YOUR STATE TAXES SUPPORT RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA!

Support State Selective Purchase Bill, H. 3521

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

■ H. 3521 would stop Massachusetts state agencies from buying goods and services from companies doing business in South Africa or Namibia.
■ H. 3521 passed the Mass. House of Representatives in 1987, but did not receive full consideration in the Senate. It needs your renewed support now in the House.
■ Please call or write postcards or letters saying something like this:

I am writing in support of H. 3521, the Selective Purchase Bill, which would stop most Mass. contracts with companies doing business with South Africa or Namibia. I do not want my state taxes to go to any company that profits from South Africa's racist system. Please do everything you can to pass H. 3521, and let me know what actions you are taking.

Sincerely, (signature and address)

Please address your calls, postcards, or letters to:
1. Rep. Joseph Hermann, House Chair, State Administration
   State House, Room 34
   Boston, MA 02133. (722-2320)
2. Sen. Martin Reilly, Senate Chair, State Administration
   State House, Room 309
   Boston, MA 02133. (722-1291)
3. Your own State Representative
   State House, Room ???
   Boston, MA 02133. (722-1000)

For more on the bill or on other actions you can take, please see the fact sheet on the back of this leaflet. Mobilization for Survival, together with other organizations concerned about South Africa, is also working to help detained children, to send school and medical supplies to South African refugees, and to boycott Shell gasoline for its sales to the South African military. To get more information on these and other activities, please call or mail us your address.

JOIN US—SUPPORT SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL, H. 3521.


BOSTON MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL, 11 GARDEN ST., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138, 354-0008
HASN'T MASSACHUSETTS ALREADY DIVESTED?

In 1983, Massachusetts was one of the first states to strongly support freedom in South Africa by withdrawing its pension fund investments from companies doing business there. Many states and cities then enacted similar laws. But the Commonwealth has continued to purchase goods and services from these very same companies. In the first half of 1987 alone, the state spent over $12 million on these purchases. These are our tax dollars!

HOW IS SELECTIVE PURCHASE DIFFERENT, AND HOW WOULD IT WORK?

H. 3521 is a "selective purchase" bill. It would prohibit any Mass. state agency from buying goods and services from all companies which have any loans, operations, licenses, franchises, or subsidiaries in South Africa or Namibia, which is illegally occupied by South Africa. Exceptions would be made only if the purchase is essential, and the company either the only bidder for the contract, or its bid is more than 10% lower than the bid of a company not operating in South Africa or Namibia. This is the strongest language in any state bill in the US.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"We want to keep South Africa white—keeping it white can only mean one thing, namely white domination, not leadership, not guidance, but control, supremacy." H. Verwoerd, a former Prime Minister of South Africa.

South Africa has been internationally condemned for its system of race rule, called apartheid. Black people in South Africa are 87% of the population, yet they can not vote and have no political rights. They can not even live where they choose. The white minority controls most of the land and most of the wealth. Black workers are paid only about 1/6 of what whites are paid.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH AFRICA NOW?

Black people in South Africa have opposed white rule from its beginning. Since 1984, blacks have even more actively resisted all aspects of apartheid. But the white government has brutally suppressed all opposition. In June 1986, it declared a "State of Emergency" that allows the suspension of most civil rights and censorship of the press. Because of this news blackout, images of the vicious repression in South Africa no longer appear on our TV screens. But the violence has not stopped, it has worsened. Since the State of Emergency was imposed, over 30,000 people have been detained in jail without charge. The white government has killed or wounded 1,300 black children and detained more than 11,000 children. Detainees have been beaten, raped, tortured, and malnied for life. And the South African government bombs and invades black-ruled neighboring states, killing innocent civilians.

WILL THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL HELP?

Yes. The apartheid economy is very dependent on foreign investment and trade. US corporations sell the computers that record each person's racial classification; American companies sell the trucks and jeeps that carry the police and soldiers to arrest and shoot children; they sell the gas that fuels those jeeps. State selective purchase bills can be very effective as part of a world-wide movement to "sanction" South Africa by ending all forms of financial support for the racist regime.

Selective purchase bills can strongly influence companies to pull out of South Africa, thus cutting South Africa's access to foreign exchange and markets. Recently, a Los Angeles engineering firm severed all ties with South Africa rather than loose its city contracts under LA's new Selective Purchase law.

BUT DOESN'T ECONOMIC PRESSURE HURT BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"It was 15 years ago when I first got that explanation that sanctions would hurt blacks. I wish they had hurt me then so that my son wouldn't be hurting so much now." African father in his mid-30's (New York Times, April 2, 1985).

There is no way to put a kind face on apartheid. The only way to end the killings, the detentions, and the torture is to end apartheid. The entire anti-apartheid movement in South Africa—including the United Democratic Front (UDF, the largest legal political group), COSATU (the largest labor federation), the African National Congress (ANC), and religious leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu—has repeatedly called for economic pressure as an important strategy to push the white government to negotiate with black leaders for fundamental change.

WILL H. 3521 COST US MONEY OR CAUSE US PROBLEMS?

No. Daniel Carter, the purchasing agent for the Commonwealth and the person who would implement the new law, strongly supported it in testimony at a House committee hearing. Mr. Carter concluded that he "can quickly implement the provisions of H. 3521... without significant cost or lack of operational effectiveness by departments."

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP PASS THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL?

A. Write and call your state representative TODAY urging him or her to support the bill and to visit Rep. Joseph Hermann, House Chair of State Administration, urging him to favorably recommend the bill to the full House. (See the suggested text on the reverse of this leaflet.) Get your friends to call.

B. Send a copy of the letter to Rep. Hermann and Sen. Reilly. Call them. (Phone numbers are on the reverse.)

C. Ask groups to endorse H. 3521. Send copies of the endorsing letter to Hermann, Reilly, and the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

D. Arrange for group members to write individual letters to the same list. Set up a phone tree.

E. Set up tables in your community for people to write postcards. Or table with Mobilization for Survival.

F. Contribute what you can for leaflets and publicity.

For more information on the bill or on what you can do, please call Mobilization for Survival, 354-0008. We also carry out other kinds of anti-apartheid actions. Please call or write us with your address to get the latest information on these actions.