

# CIDSA UPDATE

Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa

343 S. Dearborn, Suite 919, Chicago, IL 60604 312-922-3915



## Divestment Put On Hold While Illinois Legislature Considers No Future South African Investments

In the Illinois House, the Braun-Bowman divestment bills, House Bills 317 and 330, have been placed on hold in interim study status in the Economic Development Committee. This strategy was taken in spite of successful legislative maneuvering by House Speaker Michael Madigan to switch the bills to the Economic Development Committee from the Personnel and Pensions Committee. There was not sufficient support for full House passage. Interim study status will allow the bills to be held over for consideration in the next legislative session, an appropriations session, where new non-appropriations legislation must be approved by the House Rules Committee. CIDSA's State Divestment Task Force will use this interim study period to rally state-wide support for these bills.

Representative Carol Moseley Braun announced on the floor of the house that the Black Caucus had decided not to vote in favor of any piece of legislation regarding pensions unless it contained "divestment language". She then attempted to amend each pension-related bill as it came up for a vote. She was successful in amending 2 bills, House Bills 94 and 717, to prohibit future investments in corporations doing business in South Africa. These amended bills were passed by the House and are now being considered by the Senate. We expect the bills will be sent to the Senate Insurance, Pensions and Licensed Activities Committee.

Senate Divestment Bills 45 and 46, which were introduced by Senators Emil Jones and Charles Chew

failed to pass out of the Insurance, Pensions and Licensed Activities Committee and will not come before the Senate for a vote this year. However, Senator Earlean Collins successfully amended Senate Bill 57 to prohibit future investments in South Africa. The amended bill passed the Senate and will now be considered by the House, presumably assigned to the Personnel and Pensions Committee.

*For information on how to contact your senator and representative regarding these bills turn to page 2.*

## Burke Stalls Chicago Divestment

The divestment ordinance introduced into the Chicago City Council by Alderman Danny Davis and others has been stuck in the Finance Committee since March. CIDSA's City Task Force made repeated requests for public hearings on the ordinance but Alderman Edward Burke, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, has refused to schedule them. It is imperative that all Chicago CIDSA members contact their Alderman as well as Alderman Burke to request well publicized public hearings and to request their support for the divestment ordinance.

## Next CIDSA Meetings:

Sun., July 14, **BARBEQUE**—4:00 pm at 2021 W. Hutchinson, Chicago  
Cash Bar, Bring something to grill and a dish to share.  
*Come celebrate CIDSA's 2 years of anti-apartheid work!*

Sun., August 4 UE Hall 37 S. Ashland, Chicago 6 p.m.

# What You Can Do

Visits, phone calls, letters and telegrams to all state Senators and Representatives are vital to keeping these amendments intact. The bills must pass out of their assigned committees and through respective legislatures by midnight June 30th. In addition to contacting your own Senator and Representatives letters should be sent to:

### Supporting Senate Bill 57 as Amended to House Personnel and Pensions Committee

Sam Wolf, Chairman

Donald Saltsman  
Nelson Rice  
David Harris

Douglas Huff  
Roger McAuliffe  
Jack Kubik

Illinois House  
Springfield, IL 62706

### Supporting House Bills 94 and 717 as Amended to Senate Insurance, Pensions & Licensed Activities Committee

Emil Jones, Chairman

Margaret Smith  
Charles Chew  
Timothy Degnan  
James Rupp  
Galvin W. Schuneman

Arthur Berman  
John D'Arco Jr.  
Frank Savickas  
John Friedland  
Judy Barr Topinka

Illinois Senate  
Springfield, IL 62706



Every Thursday demonstrations against apartheid are held at the South African Consulate, 444 N. Michigan, at 12 Noon.

## Why Divest?

U.S. investments strengthen the apartheid economy, thereby increasing the ability of the white government to preserve its power. The past twenty-five years disprove the claim that investments can be an agent for change because the apartheid government's repressive power has only increased during this time. Yet even if every U.S. firm in South Africa practiced commendable labor policies, apartheid would still not be threatened.

The companies must comply with South African law and coexist with disenfranchisement, population control, and forced removals, as well as detentions and bannings. The black community, from 1959 Nobel Peace Laureate Albert Luthuli to 1984 Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, has continually said "we don't want our chains polished, we want them removed." The divestment of publicly controlled Illinois funds from South Africa will be a significant contribution to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and will help create circumstances for the South African people to forge fundamental change in their country.

## Who is CIDSA?

The Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa was founded in June 1983 to push for the passage of a divestment bill in the Illinois State Legislature. Over 60 organizations and 250 concerned individuals from across the state now comprise CIDSA's growing membership.

## MEMBERSHIPS

### Enclosed:

Organizational Member Donation	\$15
Individual Member Donation	\$10
Amandla Club Donation	\$100
Additional Contribution	

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ / (office) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **CIDSA**, Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa  
Suite 919, 343 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill. 60604



# Linking the South African and Domestic Struggles:

## *A discussion of Professor Manning Marable's article for The New Statesman*

*On May 14, 1985, Winston Mercurius, a city planner and member of CIDsA passed away. In homage to his commitment and contribution to the struggle against apartheid as well as injustice world wide, we are sharing an article he recently wrote.*

*By Winston Mercurius*

Anti apartheid activists and organizers have continually wrestled with the question of how to get blacks, in particular, and the American people in general into the struggle for a liberated South Africa.

In an article for the *New Statesman* (4/5/85), political theorist Manning Marable provides cogent and instructive insights into this issue. The writer described and explained the following: the effects of US corporate investment in South Africa on the domestic economy, the factors influencing the Afro-American response to the struggle in South Africa, and the constraints inherent in the Free South Africa movement.

Prof. Marable first detailed the heavy US investment in strategic sectors of the South African economy, and the concomitant flow of investment dollars, jobs, and capital away from the US. "US investment inside South Africa, \$15 billion in 1984, totals 20 per cent of all direct investment in South Africa. US corporations control 70 per cent of the South African computer market, and an IBM computer helps run the stock exchange in Johannesburg. As of 1983, Mobil Oil had \$426 million invested in South Africa, and a workforce of 3,577; General Motors, \$243 million and 5,038 employees; Union Carbide, \$54.5 million and 2,465 employees. American banks, led by Chase Manhattan, Bankers Trust, Chemical and Manufacturers Hanover, had outstanding loans in South Africa totalling nearly \$4 billion in 1984."

Chicago residents would find Marable's discussion of steel industry behavior particularly disturbing. Apart from the fact that Chicago has

six of the nation's poorest community areas, the slump in steel manufacturing has compounded the city's economic crisis. Closure of such Chicago-based steel plants as U.S. Steel, Republic, and Wisconsin have eliminated the jobs of close to 15,000 workers. (The figure climbs considerably if job losses in steel related enterprises are accounted for.)

Marable highlights this situation in terms of its South African implications: "Between 1974 and 1982 domestic steel production declined by 50 percent. And since 1975, US imports of apartheid's steel have increased by 5,000 percent.

South African steel is largely produced by a state-owned firm, the Iron and Steel Corporation (ISCOR). All of the major US companies which have experienced difficulties producing steel at home—ARMCO, Allegheny Ludlum, US Steel, Phelps Dodge, and others—have invested millions into apartheid's industries."

The steel industry example raises, of course, the larger issue of the phenomenon of deindustrialization and the morality of "investment decisions" which impoverish US manufacturing centers while exacerbating oppression overseas in the name of profit.

US workers are threatened in a very real sense by cheap overseas labor. Marable maintains that the domination of black South African labor is the chief economic characteristic of apartheid. Apartheid's ability to depress the wage rate through "rigid racial stratification", affects the bargaining power of workers in industrialized countries. The writer notes that even in US firms abiding by the Sullivan Principles of equal opportunity and fair

labor practices, the wider society's racism is still reproduced. In 1983 the Sullivan firms had filled 94 percent of all new managerial posts with whites. These firms employ a mere 66,000 members of a labor force numbering 6 million.

In a major section of his article Marable maintains that the relative inactivity of the black American masses in responding to the oppression of their South African brothers can only be understood in an historical context. The writer posits that apparent black non-identification with Africa, in general, is largely a twentieth century phenomenon. Extreme racial oppression in America at the turn of the century caused blacks to downplay their "roots" while struggling for integration and democratic civil rights:

"Although many Black Americans in earlier generations retained a strong sense of cultural and social identity with Africa, during most of the twentieth century such expressions of solidarity were muted. The principal political contradiction confronting Afro-Americans was produced by the rise of racial segregation. Blacks were denied the right to vote, were refused employment or service in public establishments, and were forcibly removed from white neighborhoods. Over five thousand Black Americans were lynched between 1872 and 1927, and many publicly burned. The new racial codes segregated all sports facilities, restaurants, buses and trains. Birmingham, Alabama even outlawed Blacks and Whites from playing checkers or dominoes together."

During this period of "estrangement", certain individual leaders continued to highlight the links between

—Continued on reverse side—

# Linking the South African and Domestic Struggles:

## *A discussion of Professor Manning Marable's article for The New Statesman*

—Continued from other side—

Afro-Americans and Africans. Among these are Du Bois, Robeson, Garvey et al. The decolonization struggles spearheaded by Nkrumah's Ghana (1959), the black nationalist and black power movements in the US all sparked a resurgence of interest in Africa during the sixties.

Marable asserts that:

"Ironically, it was only with the achievement of desegregation and the granting of democratic political rights in the 1960's that black Americans could fully revive their political and cultural relations with Africa".

Despite systematic efforts in this country to suppress information on the South African situation, Marable emphasizes the vital role of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson in politicizing the issue and alerting the American public to apartheid's existence, and US complicity in that system. The inception of the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) after the November 1984 arrests of

Randall Robinson, Mary Berry, and black Congressman Walter Fauntroy, provided a second major political link for black Americans in particular, as well as the wider public. Actions on the legislative level, spearheaded by black elected officials in many instances, to divest public funds from entities with ties to South Africa, are seen by Marable as the third essential point of political linkage. These landmark events, precipitated by black leadership, have won support of a cross-section of groups: trade unionists, religious leaders, Jewish organizations, civil rights activists, entertainers, student groups, etc. The media's response has been to confuse the issue, warns Marable, by parading "any black figure it can find . . . who advances the thesis that US investment under liberal guidelines, may actually promote a peaceful, democratic transition inside South Africa."

What are some of the immediate

and longer term problems that anti-apartheid activists will have to resolve to achieve the successful linkage of issues, and the mobilization of effective domestic, especially Afro-American, support?

The following are a few of Marable's closing observations: The anti-apartheid united front is particularly fragile. The leadership exhibits a tendency to view events in South Africa through the prism of the civil rights and southern experience. There are insufficient efforts to encourage political education among the masses of protestors on the political economy of apartheid.

*Editors Note:*

*These, however, are but obstacles to overcome as we keep moving forward. As our struggle continues, the leadership, discipline and insightful critique of our brother Winston Mercurius will be sorely missed.*

## CIDSA Speakers Available

During the past year, CIDSA has grown in its capacity to provide educationals on South Africa and divestment. There are at least 20 CIDSA members doing programs throughout the greater Chicago area and CIDSA members in a number of cities including Champaign-Urbana, Peoria and Carbondale, are doing public speaking as well. We will continue this summer to do as many educationals as possible. A schedule of available speakers has been drawn up; let us know of any groups that might want a presentation.

As interest among High School and University students has grown due to the public focus on South Africa, the Education Committee is providing educational assistance to their organizing efforts. We are currently analyzing materials distributed to local schools by the South African Department of Information.

The Education Task Force is trying to involve more CIDSA members in speaking. Towards this end, we are compiling a manual for new speakers with important facts and information on South Africa, divestment and CIDSA, including sample talks. We are having new speakers go along with veterans so as to train the former

## Tour Successful State-Wide

Both state-wide organizers and tour participants have deemed CIDSA's recent state-wide tour a great success. During the week of April 14-19, speakers addressed over 50 groups throughout Illinois including churches, community, student and union organizations. Additionally, tour participants took part in a number of media events including radio talk shows, news interviews and cable tv programs across the state.

Tour participants included Jeannette Ndlovu and Shuping Coapage of the African National Congress, Tandi Gscabashi of AFSC-Atlanta, Deborah Archie of the Ohio Coalition Against Apartheid, Jerry Herman of AFSC-Philadelphia, David Mesenbring of Lutheran World Ministries, Jackie Wilson of the Washington Office on Africa, Essau Mampane, a South African exile, Mikel Johnson of AFSC-Iowa as well as CIDSA's own Lucille Teichert, Steve Apotheker, Basil Clunie,

*Continued on page 6*

and to add new life to the veterans' approaches. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Education Task Force, contact Harriet Parker at 684-3999.

# Anti-Apartheid Victories!

On May 2, 1985, the World Medical Association and the Medical Association of South Africa announced their decision to cancel the World Medical Association Conference scheduled for October 1985 in Capetown, South Africa. The Conference was cancelled due to public pressure. Earlier this year, CIDsA members joined with American Medical Students Association members to demonstrate against the conference at the American Medical Association national headquarters in Chicago.

On May 17th, eight Free South Africa Movement protesters were acquitted of trespassing at the Chicago South African Consulate during demonstrations in January and February. The defense convinced the jury that the evils of apartheid were so great that the demonstrators had no choice but to trespass in an attempt to do something to end it. This is a great victory for the Free South Africa Movement, CIDsA, and all who work for an end to South Africa's brutal system of apartheid.

## Illinois University Divestment Campaigns Escalate

### Northwestern

In one of the most dramatic campaigns in the state, Northwestern's anti-apartheid activists staged a 24-hour vigil from May 9-22 to protest Northwestern's continued investments in corporations doing business in South Africa. During that period, hundreds of students rallied in support of the vigil and a total of 122 student protestors were arrested for failing to leave the main administration building, Crown Center, which has been named Mandela Center by the students.

The students are dissatisfied with the administration's formation of a committee to study divestment, particularly with the fact that 6 of 7 committee members sit on boards of Corporations doing business in South Africa. The students have been denied a position on the committee and are now negotiating for "observer status".

In a related action, 30 Northwestern students withdrew their accounts from City Corp Bank in Chicago and passed out fliers to other Bank customers explaining their action.

### University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana

A number of pro-divestment demonstrations and rallies have taken place at U of I, Champaign-Urbana. Following a 2-1 student resolution vote supporting divestment of University Funds, over 1000 students joined a candlelight vigil on May 8th. Two hundred of these students broke off to picket the home of U of I President Ikenberry who came out to speak to the group. The President has agreed to participate in an open forum discussion with a representative of the African National Congress a few days before the Board of Trustees makes its divestment decision June 20th in Chicago.

### University of Illinois-Chicago

Over 5000 U of I Chicago students have signed petitions in favor of U of I divestment this spring. On May 23rd, 500 students attended a pro-divestment rally where Chancellor Langenberg pointed out that although the U of I Administration abhors apartheid, they are still studying the matter of divestment and they are particularly concerned about the effects of divestment on

black South Africans. A number of students staged a sit-in at University Hall to protest this position. Although attempts were made to intimidate the students, they were not arrested.

Students from both U of I campuses will be coordinating actions for the June 20th Board of Trustees Meeting in Chicago. Letters supporting U of I divestment should be sent to Mr. Earl Porter, Secretary; U of I Board of Trustees; 354 Administration Building; 506 S. Wright; Urbana, IL 61801. Please ask Mr. Porter to make your letter available to all board members.



Students rally in support of U of C divestment.

### University of Chicago

For years, the Organization of Black Students has kept the issue of apartheid before the eyes of the student body of the University of Chicago, sponsoring speakers, films and conferences on South Africa. This year, U of C students have also held a number of meetings and rallies to discuss the current situation in South Africa and methods of responding to that situation.

On Friday, May 31, U of C student groups joined their efforts to push for the divestment of University funds from South Africa. Following a unity statement by U of C's black student organizations, the crowd of over 1000 students was addressed by the Reverend Jesse Jackson and other anti-apartheid activists who endorsed and encouraged their divestment efforts.

# Anti-Apartheid Calendar

**Every Thursday—**

**Free South Africa Movement Demonstration**

South African Consulate  
444 N. Michigan, Chicago  
12 Noon

**June 16—Soweto Commemoration Video:  
“Six Days in Soweto”**

Invited Guest: Ambassador Garba,  
Chair of the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid  
Crosscurrents, 3206 N. Wilton, Chicago.  
For specific time and more information  
contact Africa Network  
312-328-9305

**June 19—CIDS A Study Group**

at the Offices of District 65, UAW  
Room 1226, 53 W. Jackson, Chicago  
6:30 p.m.

**June 20—U of I Board of Trustees Meeting.**

Call CIDS A for location and details  
922-3915.

**July 14—CIDS A Barbeque at the Thompsons’**

2021 W. Hutchinson, Chicago, 4:00 p.m.  
Cash Bar. Bring something to grill and a dish to share.

**August 4—CIDS A General Membership Meeting**

U.E. Hall, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago  
6 p.m.

 598  
JUSTICE GRAPHICS, INC.

# Protest at State of Illinois Building Dedication

CIDS A’s Steel Task Force and the Free South Africa Movement jointly sponsored two successful demonstrations during the May 4th and May 6th dedication celebrations for the new State of Illinois Building in Chicago. The demonstrations were held in response to Governor Thompson’s failure to grant a request for a meeting with us to discuss the Governor’s lack of support for state divestment legislation, his recent commendation of South African Airways for being a good corporate citizen of Illinois, and the use of South African Steel in the new State of Illinois Building.

The Governor has not responded to any of our concerns directly. He was quoted in the Chicago Tribune as stating that there were only two beams of South African Steel used in the construction of the building. This statement is ludicrous and flies in the face of logic. Additionally, our sources report from personal observation that numerous South African beams were used in the project.

This summer, the Steel Task Force will continue to rally support of Illinois citizens for an amendment to the Illinois Steel Procurement Act which would prohibit the importation of South African Steel for use in public works projects. We anticipate that the amendment, which is pending in the Illinois House, will be voted on in the Fall of 1985.

---

## Tour Successful State-Wide

*continued from page 4*

Cheryl Johnson, Orland Redekopp, Mark Sullivan, Ora Schub and Prexy Nesbitt.

Many thanks to all of these participants and to those of you who coordinated the tour events state-wide. Together we succeeded in “bringing South Africa home” to Illinois.

**URBAN LIFE CENTER  
5004 South Blackstone  
Chicago, IL 60615**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
Permit #3695