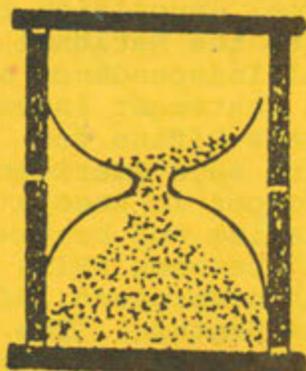


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US/ACOA 1985

# TIME RUNNING OUT

Editor, Richard S. Gilbert

Fall 1985

A Quarterly Newsletter linking the people of the U.S. and South Africa,  
published by the Rochester Committee for Justice in Southern Africa

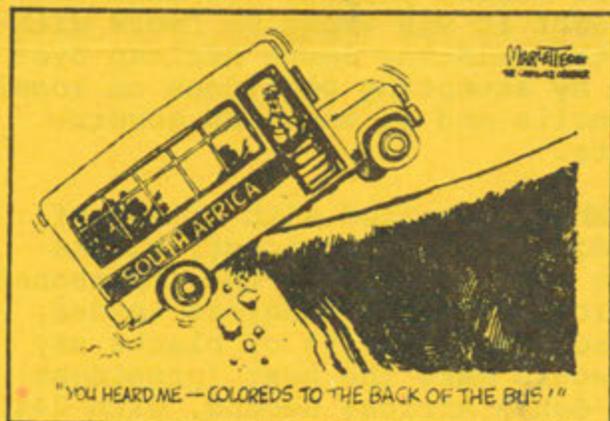
## DIVESTMENT PACE SNOWBALLS

To accelerate the already increasing pace of municipal divestment, ACOA (American Committee on Africa) organized a national conference on municipal legislative action against apartheid October 11-12. The conference was modeled on the two highly successful conferences dealing primarily with state actions which were coordinated by ACOA Projects Director Dumisana Kumalo in 1981 and 1983.

As we were going to press (Fall 1985), 11 states, 36 cities and four counties had acted to divest nearly \$5 billion from U.S. corporations whose investments in South Africa subsidize the daily killing of unarmed black people.

....The New Jersey bill mandates the divestment of \$2 billion-- the largest amount yet affected by any divestment action. New Mexico is the first western state to take divestment action -- a sign that the divestment movement has spread to all parts of the country.

The New Jersey bill was the culmination of a three-year effort by Assemblyman Willie Brown and a broad based coalition of church, union and community groups. Divestment proponents feared that Governor Kean, a Republican, would veto the bill under pressure from the White House. But widespread support for the bill, organized by the New Jersey divestment coalition, had its effect. Announcing his decision to sign the bill, Governor Kean said, "The time has come for action to change -- and to end, once and for all -- the oppressive system of apartheid." (ACOA Action News, Fall 1985)



## KWANZAA GREETINGS 1985

Kwanzaa is a Swahili word meaning "First Fruits." It is also a holiday celebrated by native Africans. It is celebrated December 26-January 1.

"SOUTH AFRICA CALLED INSINCERE ON REFORM. Three leading Sunday newspapers, including the Sunday Times of Johannesburg and the Sunday Tribune of Durban, portrayed President P. W. Botha as failing in a campaign to convince the country that he is sincere about racial reform.

"The English language Sunday Star said that Botha suffered from "poor timing and even poorer marketing" in outlining plans for reform in recent speeches to his governing National Party while parts of the country remained under a state of emergency and blacks continued to die." 10/7 (Associated Press)

SANCTIONS: BLACK SUPPORT GROWS

Black South Africans overwhelmingly support international economic sanctions against South Africa. A Sunday Times opinion poll carried out last week shows that 77% of blacks believe other countries should impose sanctions unless South Africa gets rid of apartheid.

Other questions and results:  
Will South Africa's problems be solved peacefully, or by civil war?

Civil war: 69%  
Peacefully: 29%  
No opinion: 2%

Some people say that violence is justified to change the South African apartheid system. Others say violence is not justified.

Which of these do you believe?

Violence is justified: 43%  
Violence not justified: 52%  
No opinion: 5%

(Sunday Times of London, 8/25/85)

SA-US Corp Action Institutions

INSTANT DIVESTITURE

The Unitarian Universalist Association announced on October 2 that it is selling its \$7 million worth of investments in companies with ties to South Africa -- and it is doing so all at once, rather than eliminating the stocks from its portfolio over a span of months or years, as most denominations opposing apartheid have done. Said UUA spokesman Douglas Smith: "This is a moral issue for us. We don't like losing income, but we're prepared to take the risk and accept the responsibility for what we do." He went on to say that the denomination's portfolio managers had indicated that they expect a loss of about 1% of income in the transfer of UUA investments to companies that do not do business in South Africa. Stopping just short of total divestiture, the UUA is keeping a token \$1000 worth of stock in each of 20 to 30 South Africa-related companies so that it can continue to exert pressure through shareholder actions. According to Smith, the divestment procedures should take no more than 2 weeks." (Christian Century 10/23/85)

LUTHERANS OBJECT

The Lutheran Council in the U.S. has voiced its formal opposition to proposed U.S. aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). A statement issued by the denomination's Office for Governmental Affairs says American support of rebel forces in Angola would "further polarize and brutalize the civil war" between UNITA and the ruling MPLA government led by Jose Eduardo dos Santos. "The assistance will ally the U.S. with an allegedly "pro-Western" military group with a long history of serious human rights violations," say the Lutherans, and will "identify the U.S. with the continuing South African occupation of Namibia." (Africa News, 11/18/85)

POLL SHOWS BLACKS OPPOSE BOTHA'S 'COLLABORATORS'

A big majority of South African blacks reject the idea of working within the present structure of black urban councils and homeland governments, according to a Sunday Times poll of urban areas. This finding will be a blow to President P.W. Botha's present model of reform which is based on these institutions.

Of blacks polled, 73% said they thought it was wrong to "work within the existing South African system by accepting positions on local councils and in homeland governments.

When presented with a list of candidates for president, blacks gave most support to the imprisoned African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela: 49% of blacks say he would make the best (president) for South Africa; Second, with 24% came the Bishop of Johannesburg, Desmond Tutu....The leader of the Kwazulu homeland, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, received a surprisingly low vote of only 6%. (Sunday Times of London, 8/25/85)