

MEMO

African Studies Program

FROM Dave Wiley

DATE 11.2.76

TO

Here is a resolution which has been developed by the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa and now is before the Madison Common Council. It will not pass without wider support than MACSA members.

Would you like to sign the enclosed letter to be sent to various Africanist and Afro-Americanist faculty by myself and others, seeking their signing of the petition and support of the resolution?

If you are willing to join me, please telephone Diane Henning in African Studies (2-2380) and, if possible stop by to sign your name. The letter will be offset (at my expense) on Thursday with as many names as have been obtained.

Thanks for your consideration.

1458 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Campus
November 2, 1976

Dear colleague,

A resolution has been introduced before the Madison Common Council "to Implement Council Resolution 29.355 of June 29, 1976." The resolution is directed to "award (City of Madison) contracts and purchase agreements to companies which have chosen not to develop economic interests in the Republic of South Africa..."

While the resolution has the support of several alderpersons and a number of clergy and members of religious organizations, it is not likely to pass without the support of persons like yourself whose opinions and judgements are highly regarded.

If you can support this symbolic effort at ethical and responsible uses of economic power, please -

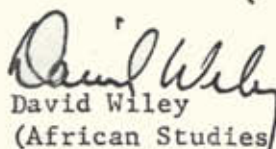
1. Sign the petition yourself.
2. Telephone your alderperson and the mayor to indicate your support of the resolution.
3. Obtain signatures from any of your colleagues.
4. Return the petition to one of us by November 15, the day before action on the resolution is likely.

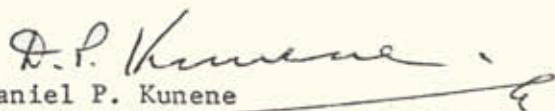
We believe that the resolution helps to indicate to American companies and to the government our conviction that the economic power of our nation should not be utilized to support the increasingly repressive South African government through investments and strategic support. The South African regime has indicated that they could not stand without American economic and moral support, which this resolution seeks to begin to withdraw.

Incidentally, the resolution has been reviewed already by the City Attorney, who indicates "no fiscal consequence," thereby freeing the resolution for its current review by the Board of Estimates in preparation for action by the Council in late November. Similar resolutions in Washington, D.C. and Gary, Indiana have not passed.

Please join us in this "message" to the South Africans, the companies, and the government.

Sincerely yours,


David Wiley
(African Studies Program)


Daniel P. Kunene
(Dept. of African Languages and Literature)

A Petition

We, the undersigned residents of Madison, call upon our alderpersons and mayor to vote affirmatively for "A Bill to Implement Madison Common Council Resolution 29.355 of June 29, 1976." We believe that this measure expresses our continuing and growing abhorrence at the treatment of African people in South Africa and for the participation of American corporations in this exploitation of apartheid.

Signed

Address

A Bill to Implement Madison Common Council Resolution 29,355 of June 29, 1976.

WHEREAS, the minority, white South African Government maintains its apartheid (segregation) system over the majority (87%) of non-white Africans through force, violence, fraud and terror; and

WHEREAS, American financial and industrial investments in that South African government serves only to strengthen and to perpetuate minority, apartheid rule; and

WHEREAS, the South African government has been condemned repeatedly by a majority of the countries which constitute the United Nations organization; and

WHEREAS, the recent South African police killing of hundreds and injuring of thousands of adults and school children in the black ghetto complex of Soweto and throughout South Africa are the predictable outgrowth of apartheid; and

WHEREAS, surveillance and control of black South Africans is made highly effective through modern technological equipment supplied by certain American industrial corporations; and

WHEREAS, South Africa continues to illegally occupy Namibia (South West Africa) in spite of World Court decisions to the contrary and continues as the sole supplier of war material to the illegal regime in Rhodesia; and

WHEREAS, the presence of these American corporations (and others), in perpetuating apartheid, also assists in perpetuating starvation wages for black South Africans and thus feeds the explosive tensions that are sweeping South Africa; and

WHEREAS, American corporations investing in South Africa have voluntarily taken advantage of the racial system of job discrimination and low wages, including the following:

- 80% of African workers earn less than the Poverty Datum Line, defined by the white government as the bare family subsistence level;
- African strikes, collective bargaining, and absence from work without due cause are all prohibited by law;
- Africans cannot hold supervisory positions above whites by law;
- Wage ratios of whites to blacks range from 5:1 in manufacturing to 15:1 in mining; and

WHEREAS, many American corporations have increased their investments rapidly in recent years as repression increased and in spite of pleas from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and many world leaders for the American people to end this economic support of the South African apartheid system; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 29,355 of Madison Common Council, adopted June 29, 1976, urges use of economic means to seek change in South Africa;

Be it resolved that:

1) The City of Madison provide for public inspection a list of all corporations having economic interests in South Africa with which the city has contracts currently in force. "Economic interests" are here defined as including a) direct investment, b) licensing and leasing agreements, and c) the operation of sales outlets in the Republic of South Africa;