COALITION NEWS NOTES

COALITION SPEAKERS ON THE ROAD - A thank you to Eileen Kawola for speaking on South Africa at Shenendehowa High School. The occasion was Peace Day which was sponsored by the students at that school. Thanks also to Sipho Seepe who spoke to students working on the divestment campaign on the Cornell University campus.

MALCOLM X STUDY NETWORK - The Black Issues Conference Committee and the Malcolm X Study Network are hosting a celebration of Malcolm X’s birthday entitled, "Our Teachers, Our Heroes." The program will start at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 17th. For more information call 463-4654. ALSO NOTE: If you are interested in purchasing books or arranging a book display for your meeting or function, call Odell Winfield at 463-4654. Books are available on Black liberation, educational and international issues.

BEHIND THE SCENES WORKERS, THANK YOU! - A special note of appreciation to four Coalition members who give hours of invaluable service each month: Leslie Wallace for typing, Ann Frazer and Michael Dollard for the monthly mailing and Mary Ann Smith for tabling at Coalition events. Also, LOBBY DAY THANKS: The April 22nd "Lobby Day" was another important step in the struggle for New York State divestment. The day was successful because of the work of many people; special thanks to NYPIRG (Travis Plunkett and Stacey Rothstein) and SASU.

COMMUNITY POLICE RELATIONS BOARD - Mark Mishler, Albany attorney, has been named by the Steering Committee of the Coalition to be our representative to this newly formed board.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PACO DUARTE - Paco Duarte has been elected President of the State University at Albany Student Association for 1986-87. We look forward to continued solidarity with Paco and the Association.

COALITION FUNDRAISER LETTER - Recently, everyone on our mailing list received a letter asking for you to contribute to the Coalition. We ask that you consider this request very seriously. We need to raise money to continue the work. Your help is needed. $$$

COMMUNITY AWARDS - Bill Ritchie of the Coalition Steering Committee and Vera Michelson, Co-Chair of the Coalition, were honored by the Junior College of Albany. Bill received a community service award from the Office of Special Programs and "Mike" was honored by the Student Senate of J.C.A. for her commitment and leadership. We congratulate them on these well-deserved awards. (Vijay MacWan did a great job in keeping the secret!)

CAN YOU TABLE THIS SUMMER? - The Coalition needs volunteers to work at community events and festivals this summer to hand out information and talk to people. If you can give a few hours to help spread the word, please call 436-0652.

CULTURAL BOYCOTT NEWS - Many apologies have been made by entertainers who have performed in South Africa. For a complete update of the list and other cultural boycott news, see next month's newsletter.

To contact the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism call (518) 436-0562

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MORE COALITION NEWS NOTES

Editorial Comment: On Tuesday, April 29, members of the Republicancontrolled Senate scrambled to vote 'yes' on a bill that requires the State Comptroller to avoid further investments in American companies who do business in Northern Ireland and who have not signed the "McBride Principles." The "McBride Principles" ensure that there is no discrimination against Catholics in employment in Northern Ireland. The Assembly is expected to approve the bill shortly.

Meanwhile, the anti-apartheid divestment bill is still bottled up in Senate committees and the world-wide campaign for economic sanctions against South Africa has gone unheeded in New York State's Senate.

The Coalition calls on Senators Anderson and Marchi to release the Senate divestment bill from committee. The Coalition calls on every Senator who voted for human rights in Northern Ireland to vote 'yes' on the anti-apartheid divestment bill this session. The Coalition asks Governor Cuomo to publicly state that he believes the anti-apartheid bill is an immediate priority for this legislative session.

Our politicians must take moral leadership and look beyond the "Irish vote." Our leaders have to say 'no' to human rights violations in South Africa, as well as Northern Ireland. Anything less is unacceptable hypocrisy and blatant racism.

June 14: If you can't attend the June 14 Soweto Commemoration Demonstration in New York City, send someone in your place. Your $15.00 donation buys a bus ticket for a young person or other "scholarship" recipient. Send $15.00 or more to the Coalition at P. O. Box 3002, Albany, NY. Mark your check: "June 14 donation."

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