

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

for immediate release

**STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID**

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On June 16, 1976, South African police attacked blacks protesting the separate and inferior educational system in Soweto (a poor black township with over a million inhabitants). Hundreds were killed, thousands wounded, and thousands more imprisoned (primarily students). This brutal attack showed the world that South Africa's *apartheid* system is nothing but a cruel enslavement of the black majority. But the Soweto Uprisings, as they came to be called, spread throughout the country. They heralded a new stage in the struggle by South Africans to dismantle the *apartheid* system and the racist government which has instituted it.

In commemoration, June 16 has been declared an International Day of Withdrawal by those participating in the campaign to stop banks from lending to South Africa. Publicity, actions and bank account withdrawals will be held throughout North America, and in Africa and Europe. Various other organizations in the U.S. will also be demonstrating their opposition to *apartheid*.

**STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID (\$BOA)** is the California participant in the international campaign. In coordination with KOPANO, a black South African organization based in the Bay Area, \$BOA is concentrating on several activities designed to publicize California bank involvement in South Africa and to provide a means whereby people can voice their opposition to bank support of *apartheid*.

**MEDIA.** Numerous PSAs, Free Speech Messages and interviews are being arranged as we seek to convey to a broad range of people our concern over the role California banks are playing in support of *apartheid* and the South African government.

**LEAFLETING.** \$BOA supporters will be leafleting over 50 Bank of America branches in 20 cities throughout California. The purpose is to explain to bank customers and the general public the role Bank of America has in supporting *apartheid*. While Bank of America is not the only California lender to South Africa, it is the major western U.S. lender to that country—its loans total about 10% of those South Africa has received from U.S. banks.

**WITHDRAWALS.** We expect several hundred bank customers to honor the 16th by withdrawing their funds from banks loaning to South Africa. This is in addition to other individuals and organizations throughout California which have decided to put their beliefs into action by withdrawing over One Million Dollars.

**ENDORSEMENTS.** We are substantially broadening the range of endorsers of \$BOA and encourage those endorsing to put their money in financial institutions accountable to the communities within which they operate.

**POST CARDS.** The enclosed card is being distributed as widely as possible so that people can voice their opposition to Bank of America's policy of loaning to South Africa.

**DAY OF CONCERN.** The Sunday preceding and the Sunday following have been declared days of concern by many churches in northern California. Church services will focus on conditions in South Africa, the role the U.S. has in that country, and local bank involvement.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE.** KOPANO is sponsoring this service in tribute to those who were killed on June 16 by the South African police (see the enclosed blue sheet for more details).

**PRESS CONFERENCE.** Preceeding the Memorial Service, \$BOA and KOPANO will talk with the Press regarding the current struggle in South Africa and will report on the Bank Campaign, particularly the activities taking place on the 16th. (Press Conference sheet follows.)