



action news

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DIVESTMENT PACE SNOWBALLS

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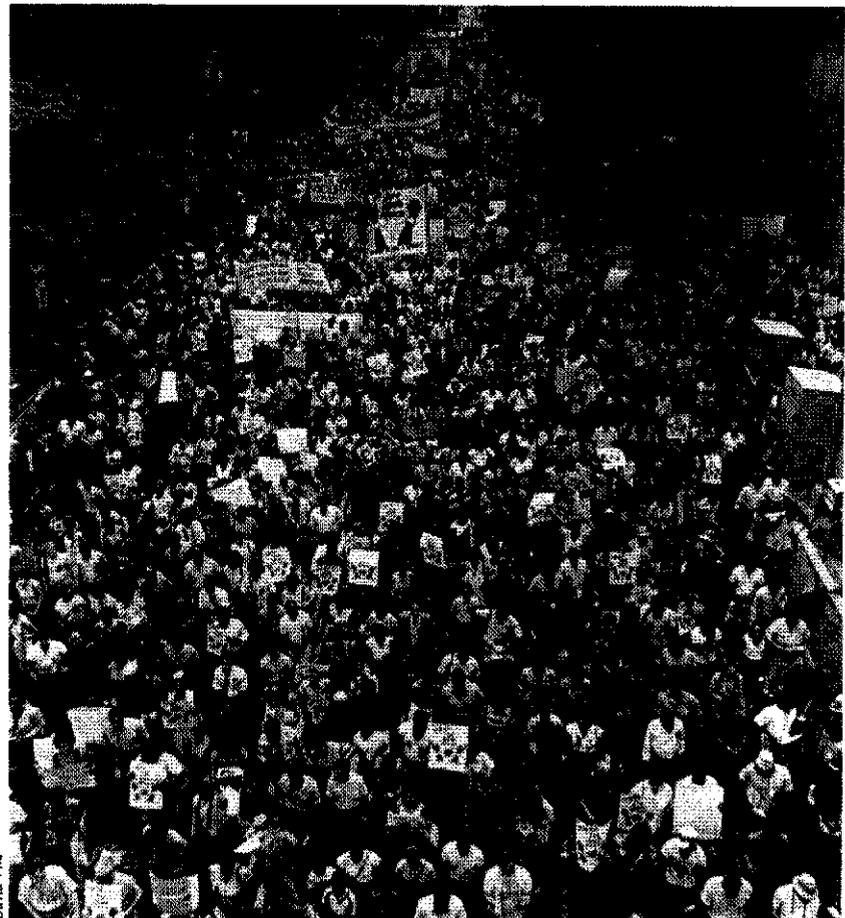
MORE STATES, CITIES DIVEST

Between August and October, New Jersey, Minnesota and New Mexico brought to 11 the number of states which have acted to divest public funds from corporations which invest in South Africa. Each in its own way represented a significant breakthrough. The New Jersey bill mandates the divestment of \$2 billion—the largest amount yet affected by any divestment action. New Mexico is the first western state to take divestment action—a sign that the divestment movement has spread to all parts of the country. Minnesota will divest \$1.1 billion over the next four years.

The New Jersey bill was the culmination of a three-year effort by Assemblyman Willie Brown and a broad based coalition of church, union and community groups. Divestment proponents feared that Governor Kean, a Republican, would veto the bill under pressure from the White House. But widespread support for the bill, organized by the New Jersey divestment coalition, had its effect. Announcing his decision to sign the bill, Governor Kean said, "The time has come for action to change—and to end, once and for all—the oppressive system of apartheid."

ACOA worked closely with Assemblyman Brown and the divestment coalition. Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo testified for the bill and ACOA was in almost daily contact with coalition leaders as they planned

COALITION DEMONSTRATES AGAINST APARTHEID



David Vitar

ACOA joined with a coalition of labor, religious and community groups led by Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer of District 65 UAW, to build a massive anti-apartheid demonstration on August 13 in New York City. Police estimates placed the crowd at 15,000. Organizers said it was at least twice that.

by Jennifer Davis, Executive Director

It is impossible in this short newsletter to give you a complete rundown of what ACOA does each day. Some of our activity is reflected in the intensifying pace of the divestment campaign, which has led three states, many cities and over 28 universities to vote to divest more than \$3 billion in the past three months.

This groundswell of divestment demonstrates the strong grassroots support for anti-apartheid activity in the U.S. The surge in this support is a response to the courage and determination of millions of black children, men and women in South Africa, who have been defying bullets, whips, torture and death to wrest their freedom from the brutally intransigent apartheid state. Even President Reagan has not been immune to these pressures. And the U.S. is not alone. Canada, France and many other western countries have recently imposed at least some limited economic action against South Africa.

But it is far too soon to say that apartheid is nearing its end. The daily atrocities continue, children being

driven with whips into schools where white soldiers are now often the teachers. Fifteen thousand people have been arrested on spurious public violence charges. Torture is rampant, political leaders are being murdered by the police or their agents. At the same time the South African business community, terrified that it will lose its enormous wealth in an ultimate confrontation between the state and the people, is urging "reforms" as an urgent necessity.

These reforms will be designed to protect white power and privilege as far as possible. They will not seek to empower the black majority or transform South African society into a full democracy. But they are certain to have many U.S. supporters, including corporate and other leaders, who seek to control the pace of change.

So new challenges lie ahead for the many anti-apartheid activists dedicated to achieving a free South Africa. The movement is having an impact in Pretoria and Washington, but the struggle continues.

October 11th

NATIONWIDE PROTEST DAY

In over 30 cities and 100 campuses, thousands of people participated in a coordinated protest day against U.S. investment in South Africa on October 11. The protest day coincided with the International Day for Southern African Political Prisoners and groups combined divestment protests with petitioning and silent vigils for the release of hundreds of South African and Namibian political prisoners.

The protest day, initiated by the American Committee on Africa, fostered extensive coordination between community and campus organizations, and generated a response in many areas where anti-apartheid activism is new.

In Honolulu, Hawaii, three days of anti-apartheid activity culminated in a rally of 300 people on October 11, which the City Council declared "Anti-Apartheid Day." Five Miami-area universities and inner city high schools marked October 11 with political prisoner support vigils. The University of Miami voted the day before for full

divestment of its funds invested in corporations operating in South Africa. In Nashville, 450 students marched from Tennessee State University and Fisk University to a rally with community groups at Legislative Plaza calling for state divestment.

At Wesleyan University, 130 students were arrested during a blockade of an administration building and at Stanford University, nine protesters were arrested during a sit-in. In Detroit there was a demonstration at General Motors and at the University of Oregon, 1000 people rallied against white minority rule in South Africa and Namibia. In New York City, Citibank was targeted with a "day of withdrawals" while in Berkeley, California, protesters marched on Bank of America.

A major victory of the day came when the University of Minnesota trustees voted to totally divest following the arrest of 10 students in the president's office.

STUDENT DIVESTMENT

The wave of student anti-apartheid protest that swept the nation last spring shows no signs of abating. Students have kept busy this summer planning for actions during the fall.

ACOA Student Coordinator Josh Nessen has been working with a coalition of student groups to plan a national student conference on South Africa and Namibia scheduled for early November.

Also this fall, ACOA, along with a number of Central America solidarity groups, is organizing a campus speaking tour under the theme "Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua." From the 10th to the 30th of October representatives of the youth sections of the African National Congress and SWAPO and a Nicaraguan student will speak at a number of campuses stressing the links in their struggles for justice and equality, and the connections between U.S. policy in southern Africa and Central America.

The spring actions had dramatic results. Between the end of April and late September, 28 schools have taken divestment action—either total or partial—affecting over \$100 million. This brings the total number of schools that have taken some divestment action to 67, affecting \$320 million in total. In addition, in August the State University of New York at New Paltz announced it would move its bank account, which handles some \$25 million annually, from Barclays Bank. On September 24th the State University of New York Board of Trustees voted to withdraw \$11.5 million from South Africa-tied firms, thus bowing to the considerable pressure mounted by SUNY students, several of whom had gone to jail for their part in protesting continued investment in apartheid. Urging his fellow SUNY trustees to divest, John Holloman, also a longtime Africa Fund trustee, argued that, "To maintain in-

Sanctions supported

Most black South Africans—77%—according to a recent poll. And Nelson Mandela received more than 49% of the vote, compared to Bishop Desmond Tutu with 24%. Clinton, an important leader by US businessmen 6%. This was less than even Helen S. The current state president, P.W. Botha. The South African affiliate of Gallup for

ENT VICTORIES

vestment in South Africa would be like maintaining a position on the Titanic."

Two significant recent moves come from Rutgers University in New Jersey and Columbia University. Both campuses were sites of energetic campus mobilization this past spring.

At Rutgers University, the site of a four-week blockade, the Joint Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees and Governors voted in September to totally divest their \$7.5 million in South Africa-related stock.

At Columbia University the three-week student blockade that helped spark campus actions throughout the country also had a decisive impact. In October, the Trustees, in a decision supported by President Sovern, voted for total divestment of their \$39 million in South Africa-related investments.

On other campuses, responses to student actions have been decidedly different. At Cornell University, where 1000 students were arrested this past spring, the administration brought in riot police and bulldozers and razed the "shantytown" the students had erected. A proposed new code of conduct for the university will make it a violation to "attempt to incite others to disrupt the normal functions of the university." Three violations within four years would mean an automatic suspension for two years. At the University of California, Berkeley, a number of students were facing trial at the end of September for their anti-apartheid activities last semester. None of the intimidation has cowed the students, and fall '85 promises to become an anti-apartheid autumn across the country.

More news is available from ACOA's summer and fall student newsletters and from our constantly updated list of all college and university divestment actions since 1976.

The Times They Are A-Changin'



BANKS CUT SOUTH AFRICA'S CREDIT

The political crisis in South Africa this summer rapidly mushroomed into a financial crisis. That financial crisis, caused by the refusal of U.S. banks to renew billions of dollars of loans, clearly demonstrated what the defenders of corporate ties to apartheid have long sought to deny, namely South Africa's vulnerability to economic pressure and sanctions.

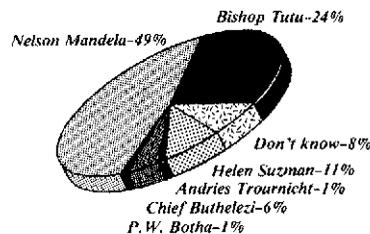
The crisis came to a head when one bank, Chase Manhattan, quietly informed its customers in South Africa that it would not make any new loans or roll over old loans. Ironically, Chase had been one of the leading banks bailing out South Africa in the early 1960s following the Sharpeville massacre, when a similar capital flight took place.

It rapidly became apparent that few, if any, American banks would renew the \$3.5 billion short-term loans they had made to South Africa. And European banks are not eager to be seen rescuing apartheid. "We think there is a need for major political reforms in South Africa before we get into any talks of a rescue

package," commented one European banker.

Since January, at least 17 American companies have decided that it is time to pull out. Apple Computer ended sales in South Africa saying that it "rejects the apartheid policies of the current government." In August both Phibro-Salomon, a large investment bank and commodity trader, and BBDO, the world's fifth largest advertising agency, announced their withdrawal from South Africa. Phibro-Salomon is partially controlled by South Africa's giant Anglo American corporation, making its action particularly interesting, and a sign of the obvious concern now being felt in U.S. corporate offices about the impact of the divestment campaign. Some other recent corporate withdrawals include Perkin-Elmer, a high tech/computer firm, Tidwell Industries, a manufacturer of mobile homes, and Pan American World Airways. IBM, while denying any plans to withdraw from South Africa, issued a statement saying that the unrest "is having a substantial impact on

—support economic sanctions against South Africa, Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the African favorite choice for president of South Africa. With twice the support of any other person. Second was Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who is frequently cited as an n because of his opposition to sanctions, received only Suzman, a white opposition MP, who received 11%. Botha, received only 1%. The poll was conducted by the or the British newspaper *The Sunday Times*.



State and City Divestment

As of October, 11 states and more than 35 cities had taken some kind of economic action against apartheid. An up-to-date listing, *Summary Chart on Public Fund Divestment*, published by ACOA, details the actions taken. The following is a listing of states, cities and counties that have acted.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Along with many others, ACOA helped generate the grassroots pressure that moved the House of Representatives to pass the 1985 Anti-Apartheid Act by an overwhelming 295-127 majority this June. The weight of the growing popular pressure also forced President Reagan to impose partial sanctions on South Africa in September. While the President's action was taken to forestall expected Senate approval of the Anti-Apartheid Act which contained stronger sanctions, it clearly reflected a tacit admission that "constructive engagement" is going nowhere, and laid the basis for a renewed push for stronger sanctions.

ACOA was especially active in defeating an attempt by Senator William Roth (R-Del) and Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind), the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to cut off future state and municipal divestment actions by a parliamentary maneuver this summer. ACOA staff members worked virtually around the clock to alert state and municipal legislators and community leaders to the danger of an anti-divestment amendment added to a Senate version of the Anti-Apartheid Act. Key Senators were inundated with calls and telegrams from home urging them to oppose the amendment. Within

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States, Cities divest

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strategy and sought information to refute the arguments of the corporations which were lobbying against the bill.

On August 30 the New Mexico State Investment Council voted to divest \$160-170 million in state educational funds as soon as possible. The Council relied in part on information from ACOA including the *Summary of Public Fund Divestment* in reaching its decision.

In early October, the Minnesota Investment Council voted to divest. ACOA's Dumisani Kumalo was in close contact with Secretary of State Joan Grove on divestment strategy.

City Action

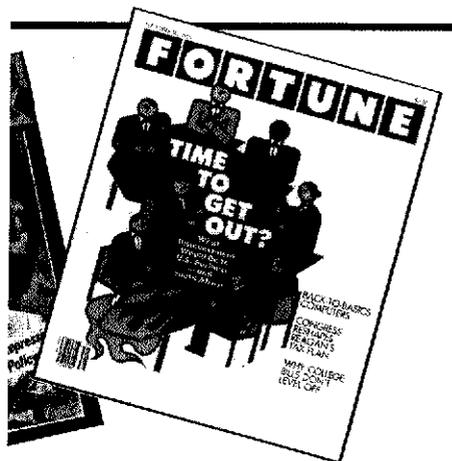
August also saw Los Angeles join the growing list of cities that have taken divestment action. At the urging of Mayor Tom Bradley, the City Council voted unanimously to recommend divestiture to the pension fund trustees. Already, two of the three city pension funds have voted to divest \$60 million and the third

is expected to act soon. Since August, Middletown, CT, Jersey City, NJ and Gainesville, FL also voted to divest.

Municipal Conference

To accelerate the already increasing pace of municipal divestment, ACOA organized a national conference on municipal legislative action against apartheid October 11-12. The conference was modeled on the two highly successful conferences dealing primarily with state actions which were coordinated by ACOA Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo in 1981 and 1983.

As we were going to press, 11 states, 36 cities and four counties had acted to divest nearly \$5 billion from U.S. corporations whose investments in South Africa subsidize the daily killing of unarmed black people. California has a bill that has passed both the assembly and senate, but it is being threatened by gubernatorial veto. No doubt by the time you receive this there will have been more actions. ACOA maintains an ongoing updated list of divestment victories which is available for \$1.00 on request.



17 Companies Pull Out

IBM's South Africa business."

As a result of this capital flight, the South African government was forced to close the capital markets for several days, suspend payments on capital for short-term loans and institute a two-tier monetary structure that makes it more difficult for foreign firms to pull out.

Through the late summer, pressure for sanctions was held in check by rumors in several western capitals suggesting that Botha was about to announce significant reforms. When he finally spoke on August 15th, he effectively smashed such unrealistic expectations, reaffirming the impossibility of his ever considering black equality or political rights.

The growing disenchantment of the U.S. investors was summed up by *Business Week* in late September. "In the end, some companies will make a moral decision to get out, others a business decision. One thing seems clear: If there is no significant progress soon, U.S. companies will have little moral or business reason to remain."

States

Connecticut
Iowa
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Nebraska
New Jersey
New Mexico
Rhode Island

Wisconsin
Virgin Islands

Cities/Counties

Atlantic City, NJ
Berkeley, CA
Boston, MA
Boulder, CO
Burlington, VT
Cambridge, MA
Charlottesville, VA
Cincinnati, OH

Cuyahoga County, OH
Davis, CA
East Lansing, MI
Fort Collins, CO
Gainesville, FL
Grand Rapids, MI
Hartford, CT
Jersey City, NJ
Los Angeles, CA
Madison, WI
Miami, FL

Middletown, CT
Montgomery County, MD
Newark, NJ
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Oakland, CA
Philadelphia, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
Rahway, NJ
Richmond, VA
Rochester, NY

Rockland County, NY
San Francisco, CA
San Jose, CA
Santa Cruz, CA
Stockton, CA
Washington, DC
Westchester County, NY
Wilmington, DE
Youngstown, OH

Congressional Action

Continued from page 4

a week, the amendment which had once seemed almost sure of passage, was dead. Recognizing that it could not pass, Lugar and Roth did not even bring it up for a vote.

The sanctions imposed by President Reagan—a ban on some bank loans to the South African government, a ban on some computer sales to government agencies defined as enforcing apartheid, and a ban on the importation of the Krugerrand—fall far short of what ACOA believes is necessary. But they indicate that an aroused public opinion can force even a president noted for his support of the South African government to act against apartheid.

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Founded in 1953, the American Committee on Africa is devoted to supporting African people in their struggle for independence. ACOA projects inform and mobilize Americans to work for policies supporting African freedom.

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Edited by Richard Knight

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Ralston Deffenbaugh, Jr.



Stanley Hill



Margaret Marshall



Victor Gotbaum

Two new members were recently added to the ACOA Executive Board, and ACOA's associate The Africa Fund gained two new Trustees. Joining the ACOA board are Ralston Deffenbaugh, Jr., director of the Office of World Community for Lutheran World Ministries, the mission arm of three Lutheran denominations in the U.S., and Stanley Hill, associate director of District Council 37, AFSCME, the largest local union of municipal employees in the U.S. Joining The Africa Fund Trustees are Margaret Marshall, a partner in the law firm of Csaplar and Bok in Boston, and Victor Gotbaum, executive director of District Council 37 and a member of the executive committee of Public Service International, a worldwide association of public employee unions.

American Committee on Africa

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