BACKGROUND

After Governor Brown of Kentucky sent a trade mission to South Africa, ACOA, in cooperation with the Kentucky State NAACP and other concerned activists, mounted a campaign of protest at this expansion of relations with racists. John Johnson, NAACP President in Kentucky arranged for me to meet Governor Brown and his staff, along with Mokubeng Nkomo of the ANC and Jerry Herman of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). After a lengthy meeting, in which we stressed the importance of a sanctions policy, and explained why investment and cooperation could not achieve the ending of apartheid but would rather strengthen it, the Governor said he could see no basis for doing business with South Africa "in any shape or form." He went on to announce this decision at a businessmen's luncheon to which we were invited. This was a real victory which should strengthen the campaign to stop the investment of state and local funds in corporations involved in South Africa.

--Jennifer Davis

Brown vows state won't do business with South Africa

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By MERVIN AUBESPIN and ED RYAN
Courier-Journal Staff Writers

Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. told a group of black business, political and civil-rights leaders in Louisville yesterday that Kentucky will not be doing business with South Africa because of that country's apartheid policies.

"We are not going to do business or solicit business with companies that believe in segregation ... We are not going to support any country that believes in racism," Brown said at a West Louisville Appreciation Luncheon at the Galt House.

"We are not going to do any business with South Africa in any shape or form," he added, to much applause from the 300 people in the audience.

A recent trip to South Africa by state commerce officials had sparked criticism from black legislators and civil-rights groups.

At yesterday's luncheon Brown said the primary reason for the trip was to explore business possibilities and to examine South Africa's synthetic-fuel operation.

Brown defended the trip, saying it is reasonable to at least explore business possibilities abroad. He said he hadn't really thought about the country's racial policies when the trip was proposed, but made the decision not to do business with South Africa based on advice of commerce officials after the trip.

John Johnson, state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he was satisfied and pleased with Brown's decision.

And state Sen. Georgia Powers, D-Louisville, said that in the next General Assembly she will introduce a resolution calling for trade and business sanctions against South Africa, as has been done by about 20 other states.