To: Divestment supporters

From: Jim Burchell, aide to Representative Perry Bullard

Re: Divestment update

******************************************************************************

ACTION ALERT
******************************************************************************

1) The July 15 Senate Committee Meeting. As you may know from what scant coverage appeared in the media, the Senate Committee on Economic Development failed to vote the divestment legislation out of committee on July 15. One member of the committee could not attend the meeting so the committee deadlocked 2 to 2. The committee did pass several amendments which do not weaken the legislation. The deadlock came over a proposed Sullivan Principles amendment which failed to gain enough votes for passage. In order to clarify Sullivan's own position on the continued relevency of his principles, Sen. DeMaso said he would write a letter to Sullivan asking his current position. DeMaso then said he would schedule another committee meeting with a vote occurring after receiving a reply from Sullivan.

2) What Next? Sen. DeMaso did send that letter to Sullivan. He received a reply restating Sullivan's position that if statutory apartheid is not abolished by May 31, 1987 he would call for complete corporate disinvestment from South Africa. As of now, no committee meeting date has been set and it appears highly unlikely that one will be held before the legislators come back on September 9.

Where does that leave us? In a tight but still promising spot for the Fall. Pressure continues to build for action against apartheid. We now have both gubernatorial candidates strongly supporting divestment. But the problem lies in the fact that the legislature may only be in session for two to four weeks when it returns on Sept. 9. That gives us little time to pass the bill out of committee, fight delaying tactics on the Senate floor (such as referring the legislation to the Senate Appropriations Committee), and to win final passage before the legislature recesses to campaign for re-election.

3) Action Needed.

A. The committee. We still have to get this legislation out of committee, so you still need to work on its members. Here they are once again:

[Details of the committee members follow]
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. Focus all your efforts on those marked with an asterisk (*).

*Senator Harry DeMaso, Chair, Room 3-1/2 N, Capitol Bldg., Lansing 48909, (517) 373-3447; Home: 40 S. LaVista Blvd., Battle Creek 49015 962-6872.


Senator Jack Welborn, Room 3-P Capitol Bldg., Lansing 48909, (517) 373-0793; Home: 4304 Riverview Dr., Kalamazoo 49004, (616) 345-3665.

B. The full Senate. Given that we won't have much time to shift gears from lobbying the committee to lobbying the full Senate, we should start working on all Senate members now. Remember, this is campaign season -- Senators should be listening especially careful these days.*****

C. The Governor. Keep those letters going to Governor Blanchard as well. The pressure he applies to Senators could be crucial.

4) Hands Around the Capitol. As mentioned above, the legislators come back from their summer recess on Tuesday, Sept. 9. We want to remind them, specifically the Senators, that divestment is high on the list of legislative priorities to deal with in September. We have worked on the concept of a "Hands Around the Capitol" event on the very day the legislators return -- Sept. 9. We need at least 500 people to link hands to surround the capitol in a symbolic statement of unity against apartheid and for divestment. The enclosed information explains the event in more detail. I have also enclosed a copy of a leaflet for you or your organization to copy in abundance and post or distribute in order to encourage people to attend the rally in Lansing.

That does it for now. We are going to have a busy Fall. (Perhaps it has already started.)

***** The message to Senators should be short, simple and clear. Action now, no delays; passage of strong divestment legislation, no weakening amendments.