

SOUTHERN AFRICA:

AFSC DIVESTS \$1.3 MILLION

The American Friends Service Committee sold over 45,000 shares of stock worth \$1.3 million in U.S. firms operating in South Africa because the companies continue to do business in that country where white race supremacy is the law of the land.

The action came after an exchange of views between AFSC and 15 companies. Three of the companies met with AFSC in New York for a frank exchange of views on the question of withdrawal. Those at the meeting in New York included Peter H. 'Molotsi, a black South African exile on the AFSC staff, and Jennifer Davis, an exiled white economist who works for the American Committee on Africa. She challenged the argument that industrial growth will provide eventual civil and political rights for all in South Africa. She compared the government there to Hitler's Germany where industrial growth did virtually nothing for people's rights.

'Molotsi declared that "To the entire African community, apartheid has meant brazen political domination, genocidal economic strangulation, and social denigration of the deepest variety. There can be no compromise. The struggle against apartheid, to restore human dignity and justice, must continue unabated."

"We realize there are many other places in the world where human rights violations are extensive," said Michael Simmons, National Coordinator of the AFSC's Southern Africa Peace Education Program. "But South Africa is the only country we know about that has a system of racial oppression built into its laws.

"No persons are our enemies. It is the apartheid system we oppose and the support apartheid receives from the United States that we seek to challenge."

The AFSC Board two years ago said it should be the policy of U.S. economic institutions, as long as there is white minority rule in South Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), and Namibia (South-West Africa), to withdraw totally from economic involvement in these countries, and "failing such voluntary withdrawal, that Congress enact legislation to bring it about."

THE SUMMER PROJECT

by Sally Wallace, a Kalamazoo Southern Africa Summer volunteer.

The Southern Africa Summer Project of the Peace Education Division has taken place in eleven cities across the U.S. In this region, Southern Africa Summer was carried out in Dayton, OH and Kalamazoo, MI.

The major aim of the project in both cities has been consciousness raising leading to community action. We became informed and in turn passed the material we were supplied with on to contacts we had made in the community. Dayton volunteers Susan Mason and John Young went one step further by preparing a pamphlet showing how "Joe Dayton" is linked with South Africa. This pamphlet and others were distributed at weekly leafletting sessions at Court House Square. In Kalamazoo, the film, "Last Grave at Dimbaza", a powerful and shocking film on apartheid, was shown in homes, churches, at union meetings, and at a local college.

Southern Africa Summer won't end after the eight weeks of summer work. Susan and John, the Dayton volunteers, will be returning to Miami University. They'll be working on Miami U. divesting their stockholdings in corporations with subsidiaries or affiliates in South Africa. They will also be involved with a symposium on South Africa sponsored by Wright State University.

The work started in Kalamazoo with the Upjohn Co. will be continued. Upjohn Co. is a local firm with two subsidiaries in South Africa. Dialogue has been established between Upjohn and AFSC and further meetings have been scheduled to be attended by Mike Simmons, AFSC National Southern Africa Program, and Timothy Smith, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. Southern Africa Fall/Winter will also be a continuation of work on two resolutions that have been prepared to present to City Council.

The Southern Africa refugee problem is one of the most serious ramifications of the apartheid system as hundreds of thousands of refugees have flooded into Botswana, Mozambique, and Tanzania. As an aid to these people (mostly men and boys), the Southern Africa program will continue with a refugee clothing drive in the Fall and Winter.

RESOURCES

Out of our recent involvement with the Southern Africa Summer program has come a special concern to identify in a more personal way with the very difficult and complex situation in Southern Africa - the scope and reality of which are often difficult to comprehend. To that end we are making available copies of *Biko*. Written by Donald Woods, leading South African journalist, shortly after Steven Biko's death, the book is an insider's perspective of an enormously important figure for black South Africans. Woods, a close friend and associate of Biko's, was himself banned and the book was begun in secrecy and sent out of the country chapter-by-chapter until he was compelled to flee in order to complete it and make its history known. It is a tender tribute to the man and the statesman, Steven Bantu Biko, and a scathing indictment of South Africa's system of apartheid. It will play an important role in our understanding of what is happening in South Africa. *Biko*, only recently published, will not be out in paperback form for some time, therefore we are offering hardback copies regularly \$10.95 at \$6.95 plus postage from Dayton AFSC.



Peace Action interprets AFSC Peace Education program, keeps you up to date on events and offers pacifist approaches to problems of war and peace. P.A. is issued five times a year. It is available on request though we appreciate a small donation to cover printing and postage. Newsletter staff for this issue are: Martha Henderson, Barb Roberts, Mary Stuckey, Beth Volk, Joe Volk.

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