



# INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

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March 12, 1985

Professor David Wiley  
729 Sunset  
East Lansing, Mich. 48823

Dear Professor Wiley:

In 1982 the City Commission of Grand Rapids passed a resolution directing that, as long as South Africa's official policy is racial apartheid, the City's idle funds not be invested in banks, businesses, or other entities which do business in/with that country. Recently, Kent County Commissioner James Vaughn drafted a similar resolution for consideration by the Commissioners of Kent County. A draft copy of Commissioner Vaughn's resolution is enclosed for your examination. The resolution is scheduled for presentation to the five-member Legislative Committee of the Kent County Commission on March 25, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 311, County Building, Ottawa Avenue, N.W., downtown Grand Rapids.

This is the first step toward passage of the resolution by the entire County Commission. Commissioner Vaughn has invited the support and assistance of the Coalition for Local Reinvestment in building support for passage of this resolution. We are especially seeking letters of endorsement and support for the resolution from a variety of religious, academic and civic organizations within and outside of Kent County. I am writing you now, on behalf of the Coalition, to urge your organization to write a letter supporting the resolution and addressed to the Kent County Commission.

The Institute for Global Education, of which the Coalition is a project, has agreed to facilitate the delivery to the Commissioners of all supporting letters. Specifically, we request that you send your letter to the IGE office together with five letterheads from your organization which we can use to produce five copies of your letter. We shall send these copies, together with copies of letters received from other organizations, to the five members of the County Commission's Legislative Committee.

Since time is short before the March 25 Committee meeting, we urge you to act as soon as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at the above phone number.

For the Coalition for Local Reinvestment,

Dr. James Phillips

JP:ep



RESOLUTION BY COMMISSION VAUGHN

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners does not condone, encourage or support racism or discrimination based upon race and has so stated in the past, and

WHEREAS, the People of Kent County would not encourage, condone or support discrimination upon the basis of color or race, but would seek elimination of such anywhere it might be practiced, and

WHEREAS, the Government of South Africa practices legally-required discrimination against individuals in its County based upon race and color, and

WHEREAS, the investment of "idle" County funds in financial institutions making or maintaining loans to the Republic of South Africa or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa can be construed as encouraging, condoning and supporting such legally-required discrimination on the basis of race or color, and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners recognizes that investment of County funds should be based upon the premise that the people's money should be used for the people's benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Investment Policy of the County of Kent be amended to include the following:

"To be a depository of 'idle' funds belonging to the County of Kent, a financial institution shall not encourage, support, or condone legally-required discrimination against an individual on the basis of race or color, by knowingly making or maintaining a loan to the Republic of South Africa, or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a limited States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa. A financial institution shall be considered to have complied with this resolution if the financial institution has filed with the County Treasurer an affidavit attesting to the fact that it has, after January 1, 1986, no existing loans to the Republic of South Africa, a national corporation of the Republic of South Africa, or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa, as determined from information obtained from the United States Department of Commerce."