

The
CHURCH
COUNCIL
of
GREATER
SEATTLE

February 8, 1989

All Metro Council Members
c/o Clerk's Office
MS 93, 821 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Metro Council Members:

The Task Force on Southern Africa of the Church Council of Greater Seattle wishes to express its concern over the purchase of granite from apartheid South Africa for use in the Metro tunnel. Although public comment has focused mainly on what the Executive Director knew and when he knew it, which is an important issue for the Metro Council to address, we would like to widen the discussion to the whole issue of the importance of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Apartheid is an unjustifiable system that ensures that the majority black population living in South Africa is deprived of basic political, economic, social and human rights that we in the United States profess to cherish. In fact, hundreds of thousands of U.S. men and women have died in wars which they fought in the belief that such basic human rights should exist in other countries as well. Why, then, does apartheid continue to exist after more than 40 years as a legal system?

Part of the answer seems to lie in the unwillingness of many of us here in the United States to challenge ourselves and our institutions to act on our beliefs in this situation. Apartheid requires our action. Total economic sanctions against the apartheid regime must be applied. This is why our Task Force has been working with churches, encouraging them to take leadership roles in ending any complicity with apartheid through their banking and/or investment relationships. Of course, economic sanctions also require refusal on the part of individuals and institutions to engage in any South Africa business relationships at all. It's a policy mandated not only by the United Nations General Assembly and the Metro Council but also by our own professed fundamental beliefs. We urge you to take seriously our concerns and end all Metro's ties to apartheid now.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Prince

Marjorie Prince, Chair,
Task Force on Southern Africa

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The Rev. Dr. William B. Cate
President-Director

cc: Dr. William Cate
Mr. Alan Gibbs
Mr. Eddie Rye, Jr.