

# American Committee On Africa

198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • Telephone: (212) 962-1210

## NEWS

For immediate release

Contact: Joshua Nessen  
212-962-1210

### THOUSANDS TO MARK OCTOBER 11 NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID PROTEST DAY

New York, NY, October 4, 1985:

In over 25 major U.S. cities and on 100 campuses nationwide, thousands will participate in the largest ever coordinated protest day against U.S. investment in South Africa. October 11 coincides with International Day For Southern African Political Prisoners, and groups will combine divestment protests with petitioning and, at 1PM Eastern Standard Time, silent vigils for the release of South African and Namibian political prisoners. According to the American Committee on Africa, the initiator of the protest day, the organizing for October 11 has fostered unprecedented coordination between campus and community-based groups and catalyzed new activity in all parts of the country.

In Honolulu three days of activity will culminate in a 4PM rally at the Prince Kuhio Federal Building organized by campus anti-apartheid and community groups with the support of John Norris, coordinator of the Hawaii Council of Churches. A similar coalition, spearheaded by the state-wide AFL-CIO and Arizonians Against Apartheid, will hold a noon-time rally for state divestment action at the capitol in Tucson. In Nashville a student-led march will go from Tennessee State University to Fisk University, Maharey Medical Center and Vanderbilt University and end in a 4PM rally with community groups at the Legislative Plaza calling for state divestment. A newly formed coalition in Oklahoma City, including the YWCA, the Urban League, and student groups will organize a petitioning campaign beginning October 5 and for October 11 will hold silent vigils at noon in solidarity with southern African political prisoners.

In New York City, a broad coalition of student, trade union and community groups will hold a rally at the Citicorp Center (5:30PM at 53 Str and Lexington Ave) followed by a march to the South African Consulate (48 Str between 1st and 2nd Aves). The rally will be addressed by student activists and Reverend Jesse Jackson and will kick-off a citywide deposit withdrawal campaign from CITIBANK. The campaign was initiated by Columbia University students and calls on CITIBANK to close its branches in South Africa and to end all loans to South Africa, including trade-related loans and loans to the South African private sector. That same day the American Committee on Africa will also be hosting a Municipal Divestment Conference at the UN Church Center, and students at Fordham University and Hunter College will hold rallies before joining the CITIBANK demonstration.

MORE....

In Washington DC a citywide coalition will hold a rally opposite the White House in opposition to the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa. The rally will begin at 2PM and follow separate protests for Divestment at American, Georgetown and George Washington Universities. A broadly-based Anti-Apartheid Day Coalition in Baltimore will sponsor a day-long series of activities against U.S. investment in South Africa and for the release of political prisoners. After a prayer breakfast and a 1PM silent vigil, there will be a 4PM march from the Federal Building at Hopkins Plaza that will target W. Bell Company (a marketer of Krugerrands) and other companies involved in South Africa. This march will lead into a 6PM rally at City Hall addressed by representatives of the African National Congress, SWAPO of Namibia, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Metro Council of the AFL-CIO, and the Catholic Archdiocese.

On October 11 student organizers at Cornell University (where over 1000 protesters were arrested last spring) plan to escalate their activities in conjunction with a Trustee meeting on campus that day. In Philadelphia students at UPENN will hold a vigil from October 9-11 and then join with Swarthmore, Temple, Bryn Mawr, and Haverford students in a 4:30pm<sup>rally</sup> at City Hall sponsored by AFSCME, the Postal Workers of America, Congressman William Gray, the Martin Luther King Coalition, and the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

In Poughkeepsie, New York students at Vassar College and community groups will begin by holding separate rallies including the 1PM minute of silence for southern African political prisoners. At 2PM there will then be a joint march into the County Executive's office to protest the continued deposit of county funds in Barclay's Bank--a major lender to South Africa. Students from the State University of New York at Binghamton will target State Senator Warren Anderson's office for protests given his refusal to support a New York state divestment bill. At the University of Buffalo students will rally for divestment of the campus foundation's \$8 million in South Africa-linked stock, and at Syracuse University a campus march will join a community rally. In Boston protests are planned by students at Harvard, MIT, Boston University and Tufts and in Northampton a rally will involve UMASS, Smith College, Amherst College, Hampshire College and Mount Holyoke College students.

On October 11-12 Dartmouth College will be the site of a Northern New England Coalition Conference involving student and community activists from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Princeton University students are planning a protest for the 11th and Rutgers University activists will join a New Brunswick community rally.

The organizing for the protest day has also helped spark significant efforts in the southern United States. A regional October 11th Coalition of groups from New Orleans, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio will hold a two day conference in Houston. In New Orleans, the Free South Africa Movement is holding a community rally focusing on barring South African goods from the port, and students at Xavier University are also marking the protest day. In the Miami area students from Florida International University, University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, Miami-Dade, Broward Community, and Florida Memorial Colleges will hold activities on October 11 including a mock funeral procession at the University of Miami as well as petitioning and political prisoner vigils at 1PM in inner-city high schools.

Atlanta University will be the site of campus rallies which are also planned for Georgia State University and Savannah State College. At the University of Louisville students will erect a shantytown as part of their divestment protest and this will also be occurring at the University of Kansas. Other schools where divestment rallies will occur are the Universities of North Carolina, Virginia and Duke.

In the mid-Western states there is also widespread activity. The Cuyohoga County Commissioners and Cleveland City Hall have declared October 11 as Anti-Apartheid Day, and a 7:30pm rally at the United Food and Commercial Workers Hall (2828 Euclid Ave in Cleveland) will feature Warren Davis, regional director of the United Auto Workers, Mylion Waite, associate director of the Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council and Nomonde Ngubo, a co-founder of the South African National Union of Mineworkers. On October 11 a week of activity will climax with an 11am march from Gullen Mall at Wayne State University to General Motors' Detroit headquarters demanding an end to all investment in South Africa. That day in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan students will protest the school's refusal to adhere to a state law mandating divestment by state educational institutions.

In Chicago there will be October 11 protests at Northwestern University, University of Illinois/Circle and the University of Chicago, and students will then join with a city-wide march and rally on October 12 to the South African consulate. In Minnesota--where the state investment board recently decided to divest of \$1.1 billion in South Africa linked investments--students in Minneapolis will protest at a University of Minnesota Trustees meeting and join in a city-wide rally as well.

MORE....

Students from the University of Wisconsin will march on the state capitol-- which they occupied this April for several weeks--demanding passage of a state divestment bill. In Missouri all state university campuses will be sites for divestment protests and in St Louis a community rally will occur on October 11. In Iowa, there will be a mock funeral procession in Iowa City and protests at Grinnell College, Cornell College, and Buena Vista College. Denver will be the site of a community rally and there are teach-ins planned at the Denver and Boulder campuses of the University of Colorado.

On the West Coast there are community based rallies scheduled for San Diego and Los Angeles on October 11 and coordinated actions at all University of California campuses. In the Bay Area, three days of activities will be kicked off with a massive rally at UC/Berkeley and at other area schools and on October 12 a Bay-area wide march will begin at noon from Oakland City Hall and go to Lowell Park. On October 13 local religious groups are organizing for Sunday services related to South Africa.

In both Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon trade unions are playing a leading role in October 11 protests which are focusing on the closing of ports to South African goods and state divestment action.

In addition to activities in the United States on October 11, in Montreal there will be a picket line at the South African consulate and rallies at Montreal area campuses. That day in Stockholm, the Isolate South Africa Committee will hold an anti-apartheid rally addressed by Prime Minister Olof Palme, the Archbishop of Sweden, the leader of the Liberal Party, the African National Congress, and SWAPO of Namibia. Following the rally there will be a march past the American, British, and West German embassies where formal appeals will be made for these countries to support sanctions against South Africa.