

February 5, 1985

Tenant
655 Sacramento
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Tenant:

We would like to thank those of you who showed sympathy with the picket line outside this building last Tuesday afternoon. We realize that others may not fully understand our purpose, which we would like to briefly explain.

The picketers are associated with the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, part of a nationwide campaign that has been widely endorsed by religious, community and labor leaders, local and national politicians and many others. This movement calls for an end to South Africa's apartheid system and to U.S. economic support for the South African government.

As you may know, under apartheid 75% of the people of South Africa--those classified as African--have no political or civil rights. They cannot even vote. It is illegal to protest the government's racial laws; those who do are subject to imprisonment and--if not killed--can be held for years without trial.

Surely this lack of basic rights violates every principle for which our country stands.

Last November, members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 10 refused to unload South African cargo. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) immediately went to court to secure an injunction which meant that any ILWU member who tried to act his or her conscience by not touching South African cargo--or even speak out on this issue--could be fined and jailed. This action by PMA denies to U.S. workers rights which all citizens of our country must have if we are to remain a free nation.

The Bay Area Free South Africa Movement is asking PMA to take three steps:

- 1) Request the court to lift the injunction against the ILWU.
- 2) Allow longshoremen the right to act their conscience without penalty by including this as a clause in its current contract with the ILWU.
- 3) Stop representing companies which carry South African cargo.

In December the Oakland City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the banning of South African cargo from its port. The Port Commission responded by unanimously stating that trade with South Africa is "repugnant" and directing its attorney to find the means by which the Port could comply with the City's request. Thirty Northern California denominational leaders have signed a statement commending the actions by the longshoremen and requesting that the dockers be allowed the freedom to act their conscience.

We urge you, as tenants of this building, to express to PMA officials your support for the steps we are asking PMA to take.

If you would like additional information on these issues, please join us today

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as we will again have a picket from 4-6 p.m. Or if you'd like documentation on conditions in South Africa, you can contact the Africa Resource Center at 763-8011.

Our country cannot support a nation that denies basic rights to three-fourths of its population solely because they are not white. Nor can we stand for justice abroad if we do not practice it at home.

Thank you for following your conscience and urging PMA to allow other U.S. citizens the right to follow theirs.

Sincerely,

Members of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement