MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR MICHAEL DUKAKIS AND SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS TO WELCOME SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND SOUTH AFRICA

New York, N. Y. April 12... The State of Massachusetts which earlier this year voted to withdraw $100 million in state funds from corporations investing in South Africa, is going all out to welcome a conference of state legislators intent on passing similar legislation in other states. The second national Conference on Public Investment and South Africa will hear a keynote address from Senator Paul Tsongas (D-MA), on "The Reagan Administration's Policy in Southern Africa" when the conference convenes at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 15 at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Earlier Governor Michael Dukakis will host a reception for the legislators at 4:30 that afternoon.

The conference is expected to draw over 40 legislators from over 20 states. Among the states represented will be California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, as well as the District of Columbia.

They are part of a growing movement to remove all public funds from corporations whose investment in South Africa subsidizes that country's racist system of apartheid. The Massachusetts legislation which was sponsored by State Senator Jack Backman and Representative Mel King together with bills passed in 1982 in Michigan and Connecticut and the cities of Philadelphia, Wilmington and Grand Rapids is expected to force the withdrawal of up to $300 million in public funds from South Africa-related corporations. Divestment legislation has passed or is planned in 24 states at the present time.

Friday morning approximately 15 of the legislators will testify before the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid in New York. They will inform the UN Committee of the legislation they have introduced and helped to pass.

The Boston conference will also be attended by civil rights, labor and religious leaders from many parts of the country. William Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME and President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, will speak at the governor's reception. The conference will continue on Saturday April 16 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is expected to lead to the introduction of legislation in a number of additional states. There will be a press conference at 12:30 that day in the Bach Room at M.I.T. Interviews may be arranged, and additional information obtained, by conference co-ordinator Dumisani Kumalo. Enclosed f.y.i. find an up-to-date "Summary of Legislative Divestment Action" by ACOA and a recent Washington Post clip on the successful divestment bills.