TO: Diane Narasaki  
FROM: Avel Gordly  
RE: Newsletter Article  
DATE: November 5, 1985

POSAF is an umbrella group for several anti-apartheid and peace groups in the Portland area. We are committed to supporting the struggle within Southern Africa for self-determination of peoples of color and an end to the apartheid system. Our efforts are aimed at educating Oregonians about the conditions in Southern Africa, oppression of the Black majority population, links between racism in the U.S. and in South Africa and the economic responsibilities of the U.S., and to activating Americans to work in solidarity with movements for liberation in that part of the world. POSAF recognizes that there is a link between the struggle of Blacks in Southern Africa and the struggle of Blacks in the U.S. for self-determination. Participation in POSAF is open to anyone who shares our commitment to these goals.

POSAF has organized protest forcing the resignation last winter of Calvin Van Pelt, South Africa's honorary consul in Portland, and has supported divestment legislation. It recently temporarily prevented the unloading of South African cargo at the Port of Vancouver. Local Krugerrand demonstrations ended with the President's Executive Order and ban on Krugerrand imports.

On October 11th and 12th, locally coordinated protest actions against South Africa's apartheid regime took place in cities and on campuses across the country and in Portland. These national protest days were initiated by the American Committee on Africa and student anti-apartheid groups from 17 campuses. Because of the dramatic events in South Africa of the last two months, these national protest days were very broad and very large, including Portland where a record 500 people marched and rallied downtown. At POSAF's request, the mayor issued a proclamation calling for "Days of Protest Against Apartheid" and called upon "all citizens of Portland to call for an end to all South African apartheid policies and practices, an end to investment in South Africa, and to strongly encourage the freeing of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners."

Current POSAF organizing efforts include plans to stop or delay South African cargo from unloading in the Pacific Northwest. On December 5th there will be a West Coast picket line of all the Pacific Maritime offices. PMA operates West Coast ports.

In addition, POSAF will continue to focus on divestment, cultural boycott, and assist the Free South Africa movement with the Freedom Letter campaign. Also, the Oregon Petition Campaign, sponsored by POSAF, which calls for an end to all South African apartheid policies and practices, imposition of immediate sanctions and freeing of all political prisoners, has gathered 700 signatures since September. The petitions are addressed to President Reagan, Oregon's U.S. Congressional Representatives, and Oregon's elected representatives.

POSAF also continues to explore possible fundraising alternatives to both continue and expand anti-apartheid work in Oregon, leading up to another state divestment campaign.