APARTHEID:
A State of Emergency

The state of emergency imposed by the South African government on July 20 was the inevitable outcome of the constitutional changes enacted one year earlier. Attempting to entrench into the constitution a political dispensation that excluded the vast majority of the population—stripping 73% of the population of South African citizenship—created great anger and resistance among blacks, sustained at all levels and at great personal cost for over one year.

The overwhelming rejection of the new constitution by the Indian and colored communities in August 1984 already demonstrated the depth of resistance to apartheid. The following month 80,000 mineworkers struck eight mines, with sixteen killed and over 700 seriously injured. Thirty one people, protesting the new constitution were killed in September as well. What was billed as reform by the government and supported by the Reagan administration had only fueled the militancy within the black communities, a militancy that included attacks on the local collaborators such as policemen and township councillors. One of the government's traditional tactics—dividing the black community—was crumbling.

Attempting a pre-emptive strike at the growing unrest, the government sent 7000 troops into the township of Sebekong in October. Every house was searched and every person questioned; many were arrested. What marked the event as extraordinary was the extent to which the army was used. The government's militarization of the national security system had trickled down to the operational level; never had the army been used on such a scale for internal operations. The ante was being raised.

Despite the harsh repression by the Botha regime, many lessons had been learned since the unrest of 1976. In November close to a million people in the Johannesburg area staged a two day "political" strike, a remarkably integrated (students-workers-communities) achievement that was apparently organized in less than a week. The demands included a call for the withdrawal of all the troops, an end to the bus fare and rent increases, the resignation of all the township councillors, the release of all political prisoners and detainees, and the reinstatement of workers recently dismissed for striking. Six thousand workers at the SASOL oil-from-coal plant struck that month as well, in spite of the risks: all were sent back to the bantustans. Now even the business and media institutions began to express alarm at the extreme measures of the government.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to then general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, at the end of 1984 guaranteed a more intense and detailed exposure of the growing crisis within South Africa. Tutu utilized every opportunity to publicize the demands of blacks, and the intransigence of the white regime. Even President Reagan was forced to meet with the Bishop.

Although the rhetoric of the ruling party remained stridently confident, its actions betrayed some ambivalence as to its course. In January of this year, Botha offered Nelson Mandela freedom if he were to "renounce violence". ABC Television's Nightline only served to put the government more on the defensive, and the white regime was unable to exploit that offer beyond its own white constituency at home.

By March of this year the strategy being pursued exploded in the government's own face. Twenty people were killed by the police in Uitenhage, most shot in the back. The demonstration was commemorating the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, when police opened fire. Ignoring the risks, 239 demonstrators were arrested as they marched on the Parliament in Cape Town to state their demands. Allen Boesak, one of the leaders of the march, later stated that this march was a turning point for the growth of a new civil disobedience campaign.

The government reacted by charging 16 UDF leaders with high treason, only to have 5,000 gather in Pietermaritzburg in support of the UDF leaders. Almost

Continued on page 5

Next CIDSA Meeting: Sun., September 8  UE Hall  37 S. Ashland, Chicago  6 p.m.
CIDSA University members especially urged to attend this meeting
Words of Solidarity

This summer CIDSA was fortunate to have a student from South Africa intern with us. Upon leaving to return to school, the student left us with the following observations about CIDSA.

I have seen CIDSA taking a giant step in consolidating and reaffirming its goals and shaping up its previous weaknesses and strengths as an effort to organize more efficiency in the “Advance” at Fox Lake, Wisconsin.

The dedicated and determined participation of the members of CIDSA’s task force is one highly commendable and appreciable element in their united effort to achieve the goals of the coalition. As an intern in the CIDSA office during the 1985 summer, this attitude has boosted up and reinforced my confidence and reliance on the Americans who are concerned about world peace and exploitation-free human rights. Never before has this kind of reinforcement ever been part of me.

I wish to express my encouragement until this apartheid war has been won. It is without doubt that apartheid is vicious, brutally murderous and essentially inhuman. Opposition activists inside and outside South Africa have stressed their abhorrence to apartheid. At this stage any means to have it eliminated is warmly accredited as evidenced by the present situation inside the country (S.A.) as well as outside. Jesus said the greatest law in the Bible is “love your neighbor as you love yourself.” To us South African students in the U.S., every repressive incident in South Africa is like a punch on an excruciatingly painful wound. Long live the struggle.

AMANDLA NGAWETHU

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 60 organizations and 250 concerned individuals from across the state now comprise CIDSA’s growing membership.

MEMBERSHIPS

Enclosed:
Organizational Member Donation 815
Individual Member Donation 810
Amandla Club Donation 8100
Additional Contribution

NAME ____________________________
ORGANIZATION ___________________
ADDRESS __________________________
PHONE (home) ____________________ / (office)

Please return to: CIDSA, Coalition for
Illinois Divestment from South Africa
Suite 919, 343 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill. 60604
South African Council of Churches
Statement on Divestment

The following statement on disinvestment was accepted June 28 by the SACC National Conference.

JOHANNESBURG, July 4 (lwi)—The National Conference of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), being deeply concerned at the violent conflict in which the people of South Africa are now embroiled:

1. Reiterates the statement which the council has made in the past that foreign investment and loans have been used to support prevailing patterns of power and privilege in South Africa;
2. Recognizes that many church leaders and Christian people in South Africa are in favor of (selective) disinvestment and economic sanctions because they believe that the situation is now so serious that economic action must be taken to strengthen political and diplomatic pressures on South Africa to force the South African government to take seriously the need for fundamental change in South Africa;
3. Is agreed that fundamental change would include the dismantling of apartheid and the democratic involvement of all South Africans in the planning of new political, economic and social structures which would seek to guarantee for all people justice, development, freedom and peace;
4. Welcomes the concern and support of our fellow Christians in other countries who are working to assist us in finding nonviolent ways in which fundamental change can be brought about in South Africa;
5. Believes that the pressure in Western countries for disinvestment and divestment has been most effective in moving white South Africans into a more serious consideration of the cause of the political conflict of this country;
6. Concludes from the evidence placed before it that foreign investment does not necessarily create new jobs and that the contrary is often the case because new investment is frequently in the form of sophisticated technological equipment;
7. Draws attention to the fact that the churches have for many years tried to address the problem of structural unemployment in black communities and have not been aware of any serious concern being shown by the business sector, foreign or South African, or by government until recent months when economic sanctions have become a legislative probability in the United States;
8. Confesses that in the churches there has been no proper debate and consideration of the disinvestment question because we have allowed ourselves to be restrained by the severity of laws designed to prevent open discussion of economic sanctions. This has meant that the only arguments being heard in South Africa are those in opposition to disinvestment;

This conference therefore resolves:

a) To express our belief that disinvestment and similar economic pressures are now called for as a peaceful and effective means of putting pressure on the South African government to bring about those fundamental changes this country needs;
b) To ask our partner churches in other countries to continue with their efforts to identify and promote effective economic pressures to influence the situation in South Africa, towards achieving justice and peace in this country and minimizing the violence of the conflict;
c) To promote fuller consideration of the issues by placing the case for the imposition of economic sanctions and disinvestment before the Executive Committee of the SACC and the regional councils, and the councils of our member churches and organizations with the request that they encourage congregations to study and debate them;
d) To ask the Executive to appoint in consultation with the director of justice and reconciliation a task force to examine the whole question of economic justice as well as issues of disinvestment and economic sanctions, to review and coordinate the responses from the churches, and to assist the church leaders by making available to them information and analyses;
e) To call member churches and individual Christians to withdraw from participation in the economic system that oppresses the poor, by reinvesting money and energy in alternative economic systems in existence in our region.

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 apartheid 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 African 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 publicly controlled Illinois funds from South Africa will be a significant contribution to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and will help create circumstances for the South African people to forge fundamental change in their country.
would link the issues of the bills' passage, formation of a statewide committee and connections with the university/students' movements, especially at the University of Illinois.

The Steel Task Force discussion centered around passage of steel legislation in the Illinois house and garnering increased support of local Steel Workers labor leaders for such passage.

It was suggested that CIDSA commit to fundraise in order to send 2 CIDSA members to Southern Africa for 2-3 weeks; these representatives would also be expected to visit with various anti-apartheid groups in Europe after the trip and commit themselves to a speaking tour around the state and the writing of several articles.

Diane Meisenhelter will act as a liaison to help foster downstate university contacts. Letters and followup phone calls will be made to get leaders from student and faculty groups; at the same time, increased efforts will be made to renew contacts with student leaders from various anti-apartheid groups in Europe.

The Sunday session was chaired by Ora Schub. Decisions based upon the whole weekend's discussions were finalized and included the following.

The formation of a Fundraising committee, suggested chair to be Suzanne Krause; the formation of a Membership development committee, suggested chair to be Cheryl Graves; suggested chair of the current task forces—City-Sharron Pitts; State-Basil Clunie; Steel-Ora Schub; Education-Lucille Tiechet; continued staffing of the CIDSA office with Judy Hatcher, at different hours; The election of new Co-Chairs to CIDSA; recommended were Sharron Pitts and Basil Clunie; a shortening of the Monthly membership meetings, with a significant part of the time instead taken up with membership development and meeting new members/visitors; Downstate conference set for late September; notes of appreciation sent to several members who were not able to attend or were leaving their present CIDSA posts.

**TASK FORCES REPORT**

**City Task Force**

Mayor Harold Washington has convened a committee to study the feasibility of our ordinance and to make suggestions and/or alterations. The committee consists of representatives from the Mayor's Office on Inter-Governmental Affairs, the Office of Economic Development, the Purchasing Department, the Treasurer's Office, and the Office of the Corporation Counsel. A study has also been conducted of divestment ordinances in other cities. The committees' findings are expected to be released in early September.

All CIDSA members should call the Office of Inter-Governmental Affairs at 353-5132 to encourage the Mayor to adopt a strong divestment ordinance. The City Task Force of CIDSA is also planning to visit the alderpersons at their ward offices. CIDSA members will be contacted to help. For more information, contact Sharron Pitts at 822-3565 or the CIDSA office.

**Downstate Organizing Conference**

To move CIDSA's state-wide mandate to a new level of operation, CIDSA is sponsoring a Downstate Organizing Conference to be held Saturday, September 21, in Champaign-Urbana. People met through last April's state-wide tour are encouraged to participate, as well as all interested labor, community, religious and education-related individuals and organizations from around the state.

The conference will emphasize up-to-date information and practical tools for educating and organizing in local communities. It will be held from 9am-4pm at Illinois Disciples Foundation, 403 S. Wright, Champaign, Illinois. Accomodations can be arranged for Friday night and Saturday night for those who want to attend the Sweet Honey in the Rock concert in town that evening. For further information or registration contact CIDSA or conference organizers: Diane Meisenhelter (217) 344-0300 and Lucille Teichert (312) 288-2824 (h) or 285-6059.

**Education Task Force**

Besides organizing the Downstate Conference, the Education Task Force is soon to embark on a House Meetings Project. Planned in coordination with the City Task Force, informal educational gatherings will be held in homes within the city wards of alderpersons key to the passage of the city divestment ordinance.

If you are interested in being trained to lead such a meeting or host a meeting in your home, contact Lucille Teichert at 285-6059 (w) or 288-2824 (h).

**State Divestment Task Force**

As of August 1, Illinois House Bills 317 and 330 are in Interim Study in the Urban Redevelopment Committee, chaired by Representative Yvetter Younge (D., East St. Louis). Rep. Younge has suggested Wednesday, October 2 as a hearing date for these bills, a necessary step in their being recalled to the floor of the Illinois House later in the fall.

With this in mind, the State Divestment task force in conjunction with the Education/Outreach task force and CIDSA members downstate is considering a session...
APARTHEID: A State of Emergency

unnounced in this volatile situation was the government's quiet announcement of a special position to coordinate action against overseas campaigns for divestment from South Africa.

The following month the government again attempted to deflect attention from the growing crisis by agreeing to a recommendation calling for the abolition of the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act. The diversion succeeded overseas for several days but could not halt the intense uprising of the black community. Some 17,500 mineworkers went on strike on April 28, most of whom were subsequently sent back to the bantustans; and over 60,000 blacks gathered nationwide to mourn those killed.

In May, riot police stopped and dispersed a meeting at the South African Council of Churches celebrating May Day. On the 14th the capital of Botswana, Gaborone, was rocked as the South African army invaded the city attempting to destroy the offices of the ANC, and 12 people were killed. Condemned unequivocally by the SACC, it then urged people to pray on June 16 for "an end to unjust rule and the abolition of all apartheid structures".

By now the Botha government recognized that it had lost control of the momentum and on July 20 it declared a state of emergency. Twenty five years of increasingly sophisticated structures of apartheid were exposed as a sham: the last state of emergency was imposed in 1960, after the Sharpeville massacre.

Although what the present state of resistance means remains to be seen, some significant shifts have occurred. Most of the rebellion has thus far taken place in the townships outside of the white centers of power, with the exception of the November "political" strike, but the traditional source of information and cooperation from certain blacks has been virtually broken; informers, black policemen, township councillors are all targets of the black community, and are no longer safe. The facade of reform lies in ruins, and the myth of the invincibility of the regime now appears as a reign of naked terror. What seems most impressive is the extent to which the revolt has reached the grassroots. A recent boycott in East London by blacks forced the white business community to plead with the government for change because of the solidarity in the townships; one furniture store's volume dropped from $5,000 a day to $300 in three days.

The South African government still has massive resources and support from major corporations and political leaders such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Yet the foundations are beginning to crack and corrode, and international solidarity through campaigns such as the divestment movement needs to develop long-range strategies to maintain international pressure on apartheid's allies. The South African blacks have already revealed the white regime for its ruthless tactics and its Nazi-like policies.

by Orlando Redekopp

TASK FORCES REPORT

Continued from previous page

on these bills and the lobbying effort to be included in the agenda of the Downstate Organizing Conference to be held on September 21 (Please see article). Rep. Younge has indicated a willingness to attend the Downstate Conference if her schedule permits.

For more information on the next State Divestment task force meeting, please contact Basil Clunie at 869-1963/evenings or 491-2011/days; or the CIDSA office, 922-3915.

Steel Task Force

The Steel Task Force of CIDSA is continuing its efforts to gain passage of legislation prohibiting the importation of South African steel for use in public works projects in Illinois. The legislation which was drafted by our committee and was introduced by Representatives Carol Moseley Braun and Woods Bowman as an amendment to the Steel Procurement Act (see CIDSA Update #8, April 1985) unfortunately was not acted upon in the last legislative session. This does not mean, however, that the issue is dead. We are pursuing the process of having the legislation reintroduced as an amendment to other legislation, and we are optimistic about the chances of the legislation's passage later this year.

To mobilize support around the legislation we are developing informational literature on the effects of South African steel on Illinois (and steelworkers in particular) and are continuing to make contacts with labor unions and rank and file union members.

The Steel Task Force organized a successful demonstration in May at the dedication of the State of Illinois Building which contains South African steel in its framework. Governor Thompson continues to claim that only two beams of South African steel were used. Contrary to the Governor's line, diligent research by our committee has unearthed evidence that at least 30 to 40 beams of steel from South Africa were used in the construction of the building. The exact number of beams, of course, is not important; the use of any South African steel symbolizes the bitter irony of using the tax money paid by Illinois residents to support the South African steel industry while massive numbers of area steelworkers are unemployed. Our committee continues its research, educational, and legislative efforts to change this situation.
SOUTH AFRICAN UPDATE:

On July 21 the South African Regime declared a State of Emergency in 36 districts throughout the country, affecting 5.3 million people. The police and army were given special powers last invoked 25 years ago following the Sharpeville Massacre. Under the State of Emergency, over 1,400 people have been detained and many killed in confrontations with army and police. Disclosure of the name of any detained person without official permission is a criminal offense. In addition, no civil or criminal proceedings can be brought against the state for any actions under the State of Emergency.

On July 24 France recalled its ambassador to South Africa and announced a suspension on new investment in South Africa. France also introduced a resolution at the U.N. Security Council condemning apartheid policies and the suppression of human rights in South Africa.

Sixteen officials of the United Democratic Front and the South African Congress of Trade Unions went on trial for treason in Pietermaritzburg, charged with forming a “revolutionary alliance” with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Communist Party. Among those charged are two of the three co-chairs of the U.D.F.

On August 4, the National Union of Mineworkers announced a strike at South African gold and coal mines to begin August 25 if wage demands are not met. The strike would involve 230,000 black miners, about half the total work force in the mining industry.

Political demands were also announced at the press conference. Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the union, said the union was giving the Pretoria government 72 hours to lift the State of Emergency—otherwise the union would instruct members to boycott white business near the mines. Additionally, Ramaphosa warned that if the South African government activated its threat to send migrant workers back to neighboring states in the event of economic sanctions, a general strike would be called.

In the United States, the House of Representatives passed a compromise Anti-Apartheid bill which calls for no new imports of Krugerrands and restrictions on computer sales to the South African government military. Missing from the bill are provisions for no new investment in South Africa, restrictions on sales of Krugerrands already imported or any other immediate sanctions. Additionally, the bill allows the president to decide after 12 months whether to rescind the restrictions against new Krugerrand imports.

Under the threat of a filibuster by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the Senate adjourned for recess without considering the bill. Messages from the White House have been vague and contradictory on whether President Reagan will veto the bill in the above form as being too radical for his “constructive engagement” stance.

On August 15, South African President Botha, in an address expected to outline reforms of the apartheid system, instead affirmed the oppressive and racist policies of the South African regime. Botha announced that there would not be a one man-one vote system under his leadership, saying this would only bring about “chaos.” He also refused to release imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, unless Mandela denounced the violent overthrow of the apartheid government. This offer had been made by the government and rejected by Mandela in January 1985, so it was not a new move by Botha. Botha said that he and his government had been patient long enough and threatened the majority population of the country not to “push” him.

Anti-Apartheid Calendar

Every Thursday — Free South Africa Movement Demonstration — South African Consulate, 444 N. Michigan, Chicago, 12 Noon

August 24 — Free South Africa Movement sponsors MARCH AGAINST APARTHEID—12 noon at Jackson & Dearborn

August 24 — See Poppie Nongena at the Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted, 8 p.m.—CIDSA Fundraiser

September 8 — CIDSA General Membership Meeting, U.E. Hall, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago, 6 p.m.

September 20 — Case of 70 Northwestern University students who pled not guilty in anti-apartheid demonstration to be held in County Court, Old Orchard Rd., Skokie, 11

September 21 — CIDSA Downstate Organizing Conference at Illinois Disciples Fd. from 9-4 in Champaign, Illinois

September 28 — African Network & Dennis Brutus Defense Committee co-sponsor a Human Rights Tribute for Professor Jan Carew’s 60th birthday at the Midland Hotel. For further information contact Y.B. Holly, African Network, Box 59364 Chicago, Illinois 60654

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