August 17, 1969

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wish to inquire about the accuracy of a newspaper story concerning talks between our government and the Republic of South Africa in the area of marketing the latter's gold. Should you confirm the accuracy of this report, I wish to request an interview, on behalf of my magazine, to discuss the implications of these talks. A copy of the article is enclosed.

The crucial relationships among gold pricing, international trade and balance of payments have become familiar over the past several years. However, the political implications of such discussions and negotiations have not received proper attention. We certainly stand to be corrected, but we can only estimate that an agreement with South Africa in the area indicated by Mr. Diederichs will be interpreted as further support by our government of apartheid and its accompanying cruelties and injustices.

I would point out that motive magazine, with a circulation of 30,000, is published by a division of the United Methodist Church. This denomination, meeting in General Conference, reaffirmed the action of its Board of World Missions in withdrawing a stock portfolio of $10 million from one of the ten banks composing a consortium to extend revolving credit to the government of South Africa. Viewed as a first step, this action was in accord with the denomination's general policy of opposition, on moral grounds, to apartheid. I might also add in this vein that the executive and financial committees of the Protestant Episcopal Church voted last April to withdraw funds and securities from three of the ten banks by December 31, 1969 should they remain in the consortium.

The decisions by two major Protestant denominations have been
supported locally by individual and organizational withdrawals. These decisions underscore the acceptance of the principle of disengagement from South Africa in the private sector.

My request for an interview rests on the 19-year tradition this magazine upholds with regard to reporting fairly and accurately the dimensions of particular issues and events. Since the magazine's readership is largely composed of churchmen and academics, we wish to apprise them of the latest developments concerning our country's policies with regard to South Africa.

I realize the granting of an interview would be at your convenience, but I would simply note that I will be in Washington on business later this month from the 26th through the 28th.

May I express my appreciation in advance for whatever assistance you may wish to provide concerning this important and sensitive matter.

Most cordially,

Robert Maurer
Editor

RM/sc