A. Philip Randolph announced today that over $15 Million have been withdrawn from Chase Manhattan and First National City banks to date, as a protest against the loans of these banks to South Africa. Mr. Randolph is the chairman of the Committee of Conscience Against Apartheid which is conducting a campaign for the withdrawal of personal and organizational accounts from the two banks due to their involvement in the apartheid economy of South Africa. This campaign will culminate on December 9th, the day before Human Rights Day, with a large public demonstration in the Wall Street area at 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza.

The withdrawals have come from both large and small organizations and individuals, but many other large institutions, whose decisions are made slowly, are also seriously considering withdrawing accounts. Reports on these withdrawals...
are expected in the period following December 9th. Among the organizations to have acted are Mother A.M.E. Zion Church in Manhattan, the Methodist Mission to the United Nations, St. Marks in the Bouwerie Episcopal Church, the New York/New Jersey region of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, and the periodical Christianity and Crisis. Other groups withdrawing accounts include: the Committee on Nonviolent Action, the Ad Hoc Committee on Human Rights and Genocide Treaties, the Jane Addams Peace Association, the Student Governments of Barnard College and Union Theological Seminary, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the World Student Christian Federation.

Individuals who have removed their funds from either Chase or First National are: Theodore Bikel and Pete Seeger, well-known entertainers; Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., a prominent Wall Street lawyer; author Arthur Miller and journalist Nat Hentoff; Immanuel Wallerstein, Associate Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and Thomas Franck, Professor of Government and International Relations at New York University; Congressman Jonathan Bingham and New York State Senator Basil A. Patterson; Rev. Donald S. Harrington, Pastor of the Community Church of New York and Reinhold Niebuhr, renowned theologian.

Dr. Wallerstein, in a letter to the banks, outlined his attitude towards their involvement. "I have no doubt that your bank is doing very useful work in Africa. . . . Nonetheless, it seems quite clear to me that the ability of the South African government to resist the process of fundamental democratization of the country has been very strongly enhanced by the continued willingness of American corporations to invest there and the ability of South Africa to sell certain key products on the American market. The sense of economic normality is created on the American end by two key institutions, the United
States government and the major banks. I think the United States government should change its policies, but I think the banks should do so as well and quite independent of whatever the government may decide to do."

Theodore Bikel, writing to First National City Bank, comments that "no business enterprise can claim progressivism at home while subscribing to or supporting racism abroad. ... The fact alone that your branches accept and carry out the practice of apartheid is reprehensible enough. By the way, do you ever reflect on the sight of separate teller windows marked 'Blanke' and 'Nie Blankes' -- 'White' and 'Non-White' -- in an American bank? ... To sit by while discrimination is being practiced is bad enough; we know now that silence, too, must be considered both guilt and complicity. But actively to participate in the practice of discrimination is, at least for an American firm in this year of 1966, nothing short of barbarism."

Demonstrations are planned in eight other American cities to coincide with the December 9th picket at Chase and First National. These protests will be focused on some of the 250 American corporations functioning in South Africa. The cities include Boston, Baltimore, Syracuse, Lancaster (Pa.), and Columbus, Ohio.