



2249 E. BURNSIDE STREET • PORTLAND, OR • 97214-1678

PORTLANDERS  
ORGANIZED FOR  
SOUTHERN  
AFRICAN  
FREEDOM  
(503) 230-9427

October 28, 1985

Columbia Coin  
514 SW 6th  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Columbia Coin:

It is with regret that we note that during the months that we picketed your store, you were not able to make a decision to discontinue Krugerrand sales. In response to local, national and international criticism of Krugerrand sales, several other local coin stores voluntarily stopped selling the coin.

Since you have not responded to our requests over the months for a meeting to discuss the issue and our actions, we find it necessary to communicate some information regarding our past and future actions.

We wrote you and all other coin stores in the area early in 1985 to express our concern over Krugerrand sales and to ask that sales be terminated. Several months later we notified you of our intent to picket and sent a delegation to your store to discuss the issue. Upon meeting extreme reluctance on your part to consider the moral issues of continued economic support for South Africa, we went ahead with picketing. We understand your commitment to freedom of enterprise, but in such a situation, we find ourselves asking if you would have been equally adamant about selling a coin minted by Nazi Germany, fully representative of the human and racial atrocities of that system?

We hope you realize that the sentiments expressed in this letter are shared by many people in Portland. The City Council resolution passed in 1977 asking businesses not to sell the Krugerrand has widespread support. In addition, in recognition of a recent day of national commemoration for lives lost as a result of the present system in South Africa, the mayor issued a proclamation. That enclosed document and a flyer listing endorsing organizations gives an idea of the numbers of people that agree that it is necessary now more than ever to end economic support for the apartheid system.

With the federal ban on the import of Krugerrands, effective October 11, we will no longer be picketing your store. Again, we regret that moral considerations had to take a back seat to "business as usual" and that it took the federal government's recognition of the need to ban the coin to persuade you to stop selling.

Sincerely, for POSAF,

Avel Gordly, AFSC Southern Africa  
Program Director