LOBBYING FOR ILLINOIS' DIVESTMENT

On April 4 CIDSA members plan to journey down to Springfield for a day of lobbying their representatives to support H.B. 0569. Key legislators will be identified and notified in advance of our coming in order to garner maximum support for the bill.

In order to coordinate lobby day as efficiently as possible, CIDSA's March 4 general meeting will focus on some of the key representatives, lobbying procedures and techniques, and the logistics of travel, costs and directions in the capital.

Additionally, CIDSA will distribute a press release prior to the trip and work to arrange for individuals to testify before members of the House.

CIDSA members are urged to recruit additional volunteers to join us in an intense effort to impress Illinois legislators of the significance of passing H.B. 0569, both as an act of solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa and as a sign of the urgency of diverting state funds from support of slavery to the creation of jobs here in Illinois. The South African government has targeted Illinois as a key state to retain in support of apartheid. CIDSA believes H.B. 0569 to be a crucial test of our willingness to say no to apartheid, to remove some $2 billion from the support of racism and slavery.

Every person's presence will make a difference. CIDSA calls individuals to set aside April 4 to lobby our legislators to join the growing opposition to South Africa's destructive apartheid rule.

meeting schedule

Join us for our regular public monthly meetings. These meetings will include:

** An update on the situation in South Africa

** News of divestment campaigns in Illinois and other states

** Films, slide shows and other presentations on South Africa

** Participation in setting direction for CIDSA's campaign for Illinois divestment

** An opportunity for YOU to join one of our active committees

JOIN US AT 6:00 P.M. AT

The United Electrical Radio Machine Worker's Hall

37 South Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL
Sunday, March 4
Sunday, April 1
Sunday, May 6
Sunday, June 3

"Deaths in detention under South Africa's security laws are the joint product of the enforcement of apartheid and the practice of torture. Each violated the fundamental rules of the international legal order- that human rights be respected without racial distinction and that no person be tortured. South Africa's violation of these rules has become systematic over the past three decades."

p. 13.

The above annual report documents incidents of torture and death of detainees held under the various South African security laws since 1963.

The 'detainees' are persons who are jailed without being charged because the government suspects that they might be involved in some anti-governmental activity to challenge apartheid practices or might know someone who might be involved in such activity. Since 1963 at least sixty detainees have died in detention.

The sixty deaths were almost all classified by the government as suicide. Suicides have been reported as "accidental" falling out of tenth floor windows in closely guarded interrogation rooms. Former detainee "Prema" Naidoo testified in an affidavit submitted in the inquest into the death of Neil Aggett (a white trade unionist) that the "parachute" method of torture, where the victim is held out of a window by interrogators in an effort to get him to talk, is widely used. In 1977, former Minister of Police J.T. Kruger attributed the high number of suicides in detention to the alleged training of communists and members of the banned African National Congress to kill themselves if caught rather than to divulge 'incriminating' information. Other suicides have been by hanging by shoelaces, belts and other items in isolated cells which are supposed to be closely monitored.

Autopsies and inquests are done exclusively by government doctors and no outsiders are permitted in. Only 32 of the 60 deaths have resulted in inquests. Only two security policemen had been charged with the murder of a detainee, but both were acquitted.

Other forms of torture commonly used are deprivation of sleep, enforced standing for long periods, being kept naked during interrogation, being suspended in mid-air for long periods, electric shock torture and attacks on the genitals.

There are also reports of widespread torture, maltreatment and physical violence during interrogations in Namibia.

Torture has been accepted by the South African government and its laws. Since the security laws authorize indefinite detention while detainees are held incommunicado, the detainee can merely be held until evidence of torture has disappeared.

In July, 1982, South Africa enacted a new comprehensive Internal Security Act. Although the new Act repeals many of the old security laws, it contains most of their provisions. Section 29 specifically permits indefinite detention without trial for both potential state witnesses and suspected offenders.

In conclusion the report reviews every known case of death while in detention and provides a close-up view of the horrendous circumstances surrounding these deaths.

By Sharron Pitts and Ora Schub
Crane-ing for Apartheid

The latest attempt to crush the divestment movement has come in a proposal made by one of Illinois' Republican representatives, Representative Philip Crane. When the District of Columbia's 13 member council passed a resolution prohibiting investment of city funds in companies or financial institutions which do business with South Africa, Philip Crane introduced a disapproving resolution. Crane's intent is clearly to get Congress to overrule the council's action.

Crane's resolution, H. Res. 372, stresses three main points as to why D.C.'s prohibition would be wrong. Briefly, he claims that leaders of liberation in South Africa want investment and see foreign companies as meaningful instruments of social change. Secondly, he makes the equally dubious claim that divestment would hurt us more than South Africa; for as we all know companies have left plants in the U.S. for cheap labor countries, such as repressive South Africa, to cut labor costs and break unions here. His third point, however, is a dangerous one; for with it Crane's resolution could deal a severe blow to divestment bills in other towns and states. He insists that D.C.'s resolution could lead to individual states usurping Congress' power. For him to claim that only the national government should "involve itself in the foreign policy sphere" could come to mean that national policy would decide where funds should or should not be invested.

Add your name to the growing list of individuals and organizations who have endorsed Illinois House Bill 0569 and become members of CIDSA. As members, you will receive our newsletter and other announcements by mail. JOIN US TODAY!

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________
CITY: ______ STATE: ______ ZIP ______
Phone: (Days) ______ (Eve.) ______

Please return this form to CIDSA, P.O. 578413 Chicago, IL 60657
S.A. NEWS BRIEFS

S.A. Nukes? With its first nuclear power station expected to open within a few months, South Africa has refused to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and will not allow outside inspection of its nuclear facil-

ities, a requirement of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that no nuclear weapons are secretly being pro-

duced. (Christian Science Monitor, 1/31/84)

Blood Apartheid: According to South African law, blood from black donors cannot be used on white patients, but blood from whites can be used for blacks. Although the official reason for the policy is the high incidence of hepatitis among Africans, black and white doctors have protested that the policy has no scientific basis, reenforces racist attitudes, and denies the history of serious diseases introduced to the black population by whites. (Sunday Tribune, S.A., 1/8/84)

Satisfactory Sales: The Reagan Admin-

istration has sold more than $28 million in American military-related equipment to South Africa, more than all previous exports of this type since 1950, says a recent Amer-

ican Friends Service Committee report. The State Department insists that the sales do not violate the official UN or US arms embargoes, stating: "We are satisfied that the private users are genuine." (Africa News, 1/30/84)

"Sinful" Change: The "Solarz Amend-

ments", sanctions against South Africa soon to be taken up in the Senate, have been crit-

icized by the Reagan Administration for writing off chances of peaceful reform. The administration points to signs of change in the apartheid system, such as the decision by ten Afrikaner-established Dutch Reformed Church to declare apartheid "sinful." (Wall Street Journal, 1/23/84)

AMANDLA!

Give CIDSA the power to carry out our campaign for Illinois divestment by joining the Amandla Club with your contribution pledge of $100.00 or more per year. We would be happy to receive your entire contribution at one time or you can contribute in quarterly or monthly installments. Make your pledge today and give CIDSA power!

I would like to join CIDSA's Amandla Club with a pledge of $____ per year.

I will make contributions: ______yearly, ______quarterly, ______monthly (check one)

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

CITY ______ STATE ______ ZIP ______

Members of CIDSA: