

UPDATE ON THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT IN THE BAY AREA AND ELSEWHERE

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Bay Area
Free South Africa Movement(BAFSAM)

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In Nov. of last year S.F. longshoremen refused to unload cargo from South Africa. Simultaneously, Congressmembers, civil rights leaders, trade unionists, and clergy were arrested at the S.A. Embassy in Wash. D.C. Since then the movement to end Apartheid and halt Reagan's "constructive engagement" has greatly expanded.

Within the last month the Oakland and S.F. Port Commissions have condemned trade with S. Africa and are now seeking ways to ban its cargo completely. These actions were due to an united labor attack led by BAFSAM and also Dick Groulx, Ala. Central Labor Council Exec. Dir., and Jimmy Herman, ILWU leader. Meantime in Wash. D.C. at a meeting with leaders of Black Africa's trade unions, AFL-CIO Pres. Kirkland said "It is to those inside South Africa fighting on the front lines that we look for leadership in the eradication of apartheid."

In the wake of student demonstrations, U. of Ca. Regents are studying plans to divest of companies doing business in South Africa. Last October 62% of S.F.'s voters approved a divestiture ballot measure. This raises the total to six cities, four states, and over 40 colleges.

In Jan. over 20 local clergy were arrested in front of the Pacific Maritime Bldg. in Oak. They were protesting the PMA's injunction forcing striking longshoremen to unload cargo from S. Africa. The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility reports that "Church groups are sponsoring divestiture resolutions before the shareholders of Chevron and Texaco."

Nationally anti-apartheid bills have been introduced in Congress, one by Berman(D-Ca.) in the House, and one by Proxmire(D.-Wisc.) in the Senate. Statewide, Assemblymember Waters (D-IA) is sponsoring anti-apartheid legislation.

Locally, because of pressure from Mayor Newport and BAFSAM, Consumers' Dist. in Berk. and East Oakland has agreed to withdraw the sale of Krugerrands, the South African gold coin. The Rainbow Coalition, Eastbay, has distributed thousands of red ribbons, thenational symbol against racism and apartheid in S. Africa.

The next major action will take place on March 8, International Women's Day. In solidarity with their S. African sisters, hundreds of women will demonstrate in front of the IBM building in downtown Oakland. IBM is one of the largest investors in South Africa.

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