Dear HRAAA Supporter,  

3 August, 1987  

We are delighted to tell you that two petition candidates endorsed by HRAAA and three others who favor divestment won seats on the Board of Overseers in June. Consuela Washington, Counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Peter Wood, Associate Professor of History at Duke University, will join Jerome Wiesner, Albert Gore, and Frances Fitzgerald (plus Gay Seidman, the petition candidate elected last year).

It was a big victory, which we hope will result in Harvard's total divestment from corporations doing business in South Africa. For the first time in Harvard's history, two petition candidates were elected to the Board of Overseers. We now have a substantial number of Overseers who will work for social justice on this and other issues that will come before the Board.

We owe our victory to many, many people who contributed time, ideas, nominating signatures, votes, and money. On behalf of the new Overseers, all our candidates, and the Executive Committee, we extend our deep gratitude for your help.

Guided by the vision of a morally responsible South Africa policy and encouraged by HRAAA's success this year, we will continue to work for Harvard's full and rapid divestment in the coming year, and will support candidates for the Board of Overseers next year. We are already looking for potential candidates. If you can help us in this search, please indicate that on the enclosed form. We also plan to work more closely with the student anti-apartheid movement. Last year, for instance, student organizers led a very popular campaign to have the Harvard Corporation hold and open meeting to discuss its investment policies. A similar effort coordinating student and alumni/ae sentiment would be a powerful pressure on the Corporation.

Executive Committee

Jean Alonso, '59  
Herbert Gleason, '50, JD '58  
Ruth Messinger, '62  
Kenneth Simmons, '54  
1987 Overseers Candidate  
1986 Overseers Candidate  
1987 Overseers Candidate

Max Bond, '55, MAR '58  
Jerome Grossman, '38  
Dorothy Miller, EdM '57  
Kathryn Kish Sklar, '65  
1987 Overseers Candidate

Haywood Burns, '62  
Chester Hartman, '57, PhD '67  
John Plotz, '69  
Michael Tanzer, '57, PhD '62  
1987 Overseers Candidate

1987 Overseers Candidate

Adam Cohen, '84  
1987 Overseers Candidate  
Consuela Washington, JD '73  
1987 Overseers Candidate

Susan Dynarski, '87  
1987 Overseers Candidate  
Peter Wood, '64, PhD '72

Todd Gitlin, '63  
1987 Overseers Candidate  
1987 Overseers Candidate

Jane Hodes, '40  
Cynthia Robbins, '80  
1987 Overseers Candidate

Jennifer Levin, '80  
Victor Sidel, MD '57  
1987 Overseers Candidate
Chester Hartman, as planned, is stepping down from his part-time role as HRAAA's coordinator. As decided at our June 11 Executive Committee meeting, and interim steering committee--Dorothee Benz '87, Adam Cohen '84 JD '87, Jerome Grossman '38, Dorothy Miller EdM '57, and Consuela Washington JD '73--will assume his responsibilities until a new Executive Committee is elected at our Annual Meeting in October. The Executive Committee also decided to hire Dorothee Benz, a leader in the campus anti-apartheid movement who has several years of organizing experience and is well known to both students and University officials, as a full-time staffperson.

HRAAA will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24, in Cambridge. The agenda will focus on the future direction and leadership of HRAAA. We hope you will be able to attend. Please let us know by marking and returning the enclosed form no later than September 1, as we must find an appropriately sized meeting place.

We are looking forward to an exciting year--and to Harvard's full divestment. We need your continued moral and financial support. Please send a check made out to Harvard and Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid and mail it in the enclosed envelope today.

Thank you again for your part in this year's success.

Sincerely,

Chester Hartman '57 PhD '67

Sincerely,

Dorothee Benz '87
2 DISSIDENTS WIN IN HARVARD VOTE

Alumni Board Issue Involved Completing Divestment of Stocks in South Africa

Special to The New York Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 11 - Two of six dissident alumni of Harvard University who ran for the Board of Overseers on a platform urging Harvard to divest itself of South Africa-related stocks have been elected, along with three others sympathetic to divestment. The sixth person elected has not taken a public stand on the issue.

The election of the pro-divestment candidates, announced today at Harvard's 336th commencement exercises, raised the spirits of student and alumni activists who have for years urged the school to show its opposition to racial segregation in South Africa by withholding investments from companies that do business there.

Since last June, Harvard has divested itself of almost $150 million of the $527 million in holdings in such companies.

Last year the dissident alumni scored a victory when one of the three candidates they nominated by petition, Gay Seidman, was elected to a six-year term on the 30-member board, which is the weaker of Harvard's two governing bodies.

Unlike the more powerful Harvard Corporation, which selects its own successors, positions on the Board of Overseers are decided by vote of the school's 200,000 alumni.

Six Added to Slate of Candidates

Each year the Harvard Alumni Association nominates two candidates for each opening on the board, generally selecting alumni who agree with the school's policy of "selective divestment." This year a group that calls itself Harvard and Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid gathered over 9,000 signatures to add six candidates to the association's slate of 12.

The dissident candidates who won this year are Consuela Washington, counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Peter Wood, a professor at Duke University.

Professor Wood said today that he thought the state of emergency declared in South Africa a year ago helped to persuade the Board of Overseers that conditions there were grave enough to merit divestment.

The three other election winners who have stated support for divestment are Frances FitzGerald, the writer; Senator Albert Gore Jr., Democrat of Tennessee; and Jerome B. Wiesner, the former president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Andrew H. Brimmer, a former governor of the Federal Reserve System, who also won a seat, has not taken a public stand on the issue.

After the elections were announced this afternoon, Richard von Weizsäcker, the president of West Germany, delivered the main commencement speech, which commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Marshall Plan for Europe's postwar recovery.

Call for East-West Ties

Mr. von Weizsäcker, who has strongly voiced his belief that Germans must accept the burden of blame for Nazi war crimes despite his family's close links with the operations of the Third Reich, today called for more open communications between Europe's Eastern and Western bloc countries.

"Disarmament is important," he said, "But history teaches us that it is usually not disarmament which leads to peace, but peaceful cooperation into disarmament."

At this morning's portion of the commencement, Harvard's president, Derek Bok, granted degrees to 1,569 undergraduates and 3,809 graduate students in front of a crowd of over 20,000 alumni in Harvard Yard.

The university also awarded honorary degrees to 10 men and one woman. Among the recipients were Mr. von Weizsäcker; An Wang, the computer magnate and philanthropist; Benno C. Schmidt, the president of Yale University; Arthur Mitchell, the founder of the Dance Theater of Harlem, and Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, for whom the crowd stood and cheered.