Outstanding on the extensive list of South Africa's apartheid atrocities in the southern African region, is Pretoria's attack on the children of southern Africa. Inside South Africa, the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) with the Black Sash has reported that over 22,000 people have been detained since the June 12, 1986 state of emergency in South Africa. Over 40% of those detained have been children under the age of 18, some as young as 10 years old. The reports of beatings, torture, rape and murder by South African security forces and prison officials are a shocking testimony to the increasing brutality and injustice of the apartheid regime.

According to the recently released 1987 UNICEF State of the World's Children report, South Africa's military aggression in the region has caused southern Africa to have the highest death rates among children in the world.

All print and electronic media coverage inside South Africa has been restricted by the government. Foreign reporters, local newspapers, and reporters have been censored, questioned, detained and even expelled under new security legislation further restricting press coverage in South Africa. The incredible suffering of South Africa's black majority is continuing out of the view of significant press scrutiny and under conditions of unrestrained brutality and official violence.

The South African government has instituted new draconian regulations further limiting any opposition to the apartheid system. In South Africa today, the definition of "subversive" includes: participating in or organizing a boycott, any act of civil disobedience, the reporting of any news item about the effects of apartheid repression, publishing any information about State of Emergency detainees, or publishing the blank spots in news articles that have been censored by the government.

Inside Namibia, the list of injustices, including, illegal detentions, and exploitation by U.S. and European companies is substantial. In the first half of 1985, the South African government killed over 350 Namibians in police attacks on villages and non-violent political gatherings. The 100,000 South African troops illegally stationed in Namibia have carried out extensive numbers of offenses against the people of Namibia for which they are not held accountable. President Botha of South Africa consistently intervenes in the Namibian courts to prevent South African Defense Force (SADF) soldiers from being convicted of the rapes, torture, murders,
thefts and other crimes for which they have been charged.

** From 1980-86 South Africa's combined war of regional destabilization against its neighbors has caused $15-16 billion in damage to the black-ruled nations of southern Africa. Pretoria's military and economic policies have forced these governments to expend exorbitant sums of their meager resources on security needs rather than development projects necessary to build strong and independent economies.

** Contrary to recent arguments against the current U.S. sanctions policy, the South African government's escalating repression is not the result of the partial sanctions that have been applied by the U.S. and the international community. The resistance to change and brutal repression of Blacks in southern Africa has been the consistent and unabated policy of the apartheid regime over the last four decades, long before any significant sanctions were imposed against South Africa.

** The argument that our new sanctions policy has exacerbated the crisis inside South Africa is designed to absolve the Botha government of any responsibility for its uninterrupted policy of terror and oppression directed against the Black majority.

** While the present limited sanctions law is an important step towards ending U.S. support for the apartheid government, the loopholes within the law are permitting South Africa to continue business as usual in many sectors of its economy. The South African government is actively seeking and finding methods of undercutting the intent of the sanctions law by exploiting those loopholes.

** The Reagan Administration is further exploiting the loopholes in the law and weakening some of the stronger provisions of the bill by imposing loose regulations which are allowing continued imports and exports of items prohibited by the legislation. For example, the law prohibits imports of South African (and Namibian) uranium and uranium ore. Nevertheless, the Reagan Administration has granted a special exemption allowing these items to continue to enter the U.S.

** Partial sanctions can only have a partial effect. The cost in human lives in southern Africa demands swift enactment of a comprehensive U.S. anti-apartheid policy. We must work to raise the human and financial costs of maintaining the apartheid system.

** Dellums/Cranston bill mandates disinvestment. The recent re-organizations of several major corporations in South Africa such as IBM and GM, are not disinvestment. Among the major companies selling their direct investment in South Africa, Kodak has presented the model for corporate disinvestment by removing all of their products and assets from South Africa. The combined disinvestment by the U.S. corporations that are providing oil, computer technology and investment capital to South Africa will provide the strong economic pressure necessary to raise the cost of continuing the apartheid system.