RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE SOUTH AFRICA DIVESTMENT BILL IN 1982:

The following recommendations, put together by the co-co-ordinators, Chris Nteta and Wendy Earle, come out of an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the past year's work. (Written copies of the evaluation will be available at the meeting on January 13th). We hope these recommendations, if accepted, will provide the basis for an effective campaign this year. We feel that the first four recommendations are particularly important for the campaign to be as effective as possible.

1. Link the divestment issue with other Boston/Massachusetts issues, especially the struggle against racism. Last year, in our literature we pointed to the main links between the struggles in South Africa for liberation and the struggles here for better wages, working conditions, against racism, etc. However, except at the beginning when we did some work to expose the hypocrisy of Richard Hill's (Chairman of the First National Bank of Boston, known for its connections with South Africa and redlining policies) appointment to the Mayor's Committee on Racism, we have not demonstrated in our practice our concern for struggles here. Unions and other organisations, already busy with their own issues will look more favorably on working more closely with us if they saw us taking up local issues. There are several possibilities for our work next year. In the Spring, a local Solidarity Day is being planned: perhaps we could get onto the platform of the event and help build for it. The struggle for quality education is becoming important and this could be linked up with the struggle for decent education in South Africa. There may be election issues that we could relate to. We could also work again around the FNBB and its policies in relation to South Africa and Boston. Other parts of the state may have other significant issues to link up with.

2. Direct our main outreach to unions, and to organizations of the black community. Our main base of effective support is in these organizations, which have considerable political influence in the state and also have the most material interest in passage of the Divestment Bill. Last year we got a large number of endorsements from these organisations, and many of them helped to lobby for the bill. This year, we would like representatives from unions, etc. to attend MassDivest planning meetings so that they can provide input and leadership in getting this issue out to their constituencies, and getting the bill through the legislative process.

3. Get a lot more media coverage of the Divestment Bill. Last year we had one article in the Boston Globe and several in the Bay State Banner; several radio stations also reported occasionally on our activities. This year we need to get onto talk shows regularly, and have regular articles in Boston's newspapers. In this way we can make the bill part of people's consciousness in state.

4. Set up a steering committee of three people. Last year, while the co-co-ordinators worked hard and played a key role in getting the bill as far as it went, it was found that the structure was too loose and informal to provide the consistent leadership that was needed to keep up the momentum of the campaign through slow times as well as fast. It is therefore recommended that a steering committee meet
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[point 4 continued]
regularly between general meetings to provide leadership in carrying out the plan of action for the year, taking up significant political issues that affect our work and co-ordinating the work of the committees.

5. Committees should be set up and kept functioning throughout the course of the campaign. Last year Outreach, Media, Lobbying, Resources and Events Committees were set up and worked effectively for several months. However, by May they were no longer working and this led to a fall off in our activities. This year, the committees should be re-established with a co-ordinator for each. The steering committee should be ultimately responsible for making sure the committees keep functioning. We should also have a committee that is responsible for co-ordinating statewide work.

6. Develop an overview for the year's work. Last year our work suffered because we only thought ahead three months at a time. If we can establish a goal by goal plan of action right from the beginning, which can be adjusted as circumstances arise, we will be more able to make each transition smoothly without loss of momentum.

7. Invite legislators who've sponsored the bill to attend regular meetings. We would like the legislators to attend about one in four or five meetings to keep us informed of the process and the most effective means to lobby. We found that Sen. Backman's and House Rep. Mel King's attendance at our meetings last year provided an important impetus to our work.

8. We should establish a regular meeting time. Meeting on the second and/or fourth Wednesday of each month will enable people who miss meetings to attend the next one even if they don't get a phone call to inform them of the meeting.

submitted by: Wendy Earle } co-coordinators of MassDivest
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