I. From the Banks Side

II. General Anti-Bank Loans Campaigns and Related Actions

III. News from Bank Campaign Activists

I

-The Johannesburg Star, February 25, 1978, reported that the Minister of Finance of South Africa, Senator Horwood declined to give information to Parliament on the number of foreign loans obtained by the government and other public bodies. He said he "did not regard it as being in the public interest to give the information."

-A wire service report of February 22 reported that a private loan of 30 million deutsche marks ($14.7 million) was being arranged for the South African Broadcasting Company (SABC) by a group of international banks led by the Bayerische Vereinsbanks of Germany.

-A recent report in the South African Reserve Bank Quarterly Bulletin (December 1977) indicates that in the latter half of 1977 the South African governments borrowing requirements were being fulfilled to a large extent by borrowing from domestic non-banking sources. Comment: It may be that sensing the Manny Hanny, Big Fat-led bankers international rescue operation to be in trouble, there may be a deliberate effort on the part of the South African state to move toward a greater reliance on local capital sources. For more on this and
a general analysis of U.S. capital flow to South Africa: write ACOA for Jennifer Davis' recent excellent paper; 'U.S. Dollars in South Africa: Context and Consequence.'

During early February, Harvard University sold $600,000 worth of shares in Citicorp ("Big Fat") and Manufacturers Hanover Trust (Manny Hanny). Harvard officials said the move was "not politically motivated" and "was only an effort to get more income". Only a few weeks before the Harvard-based Southern Africa Solidarity Committee (SASC) obtained 3000 signatures for a petition asking Harvard to sell all stocks and bonds in banks lending to South Africa.

-On March 11, 1978, Citibank (Citicorp) of New York announced that it had decided not to make further loans to the South African government or to government owned or operated companies. Some key points in the proxy statement were the following:

"...Citicorp is limiting its credit selectivity to constructive private sector activities that create jobs and which benefit all South Africans. ..... Citicorp would regard tangible progress away from apartheid as a positive factor in its risk evaluation. ..... The management of Citicorp deplores apartheid. Citicorp provides equal opportunity to all employees in South Africa as it does elsewhere."

(A statement and critical response to the Citibank announcement is available from COBLSA)

-James Finley, chairman of J.P. Stevens and David Mitchell, chairman of Avon, have been removed from the board of the Manufacturers Hanover Bank as the result of a "mobilization" campaign waged by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Approximately one billion dollars worth of union funds were variously withdrawn and mobilized for withdrawal by various unions including the International Typographical Union and the International Association of Machinists in the drive to isolate the Stevens board members from the bank.

-The "Hassle Factor". In a March 9, 1978 report of the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC, 1522 K Street, Washington, D.C.20005, (202) 833-3727. Warning: Costly) The following is reported:

'A number of bank officials have commented to IRRC that pressures surrounding loans to South Africa as well as concerns about the situation there have had a measurable impact on decisions to make loans to South Africa or even to roll over existing loans. There is a growing "hassle factor," one bank official told IRRC, that makes lending to South Africa less attractive than it once was.
Several banks said that the cost of management time spent in responding to people questioning loans to South Africa and the possibility that depositors might withdraw funds or complain publicly about lending practices have become factors to be weighed carefully in evaluating future loans."

II

- The U.S. Committee has used a two-pronged strategy, designed both to reach individuals, who often then become new organizers while at the same time seeking action from major institutions and organizations, such as trade unions, churches, universities.

There have been notable results, including some sizeable withdrawals of funds. Several labor unions have voted to withdraw funds. They include: the Furriers Joint Council, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America and the Fur, Leather and Machinist Workers Union. The executive board of the United Automobile Workers has endorsed the campaign voting "to withdraw UAW deposits in American banks that are loaning money to South Africa." It is reported that in one Detroit Bank the UAW Strike fund alone is 172 million dollars. The UAW like other major organizations is presently in the process of implementing their resolution. District Council 31 of the Steel Workers—the largest local in the United States—voted to endorse the campaign, as did the pension fund trustees of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, (District 1199). In a resolution the fund decided to ban investments that aid South Africa; announcing the decision Leon Davis, union president described U.S. loans and investments that prop up South Africa's repressive regime as "an insult to all Americans".

-Davis, California. By a vote of 4,093 to 3,649 residents of Davis, California passed a non-binding referendum calling for the removal of municipal funds from banks doing business with South Africa. The referendum requires city officials to set up a task force to decide about the legality of doing this without breaking the state laws.

-In January the NAACP called for a total withdrawal of U.S. business from South Africa and specifically called on individuals and organizations to withdraw funds from banks lending to South Africa.
-There is a widening international involvement of groups working in the bank campaign. In Britain; 200 branches of Barclays Bank were picketed March 1st as a first step in a campaign which aims to get 10,000 accounts withdrawn from that bank.

Members of an Irish Teacher's union are calling on their annual teachers congress to resolve not to hold money in banks lending to South Africa; Caribbean groups are seeking out the networks which channel funds to South Africa; Canadian banks are being confronted. Within the United Nations headquarters, the UN youth organization is preparing a petition urging the UN to cut its tie to apartheid—lending Chemical Bank; each week brings news of new areas of activity.

-In a related campaign, the Michigan Legislative on February 8, 1978 passed a concurrent Resolution (#462) urging the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to impose Sanction against the South African government.

III

-There are more and more places where there are bank campaigns underway. Currently, groups are operating in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston, Milwaukee, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, North Carolina, and Cleveland. The latest addition to active bank campaign groups is the Pittsburgh group. They have become mobilizing around Pittsburgh National Bank by having several meetings with bank officials. The group can be reached at:

Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Corporate Responsibility
Carlon College
3333 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh 15213
Contact: Sister Patricia Mary

or

Thomas Merton Center
1223 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh 15203
Contact: Molly Rush (412) 381-1400
The following is a brief roundup of activities in different cities:

**Minneapolis.** Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis has made two loans to South Africa totaling $2 million. The First National Bank of Minneapolis is involved in the purchase of Eurobonds for ESCOM totaling approximately $40 million. Minnesota CALC has initiated a campaign toward withdrawal and has planned two days of withdrawal March 21st and June 16th. **Chicago.** Both the Chicago Coalition and CALC have been working on First National Bank and Continental Bank. University of Chicago students have also been protesting the interlinks between the University of Chicago portfolio and these two banks. (the U of C has 12 trustees who are Directors of banks lending to South Africa). A major march is scheduled in Chicago, March 21 at both banks. **Milwaukee.** The Milwaukee Committee on Southern Africa has begun pressuring First Wisconsin National Bank. The Committee is also demanding of other banks in Milwaukee, public pledges that they make no loans to South Africa. District 48 of AFSCME in Milwaukee has resolved and is implementing a policy on pension funds in companies doing business in South Africa. **Rochester.** On March 21, the Ad Hoc Committee Against Banking in South Africa will be marching to all three Rochester Banks involved. They will focus their public withdrawals on the Chemical Bank branch. **Toronto, Canada.** On March 21, a noon demonstration and mass withdrawal accompanied by a press conference—the latter to involve the national organizations of Canadian unions, the CCU (Canadian Congress of Unions). **Boston.** March 21, mass withdrawal and demonstration and March 24 a Withdrawal Day sponsored by the Church of the Covenant Task Force on Southern Africa.

Many other things are happening in various other places. Philadelphia, San Francisco, North Carolina, are but a few where various activities are blossoming. We attempted to sketch out a few details we've received before going to press. New groups are steadily becoming involved. Most recently, the Josie D. Heard AME Church of Philadelphia joined the COBLSA.

The bank campaign is growing. In accord with the January 22 conference decision the COBLSA will be working to generalize the campaign, to contact more and more individuals and small organizations.