

Apartheid is supported by American money

Good Friday is for us the occasion when our awareness of suffering is acute because we remember Christ's suffering and death. This year we are particularly aware of the suffering of blacks in South Africa at the hands of the Vorster regime.

The government of South Africa strangles criticism by banning, imprisoning, moving and harassing its citizens. The government of South Africa cripples black citizens by leaving them homeless, jobless and disenfranchised.

In the last year the death of Stephen Biko, the sham of an inquest, and the bannings of leading clergy and journalists, black and white, who protested these events, shocked the world. Pleading with American friends for the cessation of capital flow to South Africa, black and white South African religious community leaders such as Rev. Beyers Naude, Rev. Theo Kotze, and Rev. Richard Brown have charged that American bank loans support the political, financial, and military legitimization of apartheid. The voices of these leaders are no longer heard. All three are banned.

Apartheid is financed by American money. The First National Bank of Bos-

ton has approximately \$28 million in current loans to South Africa. Approximately \$14 million has been loaned directly to the South African government.

We, the undersigned Boston-area clergy and at least 21 others are committed to a program of withdrawal of accounts from the First National Bank of Boston as a witness to our refusal to support a white supremacist government. We call on Christians and all persons of good will to join us in showing concern for the human condition in South Africa by protesting to the First National Bank in the name of Christ, who died in order that all might be free.

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS
Harvard Divinity School

BILL DWYER
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

ELENORA IVORY
Gloucester Memorial
Presbyterian Church

WILLIAM B. McCLAIN
Union United Methodist Church

SISTER MARIE
AUGUSTA NEAL, S.N.D.
Emmanuel College
and 21 others