TO: CAISA Members  
FROM: Carole Collins  
RE: COBLSA CAISA Activities

1. Texas Contacts:

From February 9 to 16, I visited Texas to attend the National Council of Churches Consultation on Racism in San Antonio. It provided an opportunity for me to meet with local activists in both San Antonio and Austin to assess possibilities for introducing legislation in the next Texas session. Past bills which had been introduced by Al Price and Wilhelmina Delco had not passed. The Texas legislature only meets once every 2 years (for six months), and their next session begins in January 1983, so it provides lead time for planning strategy on a bill.

San Antonio: I met with Mario Salas (long-time anti-apartheid activist who has done anti-mercenary work). He set up a meeting with local activists from the black and progressive community, in particular members of the Organizations United For Eastside Development (OUED). They would be interested in supporting any initiative, though are obviously oriented to local community needs. They have some influence with a few members of the City Council.

Austin: I met with State Representative Wilhelmina Delco for about one hour. She is pessimistic about the prospects for any additional bill on Education being introduced successfully in Texas. She said any such bill, to garner support, would have to have strong backing by grassroots groups, after which state legislators would be more inclined to respond with their support. Past bills have focused on divestment of educational endowment as well as a more sweeping divestment bill introduced by Al Price. She suggested we needed to talk to other legislators who work on banking legislation to assess the possibilities for passage of such a bill, though she was pessimistic.

Wayne Kamen, past AFSC staff in Austin, set up the meeting with Delco for me. He strikes me as having an array of useful contacts with legislators (and worked very actively on the Education bill). He is writing his PhD dissertation right now, but after May-June would have more time to work on a possible bill.

I met with Glenn Scott, a member of the New American Movement, active in the Texas Anti-Hunger Coalition and involved in creating a (mostly white) progressive network through the South and Southwest affiliated with NAM and DSOC (their publication is called Behind the Cotton Curtain. She is willing to provide strong supportive effort if someone else will take the initiative on this. I met with several other local activists in Austin as well as with John Warfield,
head of the Afro-American Studies Department at Univ. of Texas, who would be helpful.

During my trip, I collected a list of contacts for these and other Texas cities. I will be mailing out a list to all CAISA members in the near future. (Several useful contacts were made at the Conference, especially clergy from the Southwest. A key need for anti-apartheid activists in relating to this region will be to better connect the South Africa issue to Hispanic concerns.)

2. Minnesota: I was contacted by Nancy Heinz regarding their need to redraft their divestment bill to a banking focus. She said they had not been prepared for testimony by several retiree groups against their broader proposed bill, and were trying to salvage some form of bill that would be passable.

   Mark Wenner of TransAfrica,

3. Maryland: Jerry Herman/Ted Lockwood (of D.C. Bank Campaign) and myself testified at a hearing by the Appropriations Committee of the Maryland General Assembly last week on two bills and a joint resolution that would prohibit deposit of state monies and pension funds in banks that lend to the South African government, its agencies or to U.S. corporations doing business there. (See copies of bills attached.) Other testimony was provided by a member of the ANC; two members of NBIPP (also members of Baptist and AME churches); a Baltimore Presbyterian minister; TransAfrica; etc. The testimony was long, but think we got some receptivity. CAISA members should write in support of the bills. (Ted and I suggested some changes in the bills' language to make them stronger--you may want to see copies of our testimony.)

4. Boston/Massachusetts: The bill defeated last year (1138) is being reintroduced as Senate Bill 984, and will be discussed before the Senate Ways and Means Committee (March 31 I believe). CAISA members should contact Richard Clapp to find out how they can best support this effort. As people may know, the Harvard Advisory Comm. on Stock voted to retain their prohibition on investments or deposits in banks lending to South Africa last week.

5. Future activities: I will be speaking at the Univ. of Virginia (Charlottesville) March 27 on divestment and at Yale University April 3rd and will be pushing legislative divestment as well as university divestment. COBLSA is in the process of doing a mailing to union people on the bank loans issue, to be followed by targeted follow-up. We might want to discuss coordinating CAISA outreach to this constituency.

6. Area for CAISA joint work? WOA, COBLSA, and other groups have been meeting with anti-nuke and disarmament groups in DC to explore the outlines of a campaign against US/SA nuclear collaboration. Given that there is a lot of action at municipal and some state levels around the Nuclear Freeze idea, we may want to discuss how to link our work to these activities.