June 17, 1986

Dear Friend:

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, in conjunction with other community groups, urges you and your organization to join us in declaring a "State of Emergency" in Albany due to New York State's support for apartheid South Africa.

Beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 25, 1986, and ending 24 hours later, anti-apartheid activists will maintain a continuous presence at a SHANTYTOWN to be constructed in Capitol Park (at the rear of the State Capitol).

We have received permission from state officials to construct a SHANTYTOWN and will use the SHANTYTOWN to aid in educating others about living conditions that South Africans experience under apartheid, express our opposition to the State Senate's failure to support legislation divesting New York State from South Africa, and to show solidarity with South Africans struggling for freedom in their nation.

In order to have a successful action, we are asking that you, and the organization(s) that you are a member of, join us at the SHANTYTOWN. We need your group to commit themselves to oversee the SHANTYTOWN for a 3-hour shift. To maintain a constant presence, it is necessary for all concerned individuals and groups to participate in this important event. If your organization is unable to take responsibility for maintaining a shift, please encourage individuals to join us at the site. Obviously, the more people that are present the stronger the message that we will send to the Republican-controlled Senate who has steadfastly refused to support the divestment of New York State funds from businesses operating in South Africa.

If your organization would be willing to take a 3-hour shift, or if you need more information about the SHANTYTOWN, please contact Travis at the NYPIRG Office at (518) 436-0876 as soon as possible. We have also enclosed a poster for you to copy and distribute throughout the community.

We hope that you, and your organization, will be able to join us in protesting our state's support for apartheid.

In solidarity,

BOB JAFFE