New York, NY April 14...Jennifer Davis, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, today urged Bechtel, Crawford & Russell and Brown & Root to withdraw from the Mossell Bay gas project in South Africa. "This project, designed by the South African government, is a part of its attempt to seek immunity from international sanctions aimed at ending apartheid," said Davis in a letter to the companies.

Mossell Bay is a proposed fuel-from-gas project in South Africa. South Africa has no domestic sources of oil but does have some natural gas. Three U.S. companies, Bechtel, Brown & Root and Crawford & Russell, are in the final running to serve as project managers of the $2 billion undertaking.

Said Davis "We must try and stop this project. Black South Africans such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Winnie Mandela and the United Democratic Front have all called for sanctions. How many thousand black South Africans must be killed by the police and military before U.S. corporations heed these calls? We in the anti-apartheid movement in this country must redouble our efforts at the church, city and state level to end our investments in the corporations who continue to do business with apartheid and stop buying their products."

Since its founding 33 years ago, American Committee on Africa has worked to support the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. ACOA has organized three national conferences on the issue of public investment and apartheid and has testified for divestment legislation in virtually every state where such policies have been adopted. The Committee maintains computerized databases on United States corporations in South Africa and on state and municipal divestment actions.
April 14, 1986

Mr. Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr.
Chairman
Bechtel Group Inc.
P.O. Box 3965
San Francisco, CA 94119

Dear Mr. Bechtel,

It has come to our attention that your company is seeking participation in the Mossel Bay fuel-from-gas project in South Africa.

This project, designed by the South African government, is a part of its attempt to seek immunity from international sanctions aimed at ending apartheid. Your proposed participation comes at a time when a growing number of voices in South Africa are urging strong international action against the white minority government. Most recently, Nobel Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu called for the international community to impose sanctions against South Africa. Winnie Mandela has issued a similar appeal. Sanctions and divestment are supported by a wide spectrum of South African anti-apartheid organizations ranging from the United Democratic Front to the South African Council of Churches. The two major black trade union organizations in South Africa, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Council of Unions of South Africa, have also supported divestment, especially in strategic areas such as oil.

Further Mossel Bay will fall under such legislation as the National Supplies Procurement Act, which makes the government the customer of first choice, and the Key Points Act, which mandates security systems against black resistance.

I would hope that Bechtel Group Inc., recognizing its leadership role in the corporate community, would choose to make a clear statement against continuing racist, coercive government, in South Africa. Such a statement would be contained in the clear severing of all economic links with the apartheid state.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

JD/vt