

Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa
731 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
November 1, 1976

Dear Pastor or Religious Worker:

This letter is to request your assistance in support of a resolution before the Madison Common Council to signal our commitment to peace and justice in Southern Africa. Enclosed is the draft of a bill which seeks to reward those American corporations which have chosen not to use the legally exploitative apartheid system of South Africa to seek ever higher profits.

As you know, for the sake of cheap black labor, the South African government has erected the segregated society which denies virtually every human right to its black citizens, separates father and mother from children, and denies education and jobs on the basis of color. This system creates the highest imprisonment rate in the world, the highest arrest rate of its black citizens, and probably the highest infant mortality rate in the world (according to the recent estimate of one medical sociologist). It does all this in the name of "Christian civilization" in a land in which a large proportion of the blacks also are regular church-attending Christians.

We believe it is important for American Christians, citizens of the world's most powerful nation, to speak-out clearly against this exploitation in the name of their religion. It is important to dissociate ourselves from this inhumanity and to begin by giving support to those American companies which have chosen not to profit by South African exploitation. Again and again, South Africans have admitted that they could not stand without American moral and economic support. As global citizens, we Christians must use the power we have to stop the support of this racist regime and make clear that our faith precludes such injustice.

Action is likely to be taken on the resolution on or shortly after Nov. 16!
We ask that you:

1. Sign this petition yourself.
2. Obtain as many signatures as possible from your church officers and parishoners.
3. Make two telephone calls - one to your alderperson and one to the mayor to indicate your support of this bill.
4. Bring this opportunity for Christian responsibility to the attention of those attending your church - in your bulletin, sermons, service announcements, and meetings of social action committees.

Our committee (MACSA), which was founded by several of us who are former seminarians and employees of the American churches and World Student Christian Federation, will be happy to provide you with speakers and preachers on the Southern Africa situation, films and slide-tape programs, and information on the various Southern African nations.

Please join us in this act of Christian ethical responsibility.

David Wiley
David Wiley, BA, BD, PhD
African Studies Program, UW
Joyce Manson
Rev. Joyce Manson
Madison Campus Ministry

Most sincerely,
Selina Kunene Selina Kunene
Marylee Wiley Marylee Wiley
South African Member First Congregational Church
Henry Bucher Henry Bucher, BA, BD
Chuxck Kamen Chuxck Kamen, United of Madison
Alice M. Schacht, Pres. Alice M. Schacht, Pres.

EXPLICATION OF THE RESOLUTION

1) The purpose of Paragraph One is to articulate for the public the extent to which the City of Madison engages in commercial transactions with corporations having investments with the apartheid regime of South Africa. Such a listing of contracted parties will give the City a better understanding of the need and effect of any future selective purchasing policy which may be implemented. No doubt there will be some labor involved in researching and compiling such a list; however, the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa has offered its time and resources to assist in this endeavor for no cost.

2) Paragraph Two encourages city administrators to award contracts to companies which do not benefit from the racially discriminatory practices of South Africa. Some corporations may provide lower bids on City contracts as a result of repressive labor policies they pursue in South Africa; moreover, many City contracts are not held directly with the producing corporation but, rather, with local and regional distributors. A selective purchasing policy will free the City to reward manufacturers who conform to international law and morality, as well as to act on previous City commitments to encourage change in South Africa through economic strategies (City Council Resolution of June 29, 1976).

The increasing local interest in City-administered 'development corporations' and the like, has necessitated the inclusion of 'public corporations'. In short, such bodies must adhere to the principles discussed in Paragraph Two and must therefore seek to abstain from rewarding corporations practicing racial discrimination in South Africa.

This Paragraph also is designed to recognize City of Madison's willingness to comply with the decisions of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice regarding trade with South Africa.

3) Paragraph Three requests the Mayor's signature to a notice expressing concern for U.S. corporate involvement with the apartheid regime of South Africa. This notice could be affixed with the standard statement on a rubber stamp.

4) The purpose of Paragraph Four is to define a specific expiration date for Paragraphs One, Two and Three. The problems which the African continent faces demand African solutions, and following generations of European rule, it is only fair that Africans judge for themselves when majority rule has indeed been implemented in South Africa.

Name of church _____

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