New York, N.Y. June 10, 1980 ... A leading organization campaigning to oppose bank loans to South Africa is moving its own accounts to the nation's only labor bank.

The American Committee on Africa (ACOA), founded in 1953 to support African independence, is transferring its funds to The Amalgamated Bank of New York. Together with its tax-exempt associate, The Africa Fund, ACOA annually spends about $350,000.

"We have always maintained our accounts in banks which do not loan to South Africa" George M Houser, ACOA executive director explained. "However Amalgamated's explicit policy concerning loans to South Africa and its service to the trade union movement convince us that this should be the bank for all organizations which do not wish to do business with banks aiding racism in South Africa."

The Amalgamated Bank has a policy that it will not make loans to South Africa or to firms doing business in South Africa.

Responding to the announcement, Jacob M. Sheinkman, chairman of the bank's board of directors and secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union stated in a letter to Mr. Houser:

"We are, quite simply, a bank where sound human values govern sound financial practice."

"You have recognised one manifestation of this commitment in our policy concerning loans and investments to South Africa, or to any corporation conducting business with the South African government."

"We welcome you and your organization at our bank, and to what is apparently a shared commitment."