U.S. CORPORATE WITHDRAWAL: SHAM AND SUBSTANCE

In response to the divestment movement and political/economic unrest in South Africa, major U.S. corporations have announced plans to "disinvest" from South Africa. These disinvestments fall into two categories:

1) **Genuine corporate withdrawal**: As in the case of Kodak which will sell its assets and halt all sales of its products in South Africa.

2) **Corporate shell games** in which formal ownership changes but provision of products and technology continues—as in the cases of IBM, GM, and Coca-Cola following the lead of GE, GTE, Motorola and Navistar.

**IBM** will be setting up a new company headed by the current manager of IBM/South Africa which will have the exclusive franchise to sell IBM products in South Africa under a three-year contract. In full-page advertisements in the South African Financial Mail (Oct 24) and Business Day (Oct 22) IBM/South Africa gave "unequivocal assurances" to its customers (which include the South African Government) that: "A full range of products and services will continue to be available in South Africa through the current sole supplier." Moreover, IBM in New York made a new five-year loan to the South African company to buy IBM/South Africa.

**GM**, in a similar fashion, will also sell its direct investment to its local managers but GM vehicles will continue to be sold in South Africa. In fact, GM officials have assured South African customers that Opel cars (a West German-based GM product) and Isuzu trucks (a joint GM-Japanese vehicle) will still be available under local franchise. Like IBM, GM is putting new money into South Africa to payoff $45 million in debts inherited by the "new" firm.

In September **Coca-Cola** announced its intent to sell its stake in two South African bottling and canning operations. However, the company will still ship its secret soda syrup to 15 independent bottlers in South Africa and license the use of its trademark. These continued ties mean that the Coke Boycott will continue. (For info: Tandi GcabaShe AFSC/Atlanta #408-586-0460).

In the face of these corporate moves anti-apartheid groups have explicitly stated that companies which have licenses and franchises in South Africa will remain divestment targets.
STUDENT GROUPS CONTINUE TO TARGET IBM, GM, AND COCA-COLA

Columbia University, despite a policy of full divestment, has announced that it will not divest from IBM, GM, and Coca-Cola—a move certain to spark further protest since $10 million is involved. At the University of Illinois a general resolution for divestment lost 5-4 in September, and a positive vote seems likely with the triumph of the pro-divestment slate in recent trustee elections. However, some trustees may not be willing to include IBM, GM, and Coke on the list of targeted companies. Anticipating this, the anti-apartheid coalition has been building support for a new divestment resolution which explicitly covers any company with licenses or franchises in S. Africa.

In October Smith College trustees announced that they will implement a policy of full divestment but restricted their policy to "companies with operations in South Africa". According to campus activists this means that the school will continue to invest in IBM, GM, and Coca-Cola.

This issue is critical at the University of California which has over $500 million in IBM stock alone and has a policy of total divestment which could affect $3.1 billion. Students are pressing for a specific commitment on IBM, GM and Coca-Cola while creatively targeting other university ties to South Africa. At UC/Santa Barbara students marched into the campus bookstore Oct 10 and since then have been placing identification stickers on products of companies involved in South Africa and demanding their removal.

DIRECT ACTION PROTESTS AND UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINE

This semester there have continued to be direct action protests on many campuses. At a number of schools administrators are attempting to impose harsh disciplinary penalties on the protesters. Such an approach is more threatening than legal prosecution. If administrations can make disciplinary penalties stick, valuable organizers could be neutralized and effective, militant protest discouraged.

At Yale University five students were suspended for the Fall semester following a September sit-in at the bursar's office. The harsh penalty took the divestment coalition by surprise, since last spring's more militant protests had been treated more leniently.

After Hamilton College's president publicly rejected parallels between Nazi Germany's policies and the apartheid regime's treatment of Black South Africans, sixty students staged a two day sit-in at the Administration Building in November. The participants were videotaped and their parents sent letters informing them that their sons and daughters would be suspended if they persisted in the action. Eventually 12 students chose to remain and were initially told that they were suspended by order of the president and had 48 hours to remove their belongings from campus. After public outcry, but still bypassing all formal disciplinary channels, the president ruled that the students could finish the Fall term but would be suspended for the Spring semester. Student, parent, and alumni protest will escalate in January.
The University of Texas/Austin has been the site of intense protest centered around the university's $770 million linked to South Africa--the most remaining at any school. On October 20, 16 members of Democracy in Academia barricaded themselves into the University president's office. All were arrested and the 13 students involved brought up on disciplinary as well as criminal charges. At the initial closed door hearing conducted by the Administration a penalty of one year's suspension was recommended. Activists felt that this penalty would have been imposed at a scheduled "open hearing", since two administrators and one professor are the final arbiters. However, students succeeded in getting a temporary restraining order blocking the hearing on the grounds that they should first be tried on the criminal charges. Organizers expect to face disciplinary action in January.

According to activist Ravi Jain: "In the long run this crackdown is not going to stop things and may likely strengthen the movement. The administration is digging its own grave, creating more anger at the university as an oppressive institution and sparking a more confrontational attitude."

*Students urge supporters to send petitions opposing disciplinary action to:*
President William Cunningham, Main Bldg Rm 400 Univ of Texas Austin TX 78713
With copies to: Democracy in Academia, Box 162 Texas Union UT, Austin 78713

**SHANTYTOWN AND OTHER PROTESTS CONTINUE**

At John Hopkins University, the movement forced the school to rescind a ban on shanty construction in October. Later, on October 28 protesters initiated a nine day occupation after a trustee vote against divestment. The coalition also organized protests with shanties that helped force Maryland National Bank to end its correspondent banking ties to South Africa, and reinvest $50 million in Baltimore's Black community. DC Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has collected 20,000 credit card applications that it will stamp and send to banks to protest ties to South Africa and the rescheduling of South Africa's debt. (For info: 301-243-0690)

Students at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City recently marked the nine-month anniversary of their pro-divestment shanty. On January 22-24 the student coalition will host an Intermountain Regional Conference Against Apartheid and Racism. (For info: 801-581-7842). At Colorado College students built 3 shanties in November and that month 22 protesters were arrested at University of North Carolina in two days of protest involving a shantytown and office occupation. Charges were dropped against 49 activists arrested in an October divestment blockade at Wellesley College following a class boycott.

On November 21 19 Harvard University students were arrested for blockading an alumni function, and at MIT a 5-shack shantytown has been named "Alexandra Township". In November Boston University President John Silber presented an honorary degree to Gatsha Buthelezi. In response a student coalition organized a successful boycott of classes and a 500-person rally outside the awards ceremony while others protested inside. At Penn State University students disrupted a November 14 trustees meeting and campus activists plan a 57-mile march to the State capitol for divestment legislation. Michigan State University students are also supporting state divestment, while maintaining a shanty against the MSU Foundation's South Africa holdings. Students have also constructed a shanty against the University of Maine Foundation's holdings and in November protests also occurred at Wesleyan University.
Students at the University of Hawaii have waged a powerful campaign that has forced a recalcitrant Board of Regents and Administration to support a policy of full divestment of South Africa linked stocks worth $2.3 million. The dynamics of the mobilization at the University of Hawaii exemplify many of the trends and tensions that have emerged on campuses nationwide.

Last year an educational campaign on South Africa was initiated by Renee Furuyama, a graduate student and member of the community-based Hawaii Committee for Africa. This helped spur the formation of a campus group known as Students for Azania, consisting mostly of Third world students. In the fall a broader Coalition for Divestment was formed and organizing took off with the construction of a shanty and a 25 day water-only fast by undergraduate Antonio Rosa beginning October 1. The construction of three more shanties and the fast helped mobilize support for divestment and isolate University President Albert Simone who vowed not to budge from his anti-divestment stand.

However, within the coalition there were important political differences. One group, consisting of almost all the white members of the coalition, advocated a strategy which accepted the decision-making timetable set by the Board of Regents. All the Third World and native Hawaiian students planned a civil disobedience action if the Regents did not meet the coalition's earlier deadline. The advocates of this approach gained considerable momentum with a Halloween night march of 250 people to the government-owned residence of President Simone which was the largest student action in 15 years.

This dramatic protest set the stage for an open hearing of the Regents Finance Committee on November 7. The more moderate students had favored giving the Regents Committee a week to decide their position on divestment and opposed any direct action before then. The Third World students planned a sit-in unless the Finance Committee voted for divestment at the open hearing itself. Over 300 people packed the November 7th hearing and were outraged when the Regents sought to limit testimony and cut off a Black South African speaker. As soon as it became apparent that the Regents could not maintain control, the Finance Committee immediately moved to a vote for full divestment which passed amidst the cheers of the onlookers.

Following the hearing, the white students left the coalition and formed a separate group. They disagreed with the majority decision to maintain the shanties until the Regents made a commitment to fully divest within two months with a specific inclusion of IBM and Coke. The full Board of Regents then voted for divestment on November 21 but excluded a specific timetable and list of targeted companies. Two nights later two shanties were burnt down and a third was demolished. After initial denials, the campus security force admitted having destroyed the third shanty, while the campus administration has steadfastly refused to condemn the attacks. In response the Coalition organized rallies at the remaining shanty and called for a full investigation into the "terroristic attack". While the coalition insists that the Regents fully and swiftly divest, the focus is now on racism and the right of students to peacefully protest in the face of right-wing violence and administration intimidation.