1) 38 Arrested at Berkeley as Protests Spread

The U.S. anti-apartheid movement is dramatically escalating its militancy and students are playing an important role. On Friday December 7, 1000 people marched through campus and the city of Berkeley to the University of California Administration headquarters demanding an end to $1.7 billion in university investments linked to South Africa. Demonstrators blockaded the building and, despite police efforts to move them, prevented business as usual for three hours. This success forced the UC Senior Vice President to meet on the spot with protestor representatives who demanded a public meeting with the university regents and a one-day school shutdown for teach-ins on South Africa. The protest ended with the arrest of 38 people involved in the Campus Campaign Against Apartheid which spearheaded the action.

Please send telegrams to Campus Campaign Against Apartheid c/o 2219 Ward Str, Berkeley CA 94705 indicating solidarity with the protest and supporting the demand that the university immediately drop all charges against the protestors.

The escalation of campus struggle is linked to the well-publicized embassy protests and recent local organizing. In San Francisco the longshoremen had refused to unload South African cargo, and for 11 days there were daily rallies in front of the Pacific Maritime docks. In the Bay area divestment ordinance affecting new investments was passed November 30 in Oakland, and a divestment initiative (Proposition J) had passed by 63% vote in San Francisco on November 6.

2) Northeast Strategy Meeting to be Held January 25

We urge students and community people to follow the example of the Berkeley and Maryland protestors. While there is an urgent need for immediate action, we also must plan ahead for the Spring.

On Saturday January 25 noon-4PM there will be Northeast Strategy meeting at the American Committee on Africa, 198 Bway NYC (Rm 402) #212-962-1210. This meeting will develop the specifics of coordinated civil disobedience and other actions in connection with the March 21-April 6 Weeks of Action. A major, but not exclusive focus, will be campus protests. We thus urge all students to come with information about their spring vacations and trustee meetings to set action dates.

The importance of this meeting is underscored by the anti-divestment coordination taking place among campus administrations and corporate officials. Fifteen major Northeast schools have formed a research consortium with a budget of $30,000 this year "to improve understanding of American corporate activity in South Africa." The schools involved include: Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Rutgers, Yale, Notre Dame and Wesleyan Universities as well as Amherst, Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Oberlin, Smith, Swarthmore, Dartmouth and Williams Colleges. At the same time Mobil Oil is heading up a new corporate committee to lobby against divestment.

We must have a united and militant response to the pro-investment forces. Please attend the January 25th meeting at ACOA, particularly if your school is part of the administration research consortium.