Dear colleague,

A resolution has been introduced before the Madison Common Council "to Implement Council Resolution 29.355 of June 29, 1976." The resolution is directed to "award (City of Madison) contracts and purchase agreements to companies which have chosen not to develop economic interests in the Republic of South Africa...."

While the resolution has the support of several alderpersons and a number of clergy and members of religious organizations, it is not likely to pass without the support of persons like yourself whose opinions and judgements are highly regarded.

If you can support this symbolic effort at ethical and responsible uses of economic power, please--
1. Sign the petition yourself.
2. Telephone your alderperson and the mayor to indicate your support of the resolution.
3. Obtain signatures from any of your colleagues.
4. Return the petition to one of us by November 15, the day before action on the resolution is likely.

We believe that the resolution helps to indicate to American companies and to the government our conviction that the economic power of our nation should not be utilized to support the increasingly repressive South African government through investments and strategic support. The South African regime has indicated that they could not stand without American economic and moral support, which this resolution seeks to begin to withdraw.

Incidentally, the resolution has been reviewed already by the City Attorney, who indicates "no fiscal consequence," thereby freeing the resolution for its current review by the Board of Estimates in preparation for action by the Council in late November. Similar resolutions in Washington, D.C. and Gary, Indiana have not passed.

Please join us in this "message" to the South Africans, the companies, and the government.

Sincerely yours,

David Wiley
African Studies Program

Steven Feierman
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Tom Shick
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DW: dph
1) The purpose of Paragraph One is to articulate for the public the extent to which the City of Madison engages in commercial transactions with corporations having investments with the apartheid regime of South Africa. Such a listing of contracted parties will give the City a better understanding of the need and effect of any future selective purchasing policy which may be implemented. No doubt there will be some labor involved in researching and compiling such a list; however, the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa has offered its time and resources to assist in this endeavor for no cost.

2) Paragraph Two encourages city administrators to award contracts to companies which do not benefit from the racially discriminatory practices of South Africa. Some corporations may provide lower bids on City contracts as a result of repressive labor policies they pursue in South Africa; moreover, many City contracts are not held directly with the producing corporation but, rather, with local and regional distributors. A selective purchasing policy will free the City to reward manufacturers who conform to international law and morality, as well as to act on previous City commitments to encourage change in South Africa through economic strategies (City Council Resolution of June 29, 1976).

The increasing local interest in City-administered 'development corporations' and the like, has necessitated the inclusion of 'public corporations'. In short, such bodies must adhere to the principles discussed in Paragraph Two and must therefore seek to abstain from rewarding corporations practicing racial discrimination in South Africa.

This Paragraph also is designed to recognize City of Madison's willingness to comply with the decisions of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice regarding trade with South Africa.

3) Paragraph Three requests the Mayor's signature to a notice expressing concern for U.S. corporate involvement with the apartheid regime of South Africa. This notice could be affixed with the standard statement on a rubber stamp.

4) The purpose of Paragraph Four is to define a specific expiration date for Paragraphs One, Two and Three. The problems which the African continent faces demand African solutions, and following generations of European rule, it is only fair that Africans judge for themselves when majority rule has indeed been implemented in South Africa.
A Petition

We, the undersigned residents of Madison, call upon our alderpersons and mayor to vote affirmatively for "A Bill to Implement Madison Common Council Resolution 29.355 of June 29, 1976." We believe that this measure expresses our continuing and growing abhorrence at the treatment of African people in South Africa and for the participation of American corporations in this exploitation of apartheid.

Signed

Address