The security branch of the South African Police yesterday sealed off and searched the headquarters of churches and church-related organizations in Johannesburg. They seized documents, and arrested at least five persons, three of them at their homes at dawn.

This direct attack on the churches is a deepening and widening of the Pretoria regime's campaign against any person or group which opposes - or which it thinks is opposing - its policies. The raid occurred as Americans celebrated their Thanksgiving Day and in the midst of a nation-wide round-up of schoolchildren in Soweto and other Black townships. Many hundreds of students are being held in detention, and further hundreds have fled to neighboring countries over the past several weeks.

One of the targets of yesterday's raid was the South African Council of Churches which two weeks ago issued a report saying nearly 4200 people had been charged in courts since the student uprising of 16 June 1976. Of these, 926 juveniles have been convicted; 528 of them sentenced to from four to eight cuts with a cane apiece. The report, gleaned from the South African press, says 355 adults have been sentenced to jail, fines or cuts with a cane. Hundreds are being held incommunicado.

The Christian Institute, also raided yesterday, in September put out a report on political detainees that was banned by the Pretoria regime.

Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa urges Americans to:

- send cables of concern for the churches, and for those arrested, imprisoned and killed by the South African Police, especially the children:
  - Diakonia House, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, for these churches:
  - South African Council of Churches
  - Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg
  - Christian Institute
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church

- ask your legislators to demand that the United States government publicly condemn detentions, shootings, trials and raids by Pretoria.

- Senators
  - Washington, DC 20510
  - PHONE: (202) 224-3121

- Representatives
  - Washington, DC 20515
  - PHONE: (202) 224-3121

- Protest to:
  - Ambassador Roelof F. Botha
  - South African Embassy
  - 3051 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
  - Washington, DC 20008
  - PHONE: (202) 232-4400