

To: All Concerned

From: Swarthmore College Divestment Coalition

Re: Anti-Apartheid Sit-In at Swarthmore College

Dear Friends:

September 12, 1985

The Swarthmore College Divestment Coalition is organizing a sit-in on the steps of Parrish Hall, the administrative building of the College, in protest of the College's investment in the *apartheid* regime of South Africa. We are writing to ask you to join us in this effort.

We do not need to tell you of the critical situation that now confronts the people of South Africa; it is enough to pick up any daily newspaper and read of the thousands of political detentions (now at the rate of six per hour) and the hundreds of deaths that are the responsibility of the Botha government in recent weeks. Of course, the history of racist rule in South Africa is much longer.

Like many other American colleges and universities, Swarthmore College relies for its financial support on a large endowment; unlike many such institutions, public and private, Swarthmore continues to invest in corporations and banks doing business in South Africa. Over twenty percent (\$30 million) of the College's endowment is in stocks of these companies. The College justifies this investment with the Sullivan Principles of selective investment in South Africa, recently criticized as inadequate by their author, Rev. Leon Sullivan.

We are asking the Swarthmore College Board of Managers to join the growing number of universities, states, unions, and cities (like Philadelphia) who have withdrawn their support for *apartheid* by divesting funds in companies doing business in the Republic of South Africa. A proposal for three-year phased divestment of these funds was presented to the Board last Spring, but was postponed to the Fall meeting. The Board will consider the proposal on Saturday, September 28, in the Friends Meeting House on the Swarthmore College campus.

A twenty-four hour candle-light vigil is in process to visually symbolize support for the proposal, to provide information on South Africa and Swarthmore's holdings there, and to increase awareness in the College and the Swarthmore community about the urgency of our response to police repression in South Africa. Discussions are held every evening at 9:00 on the front porch of Parrish Hall. Donations are being collected for humanitarian aid (through the Washington Office on Africa) to victims of South African repression. In addition, a petition in favor of Swarthmore divestment is available for signing by all concerned. From Wednesday, Sept. 25 to Saturday, Sept. 28, guest speakers, theatrical activities and discussion/presentations will be part of the sit-in activities. The sit-in will culminate on Saturday with a silent walk to the Friends Meeting House, where we will encircle the building with a human chain and present the petition to the Board of Managers. For more information call Steve Wiley (447-7442).

We invite you to participate in all of these activities and to join us in saying **NO to South African repression and NO to Swarthmore investment in *apartheid*.**

The Swarthmore College Divestment Coalition