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U.N. URGED TO SUPPORT BOYCOTT OF POLAROID

The United Nations was urged today by the American Committee on Africa to support the international boycott of Polaroid products organized by Polaroid workers who oppose that corporation's policy of continuing to do business in apartheid South Africa. The General Assembly has repeatedly called for economic action against apartheid, ACOA Director George M. Houser stated in testimony before the U.N. Special Committee on Apartheid. It should back up the workers who have taken such action by banning all purchases of Polaroid products by U.N. agencies, or sales of such products through U.N. facilities if this is found to exist. The first step is, obviously, a full investigation of the extent of possible involvement of the United Nations with Polaroid.

ACOA called attention to a recent statement of the General Assembly which noted with regret "that the collaboration between the South African Government and its main trading partners and certain financial and business interests has encouraged that Government to pursue its policies of apartheid, thereby nullifying all United Nations efforts, so far, to solve the problem." ACOA therefore wished to call the attention of the Special Committee to the widely publicized campaign of Polaroid to justify remaining in Africa by giving workers a few benefits within the apartheid system: higher wages and scholarships.

"The Polaroid position offers the rationale business is looking for," Mr. Houser stated. "Its protest is only verbal. But it is a setback in the campaign to stop support for apartheid, and must be challenged."

The text of the statement follows.