

\$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID  
2160 Lake Street  
San Francisco, CA 94121

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Greetings -

This letter is an update on \$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID, Prexy Nesbitt's visit out here (as coordinator for the national Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa), and the meeting held last Sunday to begin formalizing our strategy and structure.

The issue of bank involvement, specifically Bank of America, in South Africa and in our local communities is one which is generating a lot of interest and providing considerable momentum to the \$BoA campaign. The response to the public meetings and media work during Prexy's visit has been extremely encouraging. Now all we need is people to carry through on this interest and we'll really have a full-fledged campaign!

The outreach before Prexy's visit, as well as his talks with various individuals, organizations and unions, has helped immensely in publicizing \$BoA and the issues we're raising. Many individuals were expressing the desire to work more closely with us in spreading the word and putting time into all the work which needs to be done. Thus, when we realized Prexy would have 2 hours available at the end of his extremely tight schedule, we felt it important to have a meeting with him to more formally discuss local and national strategy and our organizational structure. Sooo "at the last minute" we called a meeting Sunday (the 9th) from 5 to 7. Around 20 people were able to come.

We reaffirmed our desire to work in coordination with the national bank campaign, particularly around a national day of withdrawal tentatively planned in the U.S. and Canada on March 21 (in commemoration of the Sharpeville massacres in South Africa in 1960). We also felt it important to begin our own withdrawal actions and endorsements in order to generate support for such a national day (i.e., we're not waiting until then to begin our campaign). To this end, we discussed and settled on an organizational structure.

FORMAL COALITION: Made up of endorsers and supporters of the \$BoA campaign. It would meet once a month or so. A minimum contribution would be requested.

WORKING GROUPS: Finance, Research, Publicity and Mobilization. Within each of these, subgroups would focus on redlining, employment practices, South Africa, alternatives, and the use of pension and retirement funds; as well as the community sectors we're working with (such as unions, churches, campuses, community organizations, etc.). These groups would be the backbone of the campaign and would need to meet at least once a month to coordinate their on-going work.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Key individuals from each Working Group would be selected to serve on this Committee. It would need to meet twice a month in order to assure the smooth functioning of our campaign. It was suggested that members rotate every 4 months or so to share experience as well as work tasks.

COORDINATOR(S): At this stage, at least one person is needed to continue outreach, notify people of meetings, consolidate information, etc. The Finance Group is actively looking for funding. It is hoped that by January money would be available for a part-time coordinator for each group or 2 full-time positions. In the meantime, I'm continuing on in this role.



It must be emphasized that such an organizational structure is meant to facilitate the working relationships between already functioning groups and organizations. In this manner, they can take an active role in the campaign at various levels without over-extending their own resources.

And so we move on, striving "to seize the moment". The first meeting of the Research and Publicity Groups will be THIS Saturday, October 15 at 3 pm, at EARTHWORK, 1499 Potrero (at the Army Street interchange or bottom of Potrero) in San Francisco. This will be a work session: we'll finish editing the pamphlet, compile the basic information packets, discuss revisions of the slide show and begin developing a publicity strategy (we've sure got some good ideas--innovation is the key...). This work is crucial to carrying the campaign public, so sure hope many of you can attend. There'll even be some refreshments to keep energy levels up...

Remember, the interest and enthusiasm are abounding, but we need to get the basics in a distributable form before such interest can be adequately served. PLEASE COME AND HELP!

In solidarity,

*Miloanne*

Miloanne Hecathorn for  
\$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID

Enc: L.A. Times article on national banking campaign.