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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 CHURCH STOCKHOLDER RESOLUTIONS TARGET NUCLEAR POWER, SOUTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, Feb. 13----In what has become an annual campaign to change the policies of American corporations, church groups have made nuclear energy and South Africa the major targets in this year's round of stockholder resolutions.

Ranging from demands for the termination of bank loans to South Africa to the abandonment of new nuclear plants, 1981's resolutions will take on such giants as Ford, General Motors, Citicorp, IBM, Mobil, American Electric Power, Consolidated Edison and Westinghouse Electric.

Overall, 26 corporations will be asked to change or review their investment policies in South Africa, while eight more will be petitioned on the subject of nuclear power and conservation. Over 50 religious organizations holding roughly \$29 million in stock have joined in the two efforts, which are being coordinated by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a related movement of the National Council of Churches.

Other resolutions on a variety of subjects, from plant closings to toxic chemicals to nuclear weapons production, bring the total of church-backed resolutions submitted this year to 88, according to ICCR.

Already several companies have agreed to the demands raised by stockholder groups, leading to the withdrawal of several resolutions. Colgate Palmolive has pledged to issue a report to its shareholders regarding its South African operations, Citicorp has agreed to adopt a loan policy that takes human rights violations into account, and Security Pacific Bank has agreed not to make or renew any loans to the South African government while apartheid continues.

NUCLEAR ENERGY CAMPAIGN ENTERS SECOND YEAR

The church-backed nuclear energy campaign, now in its second year, seeks to turn a number of utilities and investment firms away from nuclear power, urging them instead to focus on conservation and alternative energy sources.

"Numerous church investors are deeply concerned about the ethical considerations that energy choices raise," explains ICCR's Margaret Morgan-Hubbard. "But as owners of substantial shares in utility and other energy-related corporations, they also are interested in the economic factors determining energy production.

"Nuclear energy has proven to be a poor, highly risky investment for utility companies across the nation. Because of the excessive cost overruns and unpredictable waste disposal and decommissioning fees, the nuclear industry has priced itself virtually out of existence.

"In resolutions this year church investors urge the corporations which have invested in nuclear to forsake that path and shift to the safe and affordable alternatives of conservation and renewables."

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Four utilities--Consolidated Edison, Commonwealth Edison, Philadelphia Electric and Dayton Power and Light--will be asked to forego future development of nuclear power plants until they are proven safe, in their place substituting aggressive conservation and alternative energy programs. In addition, Consolidated Edison will face a request that it close down its Indian Point reactors, Philadelphia Electric will be asked to halt construction on its Limerick nuclear power plant and Commonwealth Edison's board will be asked to investigate possible mismanagement by company executives in their dependence on nuclear power.

American Electric Power's stockholders will be asked to review plans for the Zimmer reactor near Cincinnati, while Westinghouse will face a resolution opposing the sale of a reactor planned near the site of several volcanos and a geological fault in the Philippines.

A resolution filed with Union Electric in St. Louis seeks an annual report from the board of directors on the projected costs of any accident that would shut down its Callaway nuclear plant for over six months. Marshall & Ilsley, an investment firm in Wisconsin, will face a resolution demanding that it halt further financing of nuclear power, including the Haven Nuclear Power Plant, until the dangers associated with nuclear energy are resolved.

And finally, several church groups plan to file a resolution asking UNC Resources, a firm involved in uranium mining, milling and nuclear fuel production, to answer a series of questions about a radioactive spill in Church Rock, New Mexico.

Those filing nuclear-related resolutions include the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Clergy and Laity Concerned, Church Women United, a number of Roman Catholic orders and an agency of the United Methodist Church.

SOUTH AFRICA CAMPAIGN GAINING MOMENTUM

1981 will mark the eleventh year in which churches have filed resolutions opposing corporate support for apartheid in South Africa. According to ICCR Executive Director Tim Smith, support for the South Africa campaign has grown rapidly in recent years, particularly from institutional investors.

"Last year voting support for specific resolutions came from sources as diverse as Harvard University, the pension funds of California and Connecticut, the Ford Foundation and Equitable Life Insurance Co.," Smith says.

"Church commitment is stronger than ever. We have been encouraged by dozens of banks that have stopped lending to the South African government and its agencies. In addition to shareholder resolutions, we expect a growing number of churches to sever relations with banks, such as Citibank, that continue to lend to the South African government."

This year's South Africa resolutions fall into several categories:

*Wells Fargo Bank, Crocker National Bank and Merrill Lynch will be asked not to make or renew any loans to the government of South Africa "until the system of racist laws and regulations has been revoked and meaningful steps have been taken in the direction of majority rule...."

*Control Data Corp. and Sperry Corp. will be asked to terminate all operations in South Africa until the government commits itself to ending apartheid, while Fluor Corp. will be asked to do the same with all its contracts with the government of South Africa.

*Hewlett-Packard and IBM will be petitioned to ban the sale, lease or service of computers to or for the South African government, except in cases of exclusive medical or humanitarian use.

*Citicorp and Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust will be invited to establish committees to review their loans to South Africa and report to their stockholders.

*Doyle Dane Bernbach Inc. and Republic National Bank of New York will be asked to cease all involvement in the promotion or sale of South African Krugerrands and all relationships with the South African Chamber of Mines until apartheid ends.

*Borg Warner, Eaton Corp., International Harvester and Xerox Corp. will face resolutions demanding that they make no further investments nor expand any operations in South Africa until the government has shown a commitment to end apartheid.

*U.S. Steel and Dresser Industries will be petitioned to adopt the Sullivan Six Principles, a code outlining non-discriminatory workplace conditions, or terminate all operations in South Africa.

*General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Eastman Kodak will be asked to conduct a review of their South African connections, including at least one public hearing.

*Mobil Oil will be asked to ban sales and services to the South African police or military, Superior Oil to cease all operations in Namibia until South Africa ends its illegal occupation, Englehard Minerals to issue a full report on its involvement in South Africa, First Chicago Bank to adopt a loan policy that takes human rights into account, and Bank of America to report on its loans to the South African government over the last 10 years.

Filers include the National Council of Churches, the American Lutheran Church, the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the Reformed Church in America, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church in Canada, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Canada, Church Women United, agencies of the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., Union Theological Seminary, Vassar College, the New World Foundation and numerous Roman Catholic orders, including the Sisters of Charity, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy.

Unless they are withdrawn after negotiated agreements, the resolutions will come up for a vote at the corporations' annual stockholder meetings, most of which are held in April or May.

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Note to editors and reporters: ICCR has compiled an annual proxy packet that includes all shareholder resolutions sponsored by churches. Free copies are available to the press from ICCR. For more information contact Timothy Smith, ICCR executive director (212-870-2294) or Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, ICCR energy project (212-870-2926).

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The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America is a cooperative agency of Christian communions seeking to fulfill the unity and mission to which God calls them. The member communions, responding to the gospel revealed in the Scriptures, confess Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, as Savior and Lord. Relying on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, the council works to bring churches into a life-giving fellowship and into common witness, study and action to the glory of God and in service to all creation.

(Preamble, NCC Constitution)

LIST OF MEMBER COMMUNIONS

THE 32 MEMBER COMMUNIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

African Methodist Episcopal Church	National Council of Community Churches
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	Orthodox Church in America
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	Patriarchal Parishes of the
The Antiochian Orthodox Christian	Russian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A.
Archdiocese of North America	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the
Armenian Church of America	Religious Society of Friends
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	Polish National Catholic Church of
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	America
Church of the Brethren	The Presbyterian Church in the
Coptic Orthodox Church in North America	United States
The Episcopal Church	Progressive National Baptist
Friends United Meeting	Convention, Inc.
General Convention, the Swedenborgia	Reformed Church in America
Church	Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North	Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
and South America	Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America
Hungarian Reformed Church in America	United Church of Christ
Lutheran Church in America	The United Methodist Church
Moravian Church in America	The United Presbyterian Church in the
Northern Province Southern Province	United States of America
National Baptist Convention of America	
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.	