

NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE
OCTOBER 8, 1963

BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIP
TO BE STAGED

New York, Oct. 8 -- The American Committee on Africa and the Congress of Racial Equality today announced plans for a picket line protesting the unloading of a South African ship in New York. The "African Pioneer," whose last port of call was Cape Town, South Africa, is due to discharge at Port Authority Pier 6, Brooklyn, on Wednesday, October 9. The organizers of the demonstration expressed the hope that Brooklyn longshoremen will not cross the picket line.

The demonstration, organizers explained, is part of a campaign to urge the US Government to impose trade and diplomatic sanctions on South Africa. Although South Africa is generally counted as a member of the Western alliance, a US policy of ceasing all arms shipments from the US was announced at the UN recently. This is thought to be the first such embargo placed on a "friendly" nation. US imports from South Africa nevertheless continue to exceed \$200 million annually. US investments in the South African economy are increasing. This trade and investment contributes greatly to the continuity of the apartheid regime.

Organizers of the picketing pointed out that the 1961 AFL-CIO Convention, in which the International Longshoremen's Association participated, passed a resolution calling for US economic sanctions, as well as an examination of "the possibility of trade unionists refusing to handle South African goods in a world-wide industrial boycott."

NOTE TO EDITORS: The African Pioneer is due to start discharging on October 9. The picketing will take place on that day, at 7:30 a.m., Port Authority Pier 6, Brooklyn. At 10:30 a.m. there will be a press conference in the conference room of the ILA building, 343 Court Street, Brooklyn. On hand to explain the action will be: ILA Local 1814 President Anthony Scotto, American Committee on Africa Executive Director, George Houser, and CORE National Director, James Farmer.

South African goods in a world-wide industrial boycott..."

Because we wish to show solidarity with others throughout the world who have already refused to cooperate in any way with the apartheid regime. These include: The African Heads of State at Addis Ababa, pledged to the liberation of Southern Africa...Delegates to the International Labour Organization who voted to exclude South Africa from all activities in the organization except for membership in the General Conference...and the longshoremen of Denmark and Norway who refused to unload South African cargo.

What do we hope to accomplish with this embargo? First, of course, is the precedent set for other maritime and transport workers of the organized American labor movement. We are not the only ones concerned with racial exploitation for profit and power. Others will draw obvious lessons from our example. Second, is the focusing of attention of the US public as a whole on our trade with South Africa and our individual consumption of South African products such as lobster tails. We do not expect that consumer boycotts will bring down the regime, but it could help weaken it. The Verwoerd Government will not negotiate because it speaks from strength. As long as foreign investments flow in and products flow out, declarations of moral indignation will bounce harmlessly off the armor of apartheid. But let the flow of capital and goods turn to a trickle: fanaticism will be replaced, if not by reason, at least by a germinal desire for interracial accommodation.

We demonstrate, most of all, because we believe that our Government, which has already condemned apartheid in words, must now show good faith by supporting a resolution for boycotts and sanctions against South Africa at the United Nations this fall, and by placing its own embargo on American trade with South Africa.

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