

November 27, 1976

Dear Alderperson

This Tuesday the Madison Common Council will be considering "A Bill To Implement Madison Common Council Resolution 29.355 of June 29, 1976." Resolution 29.355 deplored the violence occurring in South Africa and encouraged diplomatic and economic means as agents for social change. This resolution received immediate praise from Senator Nelson and Congressman Kastenmeier.

The bill being considered Tuesday allows the City to use its contracts with those U.S. corporations having investments in South Africa as a "persuasion mechanism" to encourage moves toward racial equality in South Africa. This bill is consistent with President-elect Carter's desire to maintain "constraining" relations with South Africa to promote democratic rule.

In short, the City is being asked to list those corporations having investments in South Africa with which the City currently has contracts in force. A list of eligible corporations has already been compiled and Mayor Soglin's office assured the Board of Estimates earlier this month that matching up the corporations will be an easy task. A notice attached to future contracts expressing "concern" over the company's investments in South Africa fulfills the second part of the bill.

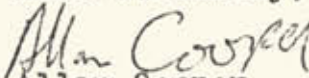
The Board of Estimates voted unanimously two weeks ago to support the bill, noting there were no financial obligations on the City for implementation. The City Attorney confirms this non-financial obligation.

The University of Wisconsin African Studies Program has also extended its support to this bill; petitions from the faculty and staff have been forwarded to the Mayor and the Common Council Chairperson.

Petitions of support have also been forwarded to the Mayor and the Common Council Chairperson from over 120 members of the following religious congregations: St. Marks Lutheran, University United Methodist, Madison Friends Meetings, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Madison Campus Ministry, Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, St. Francis House, Church Women United, Unitarian Church, and St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Our committee, the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa, is an interdenominational organization founded by former seminarians and employees of the American Churches and World Student Christian Federation. We urge your support of this bill on Tuesday.

Most sincerely,


Allan Cooper
MACSA convener
256-0944



Edgar Lockwood



Bill Anderson

South African recalls atrocities

By Thomas W. Still
Of The State Journal

Water torture, beatings, mutilations and executions were the fates of hundreds of black prisoners taken by South African soldiers in a sweep through the neighboring country of Namibia this year.

That's the account of Bill Anderson, 21, a Cape Town native who deserted the South African army in July rather than go on witnessing the atrocities.

Anderson, who served a year with an infantry battalion that fought in Angola and along the "no man's land" strip separating Angola from northern Namibia, is in Madison to speak on his army experiences.

Anderson, who testified before a United Nations subcommittee on Namibia this summer, will be joined by the director of the Washington Office on Africa in the 8 p.m. Tuesday speech in the Wisconsin Center Auditorium.

In a sweep that was dubbed "Operation Cobra," Anderson's battalion spent most of May and June cleaning up pockets of guerrilla resistance in northern Namibia.

A kilometer wide strip of jungle was stripped clean of all vegetation, he said, and "anything that moves in that area is simply shot." About 45,000 South African troops participated in the action, he said.

South Africa administers the "free fire zone" in defiance of a U.N. mandate. The white-ruled nation is controlling the zone for fear that black Angolan forces will sweep through Namibia to South Africa.

It was during Operation Cobra, Anderson recalled, that numerous atrocities occurred.

"Every male over the age of puberty was brought in" during recent patrols of the zone, said Anderson. "The orders were to kill those who ran and arrest those who did not run. All the arrested men were beaten, tortured and interrogated without exception."

A battalion commander ordered one soldier "to take three suspects down to the river . . . and shoot them," said Anderson, and that was followed by mutilation of the bodies for war souvenirs.

Numerous men were submitted to water and electrical shock tortures, he

said, and were regularly beaten, burned with cigarettes and forced to eat sand.

"A good 90 percent of the men in my battalion cooperated," said Anderson, who began as a health orderly but was later made the company cook. "It was spoken of as a pleasure."

Torture sessions usually began after 9 p.m., he said, when a makeshift bar closed down. "The screams often went on past midnight," Anderson said.

Anderson, a student and son of a prominent South African marine biologist, was a "conscript," or draftee in the army. After his first year's service was up in July, he fled the country rather than report for his next three-month tour of duty in September.

If he were to return to South Africa, said Anderson, the apartheid government would "more than likely do away with me in some quiet way."

He's been on a nationwide speaking tour since testifying before the U.N., and thinks South Africa's minority rule government is doomed to fall.

Anderson said that struggle could be averted if Western countries, including the United States, would cease "propagating up" South Africa's economy and government.

Edgar Lockwood, director of the Washington Office on Africa, said a "growing investment" by American companies in South Africa is helping to hold that nation's economy together.

American investments have increased 20 percent a year in South Africa, he said, and American banks have loaned an estimated \$3-billion to the country.

Lockwood said these investments won't pay off in the long run, as majority rule may find American interests booted out of South Africa.