

TO: CWM Member:

Here are letters to send to friends to send to Johnson, Rusk and members of Congress. Change the letter to fit personal concerns pr position. Please still send it even if tiwill arrive after the 19th.

South Africa Committe of NSCF
March 3, 1965

To: Members of N.S.C.F. on Christian Peace Concerns
Members of N.S.C.F. Committee on South Africa
Steering Committee of Young Friends of North America
Yale Divinity School community, and other concerned individuals

Dear friends,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent to President Johnson concerning economic sanctions against South Africa. Similar letters are being written to Secretary of State Rusk, my ~~senators~~ and representative. I hope very much that you will do likewise.

On March 19, 1965, the National Student Christian Federation is supporting the demonstrations initiated by Students for a Democratic Society, to be held at the central offices of some of the 160-odd U.S. corporations operating in South Africa. These companies provide the major bulwark of support stabilizing the oppressive South African government; included are motor, fuel, drug, mining, and utility corporations, in addition to major banking concerns. If such a demonstration is being held in your community, I encourage you to participate in it; if you would like to initiate a local effort, please write or call Paul Booth, S.D.S. Peace Research and Education Project, 1100 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104 (phone 313-764-7480). These demonstrations will hopefully underscore the fact that the U.S. is very deeply implicated in the South African apartheid system.

Along with these demonstrations it is essential that political pressure be applied. Therefore, I hope that you personally will write the President, Secretary Rusk, your senators and congressmen. You are welcome to use ideas similar to those I express in the attached letter, if you are in agreement with them.

It would also be helpful if you could send copies of your letter (or mine, if you prefer) to people with whom you have contact, who would be interested in joining the writing campaign. In this way we may be able to make a widespread effort between now and March 19.

Thank you very much.

Your friend,



Jim Vaughan, chairman
Committee on Christian Peace Concerns
National Student Christian Federation

COPY

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20025

Dear Mr. President:

On March 19, 1965, the fifth anniversary of the South African Sharpeville massacre of 72 Africans, there will be numerous demonstrations across the nation, protesting the deep involvement of the United States in the repressive apartheid policy of South Africa. I urge you to act quickly and forthrightly in instituting economic sanctions against South Africa, in line with the recommendations made by the vast majority at the United Nations. Such sanctions would represent an important step toward pressuring that country to abandon its possession, and encouraging it to work toward a truly multi-racial society.

It is very dishonorable that our country is so heavily involved in bolstering the South African economy, through the Atomic Energy Commission's uranium contract, through extensive investments of U.S. industries, and through loans extended by U.S. dominated financial institutions. It is widely acknowledged that economic sanctions by the United States, Britain and others are the only measures short of violence that will alter the apartheid policy.

I therefore urge you to exert your influence to gain such sanctions for two extremely important reasons: because of the inherent justice in the African cause, and because of the threat to world peace which would result from the violent measures that are imminent.

Our tacit support of apartheid in South Africa is totally inconsistent with our concern for race relations within the United States. There, the rights of the vast majority of citizens are being suppressed through rigid laws and direct methods of extreme cruelty. This gross injustice alone is sufficient reason for our government to take effective steps to discourage all public and private involvement in the South African economy.

Beyond this, the entire situation is a powder-keg for violence, and thus for escalation of the conflict into a major "hot battle" of the "cold war". When violence erupts against the government, as it may in the very near future, there is every likelihood that it will spread to other parts of Africa, especially Rhodesia and Angola. Furthermore, the involvement of China and Russia would be highly probable, in an effort that would elicit the sympathetic support of the overwhelming majority of Africans, Asians, and sensitive Americans and Europeans. Obviously this would pose an immense threat to world peace, because other vested interests would rally behind the white minority. Let us work toward justice and peace through economic sanctions against apartheid, while there is still time to avert such violence.

I write as an individual, but this concern is shared by many others who are aware of United States implication in the apartheid policy. I hope that you will act upon this matter with urgency.

signed: