OCTOBER 10TH NATIONAL PROTEST DAY
HIGHLIGHTS FALL CAMPUS UPSURGE

Following a summer of critical developments in southern Africa and in the
U.S. sanctions battle, the student movement has continued its vitality this
fall. Many new campuses are becoming active and first year students, inspired
by the upsurge in campus activism, are energizing student anti-apartheid
organizations.

The October 10 National Protest Day for Divestment and Sanctions,
initiated at a national strategy session of campus groups convened by the
American Committee on Africa, played a key role in this Fall's mobilization.

The Protest Day was important as the first step in a campaign to go
beyond the Congressional sanctions passed on October 3. The override of
Reagan's veto was a critical setback for the policy of "constructive
engagement", and opens the way for more effective measures next year.
However, the Congressional measures only bar new investment (which has dried
up anyway) and leave untouched existing corporate operations in South Africa.
In addition, reinvestment of profits and extension of short-term credit are
permitted and the legislation calls for an investigation into the ANC.

In this context the timely October 10 mobilization for full divestment
and sanctions has been important in maintaining the grass-roots pressure
necessary to force U.S. companies out of South Africa and to achieve
substantive national sanctions.

During the mobilization the widespread and creative emphasis placed on
solidarity with political prisoners also indicates that students do not see
divestment as simply an end in itself but as a means to support the liberation
struggle. This political development has been accompanied by a continued use
of direct action tactics, often involving shantytown construction. In
addition, students are developing the vital link between struggles against
domestic racism and anti-apartheid organizing. This effort has been
strengthened by collective efforts of groups from different campuses on a
citywide level. Such coordination has also enabled students to target
corporations and support state divestment more effectively.
NORTHEAST REGION

At the September inauguration of Yale's new President, Benno Schmidt, the Divestment Coalition maintained a strong and vocal protest outside all the main events. The campus police arrested three people and consistently singled out Black students for harassment. Two days later five students took over the bursar's office and 23 students were arrested in the ensuing blockade of the building. Five students were suspended for a semester and the Coalition has challenged the harsh penalties while organizing a rally on October 10.

On October 10 at Wall Street a protest for full corporate withdrawal from South Africa was highlighted by the arrest of eight persons who blocked the main intersection outside the New York Stock Exchange. The Wall Street rally and picket lasted till the Exchange closed and featured labor, community and student speakers from Medgar Evers, York, Queens, and Hunter colleges.

On October 10 the DC Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism organized a march to the White House involving 300 students from 10 area campuses which called for full sanctions against South Africa and an end to U.S. aid to UNITA in Angola. That same day there were also protests in Dublin, London, and Oslo against U.S. arms shipments to UNITA. At John Hopkins University 14 students were arrested for putting up shanties on campus in late September. Legal and disciplinary charges were dropped against all, except for three charged with violating an injunction against shanty building.

500 students from MIT, Harvard, Tufts, Brandeis, and Northeastern marked the national protest day on the evening of October 9 with a rally at Boston University sponsored by New England Students Against Apartheid. In early September Harvard University alumni, students and community supporters succeeded in forcing cancellation of Harvard's 350th Anniversary dinner by blockading the building's entrances. On October 10 at Keene State College in New Hampshire alumni constructed a shanty during a rally of 150 people.

Cornell University students also participated in the national mobilization by rallying and constructing a shanty on October 8. That night the police knocked down the shanty on top of protesters and 23 students were arrested. The next day students rebuilt the shanty four times on different parts of the campus. Penn State University students kicked off the semester with a rally commemorating Steven Biko September 12 and next day 400 people protested a campus speech by Reagan Chief of Staff Donald Regan. On Oct 10 day-long protests were organized in which students wearing the names of political prisoners were held in "chains" by business-suited students identified as University Trustees. The day culminated in a funeral procession for victims of apartheid which led into a 24-hour divestment vigil. In the Philadelphia area there were protests at UPENN, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore.

That day 130 Drew University students held a memorial involving black armbands and a funeral procession around campus. Princeton students also wore armbands and observed a minute of silence for political prisoners at a campus rally. In upstate New York students held a divestment protest at Hamilton College and on October 11 there were political prisoner events in Rochester and Buffalo. In Albany anti-apartheid groups and the Pledge of Resistance targeted Senator D'Amato for his support of aid to UNITA and the Nicaraguan Contras. An Oct 5 sanctions rally in Springfield (MA) drew 1500 participants.
RECENT DIVESTMENT VICTORIES

Since the July University of California divestment victory, full divestment has also been achieved at Georgetown University ($28.6 million), University of Washington ($6.4 million) and Middlebury College ($12 million). At Harvard University partial divestment of $150 million was voted affecting stocks in oil companies and Ford because of sales to the South African military.

WESTERN STATES

At the University of Hawaii the divestment coalition added an extension to a shanty constructed earlier in the week on October 10, and also joined in a demonstration in downtown Honolulu against Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement". The struggle in Hawaii has been intensified by graduate student Antonio Rosa who has been on a 10 day water only fast which he vows to continue till the university divests.

Following their historic $3.1 billion divestment victory, students at the University of California continue to focus on university complicity with apartheid. On October 10, 300 students rallied at UC/Santa Barbara for an end to the campus purchase and sale of products from companies involved in South Africa. One hundred protesters then marched into the campus bookstore and succeeded in having all Avery Company products removed from the shelves. At California State/Sacramento, a joint community-student rally of 150 people demanded that the school's fundraising foundation divest its South Africa linked holdings and also called for more effective Congressional sanctions. There were also rallies at UCLA and UC/Santa Cruz that day. At Stanford University students rallied for full divestment on October 14, following a partial divestment from Hewlett Packard affecting $350,000.

On October 11 in Los Angeles, 1200 protesters wearing black armbands marched and rallied in Liemert Park in support of total sanctions and the Shell Oil boycott. The rally was addressed by Neo Nkumzana of the ANC, Jesse Jackson, Mayor Tom Bradley, Assemblywoman Maxine Waters (who was key in the successful $9.5 billion state divestment victory) and a SWAPO representative. In San Diego the mayor officially proclaimed October 11 as Anti-Apartheid Day and a rally was held against apartheid and local police brutality.

On October 10 a protest of 150 people at the University of Washington focused on Coca-Cola and involved a march to a local IBM office. Elsewhere in the state an all-day program was held at a Junior High school in Tacoma, as well as events in Spokane sponsored by Mothers Against Apartheid (MAA) and at Whitworth and Whitman Colleges. In Portland (OR) an October 11 rally opposite City Hall called for full sanctions and solidarity with the Front-line states. While an October 10 divestment rally occurred at Reed College.

University of Utah students built shanties on campus following an important Federal District Court ruling that held shanties to be symbolic speech protected by the First Amendment. At Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff students wore black armbands and built a shanty on October 10 and in Phoenix there was a rally for state divestment the next day. In Denver the October 10 Protest Day was marked by a rally at the Macedonia Baptist Church featuring Congresswoman Pat Schroeder. The University of Buthkurk in Montana was also the site for anti-apartheid activity that day.
SOUTHERN REGION

In Nashville 375 students from local campuses combined efforts October 10 for a march from Vanderbilt and Fisk Universities to the Legislative Plaza calling for state divestment and an end to attacks on the status of local Black universities. That day at the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, students held a march and rally in which students identified as southern African political prisoners were led blindfolded around the campus. The protest culminated in a 4-hour sit-in at the Administration Building during which "Educate the Educators" teach-ins were held on southern Africa.

University of Houston students held a South Africa Awareness Week October 6-10 featuring the building of a shanty, and at an October 10th rally at Texas Christian University one was also put up during a rally. In Austin on the University of Texas campus, a shanty has been reconstructed following a firebombing attack on October 3 and on the 10th an all-night vigil was held at the structure marking the end of a 3-day fast for divestment.

At the University of Missouri in Columbia students rallied and constructed a shanty calling for divestment of the school's $100 million in South Africa linked stock on October 10. Two nights later 17 students were arrested by campus police for refusing to vacate the shanty. At the University of Michigan on October 10 students surrounded the Administration Building with paper chains and rebuilt a shanty. In Kalamazoo on that day a rally at City Hall for divestment was followed by march to the Western Michigan University campus where an anti-apartheid concert was held.

At a Grinnell College rally October 10, a Black South African student read the names of persons killed by the regime while other students lay in front of crosses set up in front of the Administration building. Elsewhere in Ohio there were protests at, Ohio, Bowling Green and Wright Universities. In Omaha, the high school-based Youths for Peace wore shirts with the names of political prisoners and appeared bound hand and foot during a rally October 10 protesting Merrill Lynch's links to South Africa. At the University of Wisconsin/Madison students constructed a shanty that day. While at the University of Illinois in Champaign students held a night-time rally and during the day sent 500 postcards demanding the release of South African detainees. There were also protests that day at Northwestern and Purdue Universities, and on October 17 city colleges in Chicago marched from the South African Consulate to the downtown IBM offices. A community-based rally for state divestment was also held in Minneapolis on October 11. Notre Dame students held an "Awareness Week" culminating in a divestment rally on Oct 10 that also addressed campus racism and political prisoner support work.