PRESS CONFERENCE FOR CITY LEGISLATORS

AT SOUTH AFRICAN MEETING OCT. 11

Municipal legislators from across the country who have converged on New York City for a day of meetings and seminars on divestment from South Africa will hold a joint press conference on Oct. 11 at 3:30 pm at the United Nations Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, 2nd floor.

Legislators, officials and investment specialists from more than 30 cities, including Chicago, Detroit, Houston and Milwaukee, will participate in the divestment conference, which will begin at 7:00 pm at the UN Church Center on Oct. 11. The conference will open with an address by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and remarks by N.Y. City Councilwoman Ruth Messinger and by Nigerian Ambassador J.N. Garba, Chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, which is co-sponsoring the conference.

Also present will be legislators from cities that have already divested so that their experience can be shared. "Although more than 30 cities have passed divestment legislation, we know of none that has suffered economically as a result," commented Dumisani Kumalo, Projects Director of the American Committee on Africa, coordinator of the event.

"It bears remembering that a conference of this kind would be illegal in South Africa today," noted Jennifer Davis, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa. "The very fact that advocating divestment has been made a crime in South Africa confirms that it can be an important weapon in bringing about change there and in ending the vicious system of apartheid."

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