CIDSA
Coalition for Illinois’ Divestment from South Africa

Stop Illinois Money from Being Invested in Racist South Africa
Who is CIDSA?

The Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa was founded in June 1983 to push for the passage of a divestment bill in the Illinois State Legislature. Over 50 organizations and 200 concerned individuals from across the state now comprise CIDSA's growing membership.

Why South Africa?

South Africa is the only country in the world today where white supremacy is written into the constitution and laws. A white minority in South Africa benefits from the oppression of the black majority through a social and economic system known as apartheid. In this system 87% of the land is reserved for the 16% of the population which is white. Over 3.5 million blacks - Africans, Asians, and "coloreds" (people of mixed descent) - have been forcibly relocated under apartheid; over 2.5 million Africans have been resettled to remote, barren areas known as "homelands." In these "homelands" 50% of all children die before the age of five.

Officially, blacks are not citizens of South Africa, cannot vote or form political parties. Some independent black trade unions exist, but they operate under strict government control and their leaders are frequently harassed, detained and tortured. Malnutrition, high unemployment, and a lack of all political rights are the reality for black people in South Africa, while white South Africans enjoy the highest standard of living in the world.
Is the U.S. Involved?

350 American corporations now support the South African economy through direct investments and trade. In 1980, U.S. exports to South Africa jumped by 50% to make the U.S. the largest trading partner of South Africa. U.S. multinational corporations and banks have over $14 billion shoring up the South African economy; they control 43% of the South Africa's petroleum market, 23% of its motor vehicle sales, and 75% of its computer business.

Does U.S. Investment Help Blacks?

As U.S. investments have increased in the past two decades and particularly since 1980, conditions for South African blacks have become steadily worse. Black unemployment is over 30% and rising, while whites enjoy nearly full employment and salaries 4 to 100 times higher than blacks. Since 1960, more than 1,500 people have been "banned", at least 6500 detained without trial, and at least 9 million arrested. During the five minutes it takes you to read this brochure, two blacks will have been arrested for passbook violations.

1984 has witnessed a qualitative leap in the resistance struggle within South Africa. Constitutional reforms which attempted to include "colored" and "indian" populations in a nominal parliamentary chamber were rejected as farcical by those groups and the entire black community. Because blacks see
these reforms as an entrenchment of the apartheid system, the August elections have been followed by massive unrest, organized demonstrations, student boycotts and the largest black labor strike in the history of South Africa. Such defiance has been met with violent repression from the apartheid machine with over 1000 people detained, many of them labor and community leaders, 4500 arrested and nearly 200 people killed between September and November.

Why Divest?

U.S. investments strengthen the apartheid economy, thereby increasing the ability of the white government to preserve its power. The past twenty-five years disprove the claim that investments can be an agent for change because the government's repressive power has only increased during this time. Yet even if every U.S. firm in South Africa practiced commendable labor policies, apartheid would still not be threatened. The companies must comply with South Africa law and coexist with disenfranchisement, population control, and forced removals, as well as detentions and bannings. The black community, from 1959 Nobel Peace Laureate Albert Luthuli to 1984 Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, has continually said "we don't want our chains polished, we want them removed." The divestment of publically controlled Illinois funds from South Africa will be a significant contribution to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and help create circumstances for the South African people to forge fundamental change in their country.
What is CIDSA Doing?

In September, 1984 CIDSA focused its efforts into four taskforces which would together pave the way for eventual passage of a state divestment bill and increase the public awareness of South Africa in the process: (1) The Outreach/Education Taskforce, (2) The City Action Taskforce, (3) The Steel Taskforce, and (4) The State Tour Taskforce.

The Outreach/Education Taskforce is committed to educating Illinois residents to the evils of apartheid through speaking engagements and workshops. Effort is being made to target those areas where support will be key to the legislative process.

The City Action Taskforce (CTF) is committed to the introduction and passage of City of Chicago anti-apartheid and divestment ordinances. Research is being conducted to determine the scope and sources of direct and indirect city investments in South Africa.

The Steel Taskforce (STF) is committed to halting the importation and use of South African steel and South African steel-related products into public buildings throughout Illinois. Strategies to be used to achieve this goal include the following: research as to where South African steel has been used in Illinois; public educationals and speaking engagements; pushing for legislation which would prohibit the importation of South African steel for public buildings.

The State Tour Taskforce is currently organizing teams of prominent black South African and American speakers to tour Illinois in 1985 for the
purpose of educating Illinois residents about racist South Africa, and the need for Illinois to sever its economic links to apartheid. These tours will be conducted jointly with the Washington Office on Africa (WOA) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

These taskforces are linked together through the monthly membership meeting which contains the following components: *updated taskforce reports and strategizing sessions, *South African news updates, *news updates from the U.S. and international anti-apartheid campaigns, *educational programs using films or speakers, *an extensive literature table. These meetings take place the first Sunday of each month, 6pm, at 37 S. Ashland, Chicago. Arrangements can be made for out of town representatives to attend.

What Can You Do?

1) Support CIDSA through your membership and active participation in a taskforce and monthly meetings.

2) Lobby your organizations (whether church, civic, community, union, professional or other) to become an active part of CIDSA and a financial contributor to CIDSA. Urge them to issue a public statement in support of the work being done by CIDSA.

3) Arrange an educational program by CIDSA for your church, union or organization.
CIDSA Endorsers

Please return to: **CIDSA**  Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa
P.O. Box 578413  Chicago, IL 60657

**NAME** __________________________________________

**ORGANIZATION** ___________________________________

**ADDRESS** ________________________________________

**PHONE** ____________________ / ____________________
  (home)                           (office)

Enclosed:
  Organizational member donation $15 ______
  Individual member donation $10 ______
  Additional Contribution ______

I would like more information. Please contact me.