and work facilities.
2. Equal and fair employment practices for all employees.
3. Equal pay for all employees doing equal or comparable work for the same period of time.
4. Initiation of and development of training programs that will prepare, in substantial numbers, Blacks and other non-whites for supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs.
5. Increasing the number of Blacks and other non-whites in management and supervisory positions.
6. Improving the quality of employees' lives outside the work environment in such areas as housing, transportation, schooling, recreation and health facilities.
VIGIL AT U.W. PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

On May 11, members of our Study Group on Southern Africa joined with the U.W. Out Of South Africa Committee to hold a vigil at the home of John Hogness, President of the U. of W. The 20 protesters gathered to greet 4 Board of Regents members as they went in to a monthly dinner meeting with Hogness. The monthly get together at the President's house has become standard procedure before each public Board of Regents meeting.

Each Regent was confronted by spokespersons of the picket line and told that their decision to refuse divestment of University stocks of corporations that do business in South Africa would continue to meet with further resistance by students and the community at large. Furthermore, the Board of Regents monthly dinner meetings were challenged as a violation of the Open Meetings Law, which requires public accessibility to meetings in which a quorum of members are present to discuss agenda items.

The Board voted on April 14th not to divest, after listening to opposition from numerous community groups and organizations. The fact that Regents came to the meeting with prepared statements on the subject and did not even attempt to respond to individual points of the opposition leads us to believe that the Regents discussed their strategy together—most likely at the dinner meeting the previous night at Hogness' house.

IN THE U.S.A....

NAACP President Benjamin Hooks called the recent protests against South African participation in the Davis Cup tennis matches the largest of its kind since the civil rights movement. Over 5,000 people took to the streets during the March 17–19 games and were successful in keeping attendance to 1/3rd of expected patrons. Vanderbilt University was unable to pay off their $50,000 commitment to sponsor the games, thus forcing the International Lawn Tennis Federation to assume the debt.

Also in March, the college town of Davis, California, voted to require city officials to set up a task force to study ways of re-investing city money in the banks which do not loan money to South Africa.

KRUGERRAND KAMPAIN UPDATE....

Our campaign to have Seattle City Council pass a resolution against the Krugerrand is moving along on schedule. We have gathered over 1000 signatures as well as received endorsements from several community groups: among them, Mt. Baker Community Council, Live Without Trident, Capitol Hill Community Council, Local 1418 of AFSCME, American Friends Service Committee, National Lawyers Guild, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle. More endorsements are expected shortly and if you have any suggestions for other groups please let us know.

We will be presenting the Council with our petitions and letters of support this month and expect them to act within the next few weeks. We will let you know the exact date when Council will decide the issue. Your support at the Council hearings on that date will be greatly appreciated.

You may have noticed that the Krugerrand ads have begun reappearing in local media outlets as this is graduation time. The ads state that college graduates could not find a ‘safer’ hedge against spiraling inflation than a gold coin minted by the South African government. We will be organizing a protest demonstration against Krugerrand ads being carried by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Saturday, June 3rd at 12 noon. See the Action Agenda for further details.
AFRICAN SOLIDARITY DAY

Since May, 1971, African Solidarity Day has been recognized in the United States in response to the liberation movements of Angola, Mozambique & Guinea Bissau. The Organization of African Unity designated May 25th as African Solidarity Day. The purpose in the US was to mobilize Black Americans in support of the liberation movements and to protest business investment being in Southern Africa propping up the white minority regimes.

The first rallies were organized by the African Liberation Support Committee which was made up of several Afro-American Organizations.

In 1971 approximately 65,000 turned out for rallies in Washington D.C., San Francisco, Toronto, and the Caribbean.

On May 26, 1972, more that 100,000 people marched and rallied not only in the above mentioned cities but also in 30 other cities. Other support actions were held in Montreal, and Halifax, Canada: in the Caribbean, and in the 41 capitals of the independent nations in Africa.

The largest demonstration on May 26, 1972, was held in Oakland where about 12,000 people heard a member of the ZANU-ZAPU joint military command. In Washington D.C. approximately 4,000 people marched past embassies of Portugal, Britain, and South Africa, stopping at each embassy to hear speeches condemning those countries for their role in suppressing the African people.

In later years, African Solidarity Day demonstrations continued to emphasize the liberation movements' fight against colonialism, imperialism and the attempts of the EBE and CIA to stop rising liberation movements abroad and to quell anti-war, civil rights and black power movements in the U.S.

Each year after 1972 the turnouts for African Solidarity Day have been smaller. A few years ago people talked about the need to support African liberation on the same scale as the anti-Vietnam war movement, and in 1978 there have been the stirrings of that kind of movement through University divestment campaigns, and Solidarity and Support committees in various cities.

NEWS UPDATE........

NAMIBIA........

President Carter warned South Africa, during his latest trip to Nigeria, not to reject the latest Western-backed settlement proposal for Namibia. South Africa objects to several provisions of the plan. South Africa may try to impose their own "internal settlement" with the pro-South Africa, multi-racial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, an organization they sponsored in Namibia. The black leader of the Alliance was Clements Kapuuo--the man South Africa was grooming to install as the first leader of "independent" Namibia. However, he was assassinated on March 27. He is replaced by white settler leader Dirk Mudge, who will now chair the group. This is bound to throw a wrench into the Western-backed plans. South Africa accuses SWAPO (Southwest African People's Organization) of assassinating Kapuuo. SWAPO denies the charge, instead accusing the South African government of the assassination as part of a larger harassment campaign against SWAPO supporters which has left 14 people dead and at least 100 injured.

ACTION AGENDA

Demonstrate against the Krugerrand!!!
Saturday, June 3, at the Seattle P-I, 6th & Wall in downtown Seattle. Meet at 12 noon—demo will last about 1-1/2 hours.