

IDAHO COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

For immediate release

Monday 25 February 1985

Today the Idaho Coalition for Peace and Justice issued a call for the University of Idaho to divest its funds in corporations investing in South Africa. A petition accompanying a six page coalition statement calls upon the University of Idaho's Board of Regents to direct its investment manager to sell university stocks and securities in Ford Motor Company, General Motors, ITT, Mobil Oil and Union Carbide, unless these corporations agree to withdraw their investments in South Africa.

The coalition, a group of concerned students, faculty and community members in Moscow, believes that investment in South Africa supports apartheid. Apartheid is the system of racial discrimination by which South Africa's white minority government seeks to deny its black majority all basic human rights.

Major international and religious organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Council of Churches, have condemned apartheid and have called upon their members to work for its abolition. Furthermore, the leaders of the liberation organizations of South Africa, the African National Congress, the United Democratic Front and black churches, have called for economic sanctions against South Africa.

The coalition believes that in divesting its funds in corporations investing in South Africa, the University of Idaho will accomplish three immediate objectives:

- 1) It will make the University part of an international campaign to free South Africa that includes many other U.S. cities, states, civil rights organizations, churches and universities taking similar action;
- 2) It will show integrity by making a public statement that it supports socially responsible investment practices, and;
- 3) It will send a clear message to the U.S. government and corporations who will be sending representatives to the Borah Symposium on South Africa at the University of Idaho on 25-26 March.

In the long run, the coalition believes that the University can contribute to peaceful change in South Africa. If corporations continue to support apartheid, the liberation organizations will be forced to resort to violent revolution as their only alternative. The withdrawal of U.S. investments, on the other hand, by weakening the apartheid regime's ability to repress its opponents in the liberation organizations, will eventually compel it to seek a negotiated political settlement with them.

For information contact Barry Rigby (208) 885-6228 days
882-5603 evenings