

\$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID

2160 LAKE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121
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November 20, 1978

Dear Editor:

As you know, apartheid in South Africa has become a major focus of the press, particularly as black dissent within the country increases and the minority government counteracts with escalating violence. Our government has become intimately involved in the Southern Africa region through its attempts to help negotiate peaceful transitions to majority rule in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa. At the same time, Americans are becoming more and more concerned about the support our banks and corporations give to the apartheid regime.

As a clear example of this concern, last Friday over 1900 Californians demonstrated their abhorrence of Bank of America's support of apartheid by distributing a quarter of a million leaflets in 111 cities and towns (approximately 400 branches) throughout the State. The enclosed press release details how widespread this concern is.

As part of your responsibility to present issues of obvious relevance to your community, we would like to request better coverage of this important issue which impacts all citizens of California. The fact that people in the community you serve participated in this event shows the need for a more thorough discussion of the concerns raised regarding the support California banks give to apartheid. We will be happy to put you in touch with those in your community who voice these concerns, as well as provide you with short articles, free speech announcements, audio-visuals and other materials concerning the consequences of U.S. bank involvement in South Africa.

STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID is a coalition of church, labor, public interest, research and other community groups who are calling on banks in California to stop making all loans to South Africa. These loans support that country's blatant racial discrimination and suppression of its black majority. We are concerned citizens and bank depositors interested in supporting banks which adopt **AND** implement socially responsible criteria for their investments and practices. Our focus also includes the banks' local patterns in lending, affirmative action, and the use of union and public pension/retirement funds.

We urge you to respond to these concerns and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Miloanne Hecathorn for
STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID

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