



**The MIT
Endowment
for
Divestiture**

"M.I.T. must take a stand against the moral disgrace of apartheid and for the fundamental human values of equality, liberty, and dignity. Economic actions, not words of sympathy, are needed now by the majority in South Africa."

- Mel King, Professor of Urban Studies

The MIT Endowment for Divestiture is a way to contribute to M.I.T. while demonstrating disapproval of the Institute's continued investment in companies doing business in or with South Africa. It is designed to pressure the M.I.T. administration for complete and immediate divestment.

Why South Africa?

South Africa is the only country in the world where racism is the guiding principle of the legal, political, economic, and social system. Apartheid is legalized racism; brutality and repression grow worse daily.

- Black South Africans are not citizens in their own nation. They cannot vote and their property and employment rights are limited.
- South Africa spends 10 cents on an African child's education to every dollar spent on a white child's education. African employees average 20% of the wages of their white counterparts. One-half of African children die of malnutrition before the age of six.
- Police violently quash opposition to apartheid, killing thousands every year. The government imprisons people - many of them young children - without trial and makes it a crime to mention their names.

"Torture is extensively inflicted on political detainees, and ... the government sanctions its use"
- Amnesty International

Why Divestiture?

As the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Africa reported, "The net effect of American investment has been to strengthen the economic and military self-sufficiency of South Africa's apartheid regime." U.S. companies dominate the South African computer market, sell its government oil and coal gasification technologies, and build its military vehicles.

South African leaders recognize the importance of foreign investment and have called for its immediate withdrawal. In Gallup polls, over three-quarters of urban Black South Africans said they favored divestment; this despite the fact that under South African law any person who advocates divestment commits the crime of "subversion", for which the penalty can be twenty years in prison.

"The economic boycott of South Africa will entail undoubtful hardship for Africans. We do not doubt that. But it is a method which shortens the day of bloodshed, the suffering to us will be the price we are willing to pay"

- Albert Luthili, Nobel Laureate and past president of the African National Congress

Can Divestiture Work?

The divestiture campaign has already affected many hundreds of millions of dollars worth of investments and bank deposits. As of January 1987, 19 states, 70 cities and 116 universities as well as numerous religious bodies, unions, corporations, and foundations have adopted measures mandating divestment. As a result of the divestiture movement and the growing internal resistance to apartheid, an increasing number of companies have disinvested, ending their involvement in South Africa.

The effects of divestment and disinvestment lie in their public impact. Divestiture aids anti-apartheid efforts when it is a step taken boldly, publicly and with full explanation. Ultimately, divestiture further isolates the brutal South African regime morally, politically, and economically within the international community.

"We arrived at that painful conclusion that the only other method, the only other peaceful method we could use to pressure Pretoria, the racist regime in this country, is disinvestment.."

- Winnie Mandela

Why M.I.T.?

By divesting, M.I.T. can meaningfully influence corporate policy and support the struggle of black South Africans, by divesting its holdings. M.I.T. president Paul Grey says that divestment is inappropriate because it is a political statement, but the Institute's continued investment is itself a political statement in support of apartheid.

Futhermore, the majority of the M.I.T. community opposes this investment. The faculty voted 3-to-1 in favor of divestment, despite the administration's vocal disapproval. The Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council voted for divestment. And in a campus-wide referendum on divestment, 58% of the

undergraduates approved of divestment while graduate students voted yes by a 4-to-1 margin.

"Major American institutions, like M.I.T., can play a crucial role by divesting their portfolios of South Africa related investments."

- Bruce A. Morrison, '65, U.S. Congress (CT)

What is the Endowment for Divestiture?

The MIT Endowment for Divestiture is a charitable trust that accepts alumni/ae contributions to M.I.T., but holds them in escrow until the M.I.T. portfolio is free of South Africa-related investments. MIT alumni/ae and professors established the Endowment in 1986 to give alumni/ae a voice in the M.I.T. divestment movement. Similar funds have been started at many colleges, including Harvard and Yale.

If M.I.T. does not divest by 1994, the contributions to the Endowment will go instead to Amnesty International and the United Negro College Fund. In the meantime, Endowment funds will be invested in accounts free of South African investments. A portion of the interest generated by the Endowment and contributions earmarked to administrative costs are used for fund-raising and educational programs that provide information about the South African situation and divestiture.

What Can I Do?

It is time for each of us to act on our beliefs. We can make a difference. The MIT Endowment for Divestiture provides alumni/ae a creative way to show concern for both M.I.T. and the people of South Africa. Alumni/ae are important to M.I.T. and each contribution to the Endowment puts pressure on M.I.T. to divest.

Your contribution will be even more effective if you write to the M.I.T. Alumni Fund and the M.I.T. Corporation. Tell them of your decision to contribute to M.I.T. through the Endowment for Divestiture and of your opposition to M.I.T.'s investments in South Africa.

Through the Endowment, you can send a gift and a message to M.I.T. ■

"Contributions to the Endowment convey to MIT a notion of what the Institute should be."

- Willard Johnson, Professor of Political Science

Yes. I want to donate to M.I.T. through the Endowment for Divestiture to demonstrate my support for complete and immediate divestment from companies doing business in or with South Africa.

\$250 \$100 \$50 other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclose your tax-deductable contribution to the MIT Endowment for Divestiture and send to:

The MIT Endowment for Divestiture
c/o Professor Willard Johnson
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Room E53-429
Cambridge, MA 02139

- You may use \$_____ of my contribution for administrative and fund raising expenses.
- I have written to M.I.T. and told them of my support for divestment.
- You may use my name as a supporter.

Trustees

Professor Willard Johnson

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