Numerous U.S. churches have issued statements against apartheid, opposing bank loans and calling for economic pressures against South Africa. The following are illustrative excerpts from the positions of some of the major U.S. Protestant denominations.

1. The American Baptist Church National Ministries – The Church monitors all corporations in their investment fund. They question foreign investments which have the effect of contributing to the economic support of governments whose policies seriously inhibit political and economic support rights. The ABC’s position calls for corporations to cease further investments in South Africa and to terminate present operations as expeditiously as possible until South Africa changes its policies and takes meaningful steps to assure full political, legal and social rights for the majority population. ABC has actively sponsored shareholder resolutions on South Africa.

2. United Presbyterian Church, USA – In a Declaration of Conscience on South Africa and Namibia, which will be presented for a vote to the 193rd General Assembly (1981), the church reaffirms its commitment to "US economic and diplomatic policies regarding South Africa that are consistent with the moral condemnation of apartheid which has been voiced, encourage voluntary change by the white leadership of South Africa and support the independence of Namibia."

Also, to "Economic policies that deprive South Africa of both the tangible and symbolic support derived by the investment and loan practices of the U.S. government and corporations."

The declaration recognizes that economic support of and investment in South Africa contributes to the maintenance of systematic violence by the present government. It A) calls upon the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment to continue to pursue all strategies, negotiations and stockholder actions that urge business or financial institutions to discontinue operations, investments and loans in South Africa, B) commends those banks and corporations that have examined their involvement and its social consequences, and have withdrawn from South Africa or refrained from further activity, C) directs all General Assembly agencies, insofar as practicable, to deposit funds and maintain accounts in financial institutions that have established policies that preclude future loans to the government of South Africa or any of its agencies, D) the intensified application of the investment policy guidelines (in cooperation with other denominations) in support of black South African criticism of US transnational enterprises, E) urges all judicatories to observe the investment policy guidelines and to cooperate with NRTI in strategies aimed at influencing the investment patterns in South Africa.

3. The American Friends Service Committee – In 1978 the American Friends Service Committee announced that it would sell over 45,000 shares of stock worth $1.3 million in US firms operating in South Africa. This announcement represented part of an ongoing commitment of the AFSC not to invest in firms profiting from apartheid.

4. The United Methodist Church – In 1980 the General Conference of the United Methodist Church approved a statement of investment policy which included the following declaration on South Africa: "Specific reference must be made to the abhorrent system of apartheid as it exists and as it is practiced in the Republic of South Africa. Investments of any unit of the United Methodist Church must be carefully examined with respect to the possible
involvement in any business entity whose operations are supportive of apartheid. Agencies of the UMC should not do business with or invest in banks which have banking operations in or make loans to the Republic of South Africa, not should they do business with or invest in banks which make loans to the parastatal (government-owned) corporations of the RSA."

5. Reformed Church in America - At the 1980 meeting of its General Synod, the RCA adopted the following resolutions: (on investments in South Africa), "United States-based corporations which do business in South Africa have been unable to alter the apartheid system, which is the base for the injustices with which the majority of South African people must live. Indeed, the presence of those businesses in South Africa strengthens the apartheid system, postpones liberation and identifies the United States with the white minority. The benefit to the majority of the people is minimal, while all the people suffer under the system those businesses sustain....(This) task force believes that the Reformed Church in America should encourage those businesses in which it holds investments to end their participation in the economy of South Africa. If those businesses in which we participate refuse to end their activities in South Africa, the Reformed Church in America, as an act of conscience and witness, should withdraw its investments....In order to implement the recommendation, it is suggested that specific steps be taken to enable the corporations involved to act....to direct denominational agencies to strive to make sure that their money market investments be in banks and brokerages which do not grant or renew loans to the Republic of South Africa or semi-governmental corporations."

(On government policies and liberation) "The government of the United States has taken a number of policy positions intended to put pressure on the South African government to end apartheid. A church concerned about justice can and should support and encourage such policies....To endorse such United States policies as the arms embargo, the prohibition of sales of any kind to the South African military or police, the refusal to recognize the 'homelands' as independent nations, the prohibition of direct loans through the Export-Import Bank to American exporters doing business with South Africa, etc., and to encourage speedy prosecution of those who violate those policies.

6. The United Church of Christ - The following resolution was passed by the eleventh General Synod of the UCC in July 1977: "The practice of apartheid oppresses our brothers and sisters in South Africa. As a people of God, we affirm our oneness in Christ. Historically we share a partnership with them; now we seek to stand with them in their struggle to achieve basic human rights and freedom. Guided by the concerns of previous General Synods, prompted by the intransigence of the South African government, and aware of the inability of transnational corporations to affect movement toward majority rule: We now believe that withdrawal of business and investments from South Africa is a central expression of the Gospel witness. Therefore, we urge individuals, congregations, conferences and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to exert moral pressure on:

1) United States transnational corporations and businesses to withdraw from South Africa;
2) United States banks and financial institutions to refrain from further investments in and loans to South Africa;
3) The President, Congress, and our United Nations representatives to use diplomatic and economic influence to end apartheid practices.

We recognize the difficulties in implementation of withdrawal and call upon our boards and instrumentalities to work closely with transnational corporations in all ways that will help bring an end to the injustices of apartheid and transition to majority rule."
7. The Lutheran Church in America - In 1980 the convention of the Lutheran Church in America considered 18 memoranda addressing the church's position regarding apartheid in South Africa. The convention voted to direct the Division for Mission in North America "to develop policy which designs criteria on the basis of which the option of divestment would be used, including the criteria for determining when total divestment from a given situation (such as South Africa) would be the most effective strategy; and to report this policy to the Executive Council by December 1980."

8. The Episcopal Church - The Episcopal Church General Convention and the Executive Council have passed a series of resolutions concerning investments in South Africa. The following reflects many of these resolutions:

RESOLVED, the House of Bishops concurring, that this General Convention:

1. Call upon the government of the United States of America to continue and increase its efforts to persuade the government of the Republic of South Africa to purge itself of its racist laws and practices and to work for a free and democratic society;

2. Urge United States banks and other businesses (a) to cease selling goods and services to the government of the Republic of South Africa, (b) not to increase their investments or expand in South Africa under present circumstances; and (c) to consider carefully both the possible good and the possible harm which their continued presence in South Africa results in, and urge such banks and other businesses to make an honest and careful evaluation of their participation in the economic and social life of that nation and, if after such evaluation, their conclusion is that their presence in South Africa does not, on balance, assist or cannot be made to assist, in the struggle for human dignity and freedom that such banks and businesses be urged to withdraw from South Africa; and

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council direct the Executive and Finance Committee to consult with the banks in which the said Council has deposits or investments, and which are members of the consortium extending credit to the government of South Africa; and that, unless the said Executive and Finance Committee concludes that the involvement of the said banks is positive in respect of helping to promote the activities listed in Section (c) of Resolution I, the Treasurer be directed to terminate the Council's involvement with such banks within a reasonable period of time.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council shall report its action on the above resolutions to the dioceses and parishes and request them to examine their own investments and to take appropriate action along similar lines. To accomplish this the Council shall send the resolutions to the dioceses along with appropriate background materials and request the dioceses to draw these actions and materials to the attention of the parishes and other groups in their jurisdictions in the implementation of the 1967 General Convention's "Resolution on Apartheid."

9. The American Lutheran Church - In November 1980 the ALC Convention voted to "divest from corporations doing business in South Africa as the most legitimate strategy in opposing apartheid" in South Africa. The convention provided that divestment would take place "in a prudent manner that is consistent with legal requirements and (that) does not place undue risk upon the ALC investment portfolio." The same resolution urges the U.S. government to implement economic sanctions South Africa and to develop new ways for the ALC to "effectively support the non-white population in Southern Africa in its struggle for justice and reconciliation." The ALC reaffirms its past positions calling for:

a) an end to future bank loans to the Republic of South Africa
b) an end to any sales to the South African police and military
c) a moratorium on any significant expansion efforts by U.S. corporations
d) the ALC supports the call for withdrawal of investment by U.S. corporations if in the judgment of the Board of Trustees that investment on balance strengthens the apartheid system.

APPENDIX II

U.S. BUSINESS—BANK LOANS

American banks have played a special role in fueling South Africa’s economic growth. At critical periods, when South Africa has been short of foreign exchange and capital to maintain its economic growth and to underwrite new development projects in the public sector, American banks have provided large loans to the Government. Although South Africa’s economy is extremely buoyant today because of gold earnings, American banks have in the past loaned South African public and private enterprises over $2.2 billion. These loans to the private and public sectors have not gone unnoticed by South African blacks, and they are highly resented. They are also offensive to many Americans, who regard these transactions as propping up South Africa’s system of racial discrimination.

A number of American banks have voluntarily suspended making loans to the South African Government and its parastatals. Some have not. In the past 2 years, several major American banks have made loans to South African Government agencies to finance new housing and hospital facilities for blacks. Since these loans will improve the social lot of Africans, these banks have reasoned that their loans are both politically and morally sound. This is a shortsighted policy which plays into the hands of South African officials who continue to seek political respectability and economic creditworthiness through international loans from major Western banks. As long as American banks finance major housing and hospital projects which are established exclusively for blacks and are confined to black areas, they only perpetuate rather than ameliorate South Africa’s oppressive system of apartheid. Moreover, most blacks with whom we spoke said they would prefer to see the U.S. Government ban all loans—even those benefiting blacks in black areas—until South Africa changes its overall policy of apartheid. To support additional loans to South Africa to construct segregated housing and health facilities only entrenches apartheid.

Legislation should be developed to prevent all further bank loans by American financial institutions to the South African Government and its state-run and state-owned companies. The passage of such legislation would have the effect of demonstrating that the United States will no longer let American banks directly contribute to a national government which on a daily basis violates the fundamental human rights of a majority of its citizens.

Although such a move will be strongly criticized by the American banking and business community, it is imperative that the United States begin to use what leverage it has at its disposal to demonstrate to South Africa’s black population that we in the United States recognize and sympathize with their plight and to demonstrate to the current South African Government that we will no longer allow American institutions to directly strengthen it or its state-run companies.