April 11, 1989

Letters to the Editor
Seattle Post-Intelligencer
P. O. Box 1909
Seattle, Washington 98111

Dear Editor:

The Metro Council's courageous stand in reaffirming the principle of racial justice stands in stark contrast to the current position of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington. While the Metro Council voted overwhelmingly last week to stand by its policy prohibiting the purchase of products from apartheid South Africa, the University of Washington Regents have in recent months virtually quadrupled that institution's investments in companies that continue to do business in South Africa.

As the South African regime continues to rule by brute force -- in Namibia as well as in South Africa -- and millions of people are left killed, starving, maimed, beaten and jailed as a result of the apartheid system, and as religious and anti-apartheid leaders both inside and outside South Africa continue to call for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the apartheid regime, the University of Washington Regents increases the UW's investments in apartheid. Why? Do the Regents feel immune from public pressure? Or are they just immune from the horrors of living under apartheid?

The Metro Council deserves praise for recognizing that human beings are more important than dollars. The University of Washington Regents invite censure from their constituency, the taxpayers of the State of Washington and the UW alumni, as well as from all citizens who believe that a higher educational system we can all be proud of is not one financed through economic complicity with apartheid.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Prince

Marjorie Prince, Chair,
Task Force on Southern Africa
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cc: President, Board of Regents
Dr. William B. Cate