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were asking for a
W.I.T.N.E.S.S. FOR SOUTH AFRICA

STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID

OFFICE

W.I.T.N.E.S.S. FOR SOUTH AFRICA - \$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID
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I. Introduction

\$top Banking on Apartheid (\$BOA) was formed in 1977 in response to urgent pleas by major black organizations and religious groups within South Africa. They were asking the international community to stop investing in South Africa until its apartheid system had been abolished. \$BOA united religious, labor, community, student, civic and legislative communities in a common focus on the support given to apartheid by California banks making loans to South Africa.

While \$BOA has worked primarily within California, its unique resources are distributed throughout the United States. These include special focus leaflets, organizing packets for specific constituencies, audio-visual aids and alternative investment guides. \$BOA maintains contacts with participants in the international anti-apartheid movement and serves as a bridge between those opposing apartheid within South Africa and Californians who wish to support their efforts. \$BOA has initiated a number of coordinated actions, including state-wide leafletting of Bank of America branches, common Days of Concern, anti-apartheid and reinvestment conferences and promotionals for shareholder resolutions.

\$BOA's religious activities reflect the longstanding concern that Christians have had for South Africans living under the apartheid system--a system whereby the European minority has dehumanized the Black majority through economic and racial oppression. This system, and the violence it perpetuates, is particularly abhorrent because the Bible has been [mis]used to justify the implementation and continuation of apartheid. As people sought accurate information about South Africa, \$BOA provided them with resource materials, speakers and contacts with South Africans. When individuals and congregations felt called to respond to the blasphemy of apartheid, \$BOA suggested methods, set up coordinated activities and helped establish a network of those wishing to witness for their brothers and sisters in South

Africa. Assistance from \$BOA was sought by delegates attempting to pass regional and national denominational resolutions as a means of transcending the limitations of individual action and faith witness. Once passed, \$BOA assisted with implementation at the local level so that individual church members did not lose the sense of common purpose and unity seen at the regional and national levels. In order to offer a more comprehensive response to this growing community, and as a means of solidifying its religious base and linking common concerns, \$BOA became a founding member of the Department of Human Rights of the Northern California Ecumenical Council.

\$BOA co-founded the Africa Resource Center--based in Oakland, California--in 1979. This Center has become a multi-purpose educational facility serving the West Coast. \$BOA conducts its overall campaign out of this Center, thus encouraging campaign participants to view South Africa within the context of the entire African continent, rather than as an isolated nation.

\$BOA is closely allied with the South African Women's Fund, established in 1981 to raise funds for black women's self-help projects within South Africa. This Fund provides \$BOA participants with an avenue to directly assist the struggle for self-determination within the country, and with an opportunity to unite with women striving for social transformation.

II. Goals and Objectives

\$top Banking on Apartheid's overall goals have been to:

- Educate the general public about: the history of and current conditions under apartheid; the means by which U.S. corporations and the U.S. government support and maintain the apartheid system; and the means by which Californians can support the dismantlement of the apartheid system;
- Help deepen Californian's understanding of the underlying beliefs, structures and institutions within the U.S. which enable the apartheid system to continue despite world-wide condemnation;
- Promote and develop new forms of cooperation and community as Californians seek to support the movement for self-determination

in South Africa;

- Pressure California banks to end all loans to the South African government, its state-owned corporations and to U.S. companies for operations in or relating to South Africa; and
- Actively seek investment alternatives which enable participants to use their money in socially responsible ways.

Stop Banking on Apartheid's work within the religious community is also guided by these additional goals:

- Assist Christians to witness against the dehumanizing apartheid structures and for our unity in the body of Christ;
- Encourage theological reflection and understanding between Christians in South Africa, California and Europe; and
- Build on the strong role that women have in church and society.

To implement the above goals, the following objectives have been adopted:

- Provide educational resources regarding Southern Africa, with emphasis on theology developed in South Africa;
- Facilitate dialogue concerning African perspectives of European and U.S. mission churches in Southern Africa;
- Use the experiences that both U.S. and European churches have with overcoming racism so that they may speak out together against apartheid;
- Promote the coordination of European and U.S. approaches to dismantling Western ties with the apartheid system;
- Encourage the women's movements in U.S. and European churches to cooperate with the South African women's struggle for self-determination; and
- Develop long-term personal relationships between congregations in Northern California, South Africa and Europe so that even when apartheid has been dismantled, congregation members will continue to support their sisters and brothers in maintaining an independent country.

III. Methods

Stop Banking on Apartheid's work is defined and carried out on a Program/Project basis. Its work under the auspices of the Department of Human Rights is carried out through its Working Interfaith Taskforce for New Expressions of Social Service (WITNESS) for South Africa, which has two components: General Education and Direct Relations. Other projects concerning both secular and religious communities are conducted through the Africa Resource Center.

General Education Program

Under this Program, WITNESS for South Africa provides information about South Africa and its apartheid system, U.S. support of and policy toward South Africa, the on-going struggle by South Africans to achieve self-determination and the role of the Church in impeding and supporting their struggle. This educational work is guided by theological reflections on the conflict in South Africa; and study of the Bible and church history is used to help determine how the religious community can contribute to the dismantlement of apartheid. A variety of methods are used:

- Maintaining a public-access library and in-depth files on these subjects;
- Providing speakers, audio-visuals and printed materials to congregations, conferences, schools, denominational meetings and media representatives;
- Itinerating visitors from South Africa and the international anti-apartheid movement;
- Conducting basic planning workshops for congregations and organizations;
- Assisting congregations and organizations to develop their course of action in support of South Africa's struggle for self-determination. Such actions might include: divestment of congregational and denominational funds, Days of Concern for South Africa, donations to the South Africa Women's Fund and/or the Program to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, support for families of those imprisoned for protesting apartheid, sponsorship of community educationals,

and volunteering with the Department of Human Rights.

In 1984/85, WITNESS will be expanding local congregational outreach; increasing its participation in denominational meetings, ecumenical events and mission conferences; and implementing the proposed joint activities of the Department of Human Rights.

Direct Relations Program

This Program is designed to build continuing relations between South African, Northern Californian and European congregations in order to witness our commonality. For a congregation to receive a sister congregation, an on-going commitment to maintaining relations within the context of this Program's objectives will be necessary. The relevant women's auxiliary, group or organization will be encouraged to provide that continuity and leadership.

South African Sister Relations. While these relationships will be contingent upon the particular congregations, they will be a combination of mutual material and spiritual support. Each church will be encouraged to include its sister congregation in prayers, worship services and denominational activities. The exchange of spoken and written materials--such as prayers, sermons, discussions and workshop results--will help enrich members' perceptions of what it means to be a Christian. Emphasis will be placed on material exchanges as a means of demonstrating our sister/brotherhood rather than as a one-way act of charity.

European Sister Relations. Much of the economic support for South Africa comes from Western Europe. Many of these countries are dependent on South Africa for strategic minerals, such as uranium and coal, which makes opposition to continued involvement in South Africa even more difficult. In Europe, it is often the church which provides the main avenues for widespread organizing and education around South Africa. These sister relationships will provide a means for sharing experiences in anti-apartheid work, implementing new action ideas and demonstrating unity in support of the South African struggle for self-determination. While spiritual exchanges will include ecclesiological and theological issues, special emphasis will be placed on

sharing the understanding and experiences that congregational members have gained by combatting racism in the U.S., by resisting the imposition of fascism by the Nazis and by having been part of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany.

One primary intention of the Direct Relations Program is that the parallel work of spiritual conversations and practical activities will be complementary and will help prevent relations from becoming stagnant. WITNESS for South Africa will closely monitor this initial phase of developing relations to provide help as needed. Once direct assistance is no longer necessary, WITNESS for South Africa will check with those responsible every two months to make sure everything is proceeding smoothly.

WITNESS for South Africa will also assist in building a network between congregations participating in its Direct Relations Program. In this way creative ideas and responses can be shared and a community of participants formed.

WITNESS for South Africa is in touch with South African and European seminarians, congregation members and ministers who eagerly await implementation of this Program. Likewise, a number of Northern California congregations and individuals have expressed interest. In 1984/85, WITNESS for South Africa will be formalizing and publicizing its Direct Relations Program, developing orientation materials and providing support services to participating congregations.

Special Projects Conducted Through the Africa Resource Center.

If a donor is interested in one or more of these projects, complete proposals can be furnished (funds for them are not included in \$BOA's budget for its WITNESS for South Africa program within the Department of Human Rights).

Newsletter. \$BOA plans to expand its occasional newsletter to a subscription bi-monthly newsletter which will highlight news and events about South Africa and provide special-focus inserts on key issues concerning the African continent.

Reinvestment. \$BOA is increasing promotion of its detailed manual, Our Town Out of South Africa, which shows citizens how to gain community control over public funds through an initiative campaign. \$BOA is also updating and enlarging its Alternative Investment Guide, designed to assist both institutional and individual investors.

Banking Survey. \$BOA will be conducting a systematic survey in nine Bay Area counties which will determine services offered, employment policies, community loan practices and loans to South Africa by all banks and savings and loan associations. This survey will be presented in three formats: regional summary sheets, a how-to-do-it handbook, and comprehensive data files.

High School Education. \$BOA is developing a curriculum unit that brings South Africa into religious and secular high schools. Its ten lessons will include a variety of student and teacher activities and will be presented in the form of songs, poetry, plays, audio-visuals, fact sheets and different types of learning exercises. This unit will serve as a proto-type for other African countries and regions.

IV. Evaluation

WITNESS for South Africa has an Advisory Board representing different denominations and facets of expertise appropriate to its program activities. The overall program has a detailed timeline which is monitored by the Advisory Board on a monthly basis. In addition to this Advisory Board, a Consultative Board is composed of community and denominational leaders and South Africans (who plan to return to South Africa) who provide advice and services on an ad hoc basis. The Direct Relations Program will receive a thorough evaluation by participating congregations in June 1985. A written report will be issued so that the Program can be shared with other congregations and regions.

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PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1984*

Expenses

Staff salaries	
Director (benefits & medical inc.)	\$14,400
Intern	11,000
Rent	1,680
Supplies	420
Equipment rental	1,736
Travel -- local	1,020
Travel -- Northern California	1,920
Telephone	720
Postage	240
Printing & photocopying	480
Subscriptions & reference acquisitions	400
Itinerating costs	1,260
Conference & denominational meeting fees	2,000
Miscellaneous	200
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	\$37,476

Income

Church sources	\$21,336
Foundation grants	10,740
Individual donations	5,400
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	\$37,476

* 10% increase is projected for 1985 and 1986.

ADDENDUM

WITNESS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

European Visits

Phase I October 6 - November 9: England, Scotland, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic (East Berlin), and Switzerland.

Phase II March 25 - April 30: Belgium, France, the German Democratic Republic, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands.

GOALS

- (1) Encourage relations--within a religious context--which will foster unity in support of the South African struggle for self-determination.
- (2) Build on the understanding and experiences that the Religious Community has gained in dealing with racism and sexism, both in society as a whole and within individual congregations.

OBJECTIVES

- (A) Share experiences gained in carrying out anti-apartheid work (with specific constituencies as well as on an organizer basis).
- (B) Gain new action ideas for use in WITNESS' program.
- (C) Gather print and audio-visual materials which set anti-apartheid activities within the wider context of Christians in mission, and different methods of overcoming racism, sexism and economic injustice.
- (D) Conduct indepth discussions with congregations, women's auxiliaries, and individual members interested in participating in WITNESS' Direct Relations program. Refine guidelines.
- (E) Meet with congregations, or their representatives, considering becoming a sister congregation in the pilot project. (Detailed information has been exchanged with groups in England, the Netherlands and the FRG.)
- (F) Compile social, political, economic and cultural overviews of the countries potentially participating in the Direct Relations program.
- (G) Put "faces to names" which will help build commitment over the long-term for this program, as well as help build confidence that specific, mutual activities can be undertaken (e.g., a shared Day of Worship and Prayer).
- (H) Assess funding potential for establishing a base for formal coordination of the Direct Relations program within Europe.

METHODS

- (a) Follow-up with people living in Europe whom we have itinerated in Northern California. (It is primarily through these people that basic itineration is being arranged.)
- (b) Pre-arrange meetings with organizations and individuals in regional centers. Ask them to set up meetings with people working within and on behalf of local congregations.
- (c) Allow enough time in each country so that visits to active congregations and communities can follow regional meetings.
- (d) Discuss and build links with South Africans residing in Europe, especially those connected with the South African Council of Churches.
- (e) Rent a car when necessary. This will allow for greater flexibility in being able to visit with people outside regional centers and will keep travel costs low. (Transportation is being provided within the FRG and the GDR.)
- (f) Participate in several conferences and numerous workshops arranged by the FRG anti-apartheid movement in connection with this visit. These will focus on divestment, work within the church, and the WITNESS for South Africa program.
- (g) Meet with representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Programme to Combat Racism. Discuss concrete work as well as strategy for local organizing.
- (h) Wherever possible, stay in people's homes, rather than hotels--both for reducing costs as well as to better get to know each other.

BUDGET - Phase I

Purpose	Total	Needed	Received
Round Trip, SF to Amsterdam, Geneva to SF (R. Bolte)	\$959		\$959 ^{1,2}
Round Trip, SF to London, Geneva to SF (M. Hecathorn)	899	\$899	
Per Diem - R. Bolte, 3 weeks at \$15 per day (2 weeks out of the 5 will be spent with family)	315		315 ^{2,3}
Per Diem - M. Hecathorn, 5 weeks at \$15 per day	525	525	
Auto Rental at 2 weeks plus petrol	540	270	270 ²
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	\$3238	\$1694	\$1544

¹Half provided by the FIM program in order for Ms. Bolte to attend the Annual Meeting.

²Raised from local sources

³\$210 per diem for 2 weeks for each person provided by the FRG anti-apartheid movement, as well as all transportation.

Please Note: M. Hecathorn has been selected as a member of the Northern California Ecumenical Council's six-person delegation invited to travel in the German Democratic Republic by the Gossner Mission based in East Berlin. This trip was originally scheduled for the first two weeks in October and the WITNESS European visit was scheduled around this trip. Funding requests were made on the basis of this GDR trip. When the GDR visit was postponed at the last minute to the first of April, 1985, the funds already raised were put in an account to be held until the Spring trip. With cancellation only two weeks before the planned departure, and with the FRG having 2 weeks of planned activities around this visit by M. Hecathorn and R. Bolte, it was decided that M. Hecathorn would go to England, Scotland and the Netherlands and then join R. Bolte for the FRG and Swiss portion as originally planned. Due to other activities and hectic schedules, WITNESS was unable to raise the funds for M. Hecathorn's trip in advance. Hence loans were taken out with the promise that appeals would be made prior to leaving for Europe, in hopes that that that sufficient funds would be received to repay the loans by November 15, 1984.