March 1981.

Dear Friend:

We invite you to a unique national conference for state and municipal legislative action against United States investment in South Africa. The conference will be held on June 12 and 13 at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

As a wave of strikes, student boycotts and community protest has swept South Africa in defiance of the racist apartheid system, Americans have raised serious questions about the role of US corporations and banks in supporting the white minority regime. In state legislatures and municipal councils across the US, bills aimed at restricting the use of public funds in companies investing in South Africa have been introduced. Legal restrictions are already in effect in states such as Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska and Wisconsin. In other states, legislation is pending, while in California, a Governor's Public Investment Task Force is looking into the state's $2-billion in investment funds. Alternative uses of public investment funds to support jobs, housing and other socially desirable ends are being considered. The enclosed brochure describes more fully the issues of this campaign.

Georgia State Senator Julian Bond will deliver a keynote address at the opening session of the conference on Friday evening June 12. There will be workshops on Saturday June 13 that will focus on:

(i) The situation in South Africa and the role of the United States (how does US investment strengthen apartheid? What about the Sullivan Principles?)
(ii) Alternative investments (Is it possible? what are responsible alternative investments?)
(iii) Introducing legislation on divestment (What are the nuts and bolts of a divestment campaign?)
Invitations are being sent to a select number of legislators, investment specialists, national and regional organizations interested in the issue. While there is no limit on the number of legislators who wish to attend, organizations are requested to limit their representation to no more than two persons so as to facilitate interchange.

The program for the conference has not been finalized. However, on Friday June 12, there will be a Press Conference at 3pm for legislators who are introducing divestment legislation. The United Nations has graciously offered to host a reception for conference participants between 5pm and 6.30pm.

We would be delighted if you could join with us on this occasion. Please return the enclosed reply indicating your interest in attending the conference as soon as possible.

We hope to see you in New York. And on behalf of the sponsoring organizations,

Yours truly,

Dumisani S. Kumalo
Conference Coordinator.

P.S. Please send all other correspondence to the conference coordinator Dumisani S. Kumalo c/o ACCA Rm 402
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