

**Cities Use Purchasing Power to Fight Apartheid****MORE STATES DIVEST**

Cities and counties across the US are beginning to use their purchasing power to fight apartheid. By April 1986, more than 24 cities and counties had passed legislation restricting purchases of goods from South Africa and goods from corporations with investments in South Africa. As a result of these actions, companies with investments in South Africa will lose billions of dollars in contracts to companies with no investments in the apartheid system.

The Los Angeles City Council turned down a \$250 million contract with Allied-Signal Inc. in early 1986 largely because of that company's investment in South Africa. Ogden Martin, the company that eventually got the contract, widely publicized Allied's operations in South Africa. Mayor Tom Bradley has since called for a selective purchase ordinance.

In December, San Francisco turned down a bid from another company, Combustion Engineering, Inc. for construction of a massive \$500 million trash burning complex. Combustion Engineering's investment in South Africa was cited as the principal reason the contract was turned down by the City Council. The San Francisco action inspired activists in Detroit, where the City Council had recently signed a \$500 million contract with Combustion Engineering, to propose selective purchase legislation.

ACOA has been actively campaigning for legislators and activists to consider selective purchase legislation as a logical follow-up to earlier divestment actions. Discussion of purchasing laws was a major focus at ACOA's national conference on municipal legislative action last fall and the most recent Public Investment Newsletter—which was mailed out to one thousand key legislators and activists—

included a model selective purchase ordinance. (The newsletter is available from ACOA for \$1 prepaid.)

**Vermont, West Virginia Divest**

The campaign for divestment of public funds continues to grow. In May, victories in Vermont and West Virginia brought to 19 the number of states to take divestment action. Other recent divestment actions have occurred in St. Louis, MO, Richmond, CA, and Raleigh, NC. In 1985 eleven states and 36 cities and counties passed divestment legislation, more than

double the number of actions in all the previous years.

ACOA staff visited many of the 36 states considering divestment legislation this year. For instance, Executive Director Jennifer Davis spoke in favor of legislation in Missouri, New Hampshire and California, and Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo visited Virginia, Vermont and Wisconsin.

The message of the divestment and selective purchase campaigns is coming through loud and clear in corporate board

*Continued on page 5*

**NATIONAL DIVESTMENT PROTEST DAY**

Jennifer Davis speaking outside Shell Oil Company's office in New York City as Joshua Nessen, left, looks on. The march on April 4 also included stops at Citibank and Mobil Corporation to protest their support for white minority rule. Demonstrations took place in 30 cities nationwide.



## REFLECTIONS

by Jennifer Davis, Executive Director

### "The People Shall Govern"

On May 1st in South Africa, nearly 2 million workers staged the largest national strike in South African history. One million students added their support to the strike by boycotting classes. In effect, in 1986 the people of South Africa made May Day a national holiday. The strike forcefully demonstrated that the new trade union federation, COSATU, which called the strike to demand a May Day holiday and an end to apartheid, has become a major political force in South Africa.

Just a few days before the strike, the government of South Africa announced that it intended to abolish the pass laws. This followed a threat by COSATU to embark on a campaign of burning passes.

The practical effects of the government declaration are far from clear. Certainly this does not mean that the end of apartheid is just around the corner. The regime has announced the suspension of the pass laws in the past, when under pressure, only to reimpose the system as soon as it managed to crush resistance and regain control. This time it has already been said that passes will be replaced with an identity document that specifies race. Permission for Blacks to live in towns will still be linked to housing permits. On the

same day the action on pass laws and influx control was announced, State President P.W. Botha also announced draconian new repressive powers will be given to the police. And a few days later the government reiterated that it would not integrate schools or residential areas or consider universal adult suffrage.

Noting these moves, a spokesman for the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front said that Botha's actions would not make any difference. "Our position is that apartheid cannot be reformed," he said. "It must be eradicated." The immediate Black majority demand is for one person, one vote in a unitary, non-racial South Africa.

Yet even the announcement of the abolition of the pass laws is a victory for the people of South Africa. It is a tribute to the enormously increased Black pressure for change. It also reflects the impact of growing international anti-apartheid action. Current sanctions and divestment pressures, although still too gentle, are being felt. US banks have severely curtailed lending and an increasing number of companies are pulling out of South Africa. US direct investment in South Africa has declined from \$2.3 billion to less than \$1.8 billion.

Black South Africans know that the

apartheid system will not voluntarily self-destruct. Only tremendous pressure, internal and external, will bring an end to white minority rule, a transfer of power, and a free South Africa. That is why Black leaders from Archbishop-elect Desmond Tutu to Winnie Mandela have recently issued stirring new calls for sanctions against the white minority government.

"We are saying to P.W. Botha and his colleagues that they must resign and that there are rightful people for their positions, people like Nelson Mandela," said one COSATU leader at the union federation's founding last December. At the same meeting, COSATU also reported that it was "in full support of divestment." The May Day strike demonstrates that millions of South Africans support COSATU's stand.

"THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN" is a popular slogan on the walls of the townships this year, but each day people pay in blood as soldiers and police shoot to kill the freedom struggle. US supporters of this struggle have an urgent responsibility. We must respond to Black South Africans' call for sanctions and divestment. We must not allow talk of reform to demobilize our movement, thus buying time for the South African apartheid state. We need to make 1986 the year of total US sanctions on South Africa. Anything less will be a betrayal of the South African people.

## THE RESEARCH CENTER

An anti-apartheid activist from Oregon calls for information on IBM's activities in South Africa. A state legislator from Missouri calls urgently requesting information to counter corporate arguments in favor of the Sullivan Principles. A trade union from Minnesota is looking for information on the South African activities of a company with which it is in contract negotiations. A human rights activist from New York calls for recent information on detentions without trial in South Africa. Many times all four telephone lines at the office are lit up, but as soon as one is free another call comes in. A major newspaper calls for comment on US bank loans to South Africa. A lawyer for a South African exile calls seeking information needed for a client to keep him from being deported. A columnist for The New York Times calls to get figures on the number of Blacks and whites executed last year in

South Africa.

The ACOA Research Center receives thousands of phone calls each year. Major press, such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Business Week and Newsweek regularly use the work of the Center and students, legislators and other activists rely on ACOA's research for campaigns.

Central to the Center's work are the extensive research files on Africa and US policy. Dozens of newspapers and magazines from South Africa, Europe and the United States must be read, marked and filed each day. Separate files are maintained on the hundreds of US corporations with investments in South Africa and Namibia and the Center sends out thousands of letters each year seeking to check and double check the accuracy of information. It is these files that give us the ability to answer people's questions, whether it be a student at Brown University, a doctor needing information on women and health

or a journalist.

These files, combined with research trips, interviews and consultations with the liberation movements, individuals and organizations both inside South Africa and in the US provide the basis for ACOA's many publications and newsletters and allow us to help provide research that is used by the entire anti-apartheid movement.

## SITTING IN AT IBM

Students from Oregon to Rhode Island because its computers are vital to them were arrested after a sit-in at a students from Brown University and arrested at IBM protests in Providence. Dutchess Community Colleges were

A new study by The Africa Fund company in South Africa. The report documents the role of Control Data, Burroughs, and others. See publications section.



## CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

ACOA is actively supporting four bills in Congress that enforce sanctions against South Africa and promote peace and justice in the southern African region. We urge you to contact your Senators and Representative to let them know you support these measures.

- HR 997, introduced by Rep. Ronald Dellums, is the most comprehensive bill for sanctions against South Africa before Congress and ACOA strongly supports this legislation. Among other provisions, it would require all US companies to divest from South Africa, tighten restrictions on trade with South Africa and end South African Airways flights to the US.
- HR 2589, introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder, would end US corporate

## DAVIS JOINS CELEBRATION

On February 26 at the invitation of President Mohamed Abdel Aziz, ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis joined thousands of Sahrawi in the Western Sahara in a joyful celebration of the 10th anniversary of the declaration of the birth of their state, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). The following is her report:

The Sahrawi celebrated with music, song and dance. But Morocco continues to occupy their land. As we watched the celebrations the young men and women who carry on the armed struggle for indepen-

## SWAPO



SWAPO Secretary for Health and Social Welfare D. Jennifer Davis to discuss the needs of Namibian r South Africa's occupation. Over the last two year more than \$65,000 worth of textbooks and clothin



## STUDENTS PROTEST APARTHEID

This spring shanties suddenly appeared on college campuses throughout the country. Students built the shanties to dramatize the living conditions of Black South Africans and to push the demand that their schools divest.

Some university administrators brought in police to demolish the shanties. At 2:30 am on April 3 police moved onto the Berkeley campus and began tearing down shanties. They indiscriminately arrested hundreds of protesters as well as legal observers. There were arrests at 20 schools including at the University of Texas, Yale and the University of Wisconsin. Student protests also took other forms as well. At Georgetown University a "reverse apartheid day" was organized, with white students issued passes which had to be available on demand to black students. Other schools demonstrated their support for the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia by raising funds for refugees.

ACOA staff members Joshua Nessen and Hudita Mustafa were closely involved with the campus protests. They coordinated the Weeks of Campus Anti-Apartheid Action from March 21 to April 6

which brought actions on over 100 campuses in 35 states. Just as in 1985, the Weeks of Action proved to be the starting point for continued student actions.

ACOA was barraged with phone calls from student groups seeking information and advice and letting us know the latest developments on their campuses. Through the Student Anti-Apartheid Newsletter and ACOA speakers on campuses throughout the country we kept students informed of the unfolding events and focused attention on key issues facing the student anti-apartheid movement.

Student protests have already led many colleges and universities to divest from corporations with investments in South Africa. Since the Weeks of Action, Duke University, Spellman College, the University of Connecticut, and Northeastern University have voted to divest. Many more schools are sure to follow before students come back in the fall.

The Africa Fund issued a report showing that 46 colleges and universities have totally divested since 1977, 32 of them since the student protests of April 1985. In addition, 43 schools have partially divested for a total of \$500 million in college and university divestment actions. The report was picked up by The New York Times and Newsweek in feature articles on the student protests.

Faculty and staff are also joining the divestment movement in growing numbers. A campaign has been launched to get the national pension system for college teachers, TIAA-CREF, to divest its \$7 billion holdings in firms which operate in South Africa. ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis is on the steering committee of the TIAA-CREF Divestment Campaign and has met several times with TIAA-CREF executives.

used on protests against IBM  
eid regime. On April 4, twelve stu-  
office in Portland, Oregon. Fourteen  
iversity of Rhode Island were  
12 students from Vassar, Marist and  
d at IBM's office in Poughkeepsie.  
hat IBM is the largest computer  
computer companies also docu-  
nd other computer companies. To



## What You Can Do

support for South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. In effect, the bill mandates implementation of United Nations Decree Number 1 which prohibits the illegal exploitation of Namibia's natural resources.

- HR 3690, introduced by Rep. Ted Weiss, would prohibit US government assistance to the South African-backed Unita movement in Angola.

- S 2157, introduced by Sen. Paul Simon, prohibits the import of coal, steel and fluorspar mined or produced in South Africa.

In April, Jennifer Davis met with Rep. Weiss to discuss the situation in Angola and what ACOA could do to support his bill. The Reagan administration began sending military aid to Unita in early

1986. Rep. Weiss's bill, if enacted, would prohibit the US government from providing any more aid to Unita, the "contras" of Angola. ACOA has been actively opposing aid to Unita and has helped organize demonstrations and widely distributed a fact sheet on the issue.

In an effort to generate grass roots support for Rep. Schroeder's bill and to help focus attention on the situation in Namibia, ACOA distributed an Action Alert on HR 2589 to thousands of contacts across the country. Copies of the alert were also distributed by Lutheran World Federation, National Namibia Concerns and Clergy and Laity Concerned. "I have received more calls from other (Congressional) offices recently, asking for more information on Namibia. This is due, I'm sure, to your efforts," wrote Rep. Schroeder in a letter to Executive Director Jennifer Davis thanking ACOA for its support. Copies of a one page information sheet on the bill are available free on request.

## Western Sahara

dence paraded by in tight disciplined ranks, each serious face displaying the determination which underlies the Sahrawi belief that they will succeed.

By 1976, under the leadership of their independence movement the Polisario (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro), the Sahrawi had driven out the Spanish colonial authorities. But when Spain withdrew, it transferred control of the Western Sahara to the neighboring powers of Morocco and Mauritania, both eager to exploit the potentially rich mineral and

fishing resources of the region. Thus Spain's withdrawal in 1976 did not bring peace or the opportunity to build a new society to the Sahrawi. Instead they have spent another ten years fighting for self-determination.

The Sahrawi have won significant victories. Mauritania has withdrawn from Western Sahara. But Morocco, with major US military and political support, has expanded its military presence, building an enormous wall through the desert, to shield the resource-rich areas from Sahrawi attack.

Thus the celebrations were held not in Western Sahara but near Tindouf, in one of the major Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria. Guests included diplomatic representatives from the more than 60 countries which recognize the SADR and from major European political parties.

We lived in the tents of refugee families,

## STUDENT TOUR



Don Ngubeni of the African National Congress and Julio Dimas from the University of El Salvador in front of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The church, which was bombed during the civil rights struggle in the 1960s, was a highlight of their visit to Birmingham. Ngubeni and Dimas visited 20 cities as part of a tour "From Soweto to San Salvador" cosponsored this spring by ACOA and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Don Ngubeni, currently in charge of ANC radio programs beamed into South Africa, was forced into exile after the 1976 Soweto uprising.

and in a few crowded days, saw a little of the intense way in which the Sahrawi are preparing themselves to return home.

We visited schools, health and agricultural centers. We ate carrots, freshly pulled from the ground, looking over small irrigated vegetable gardens, across miles of empty desert. We learned to drink tea out of tiny cups, to rejoice at the end of a vicious sandstorm and above all to respect the courage, the gentleness and iron determination of the Sahrawi people to live out their lives, free and independent, in their own land.



Iyambo Indongo met in the ACOA office with refugees forced to flee their country because of ACOA's associate The Africa Fund has sent to Namibian refugees in Angola.

## SUPPORT ACOA, SUPPORT THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

The anti-apartheid movement depends on a grass roots network of activists across the US to help build pressure for change in southern Africa and to help change US policy toward the region. If each person who reads this notice found just two other new people who would become actively involved in the struggle for freedom in South Africa by contributing to ACOA, the network of activists could be greatly expanded. ACOA will send out additional free copies of ACOA Action News to anyone who requests them. Or you can send ACOA the addresses of people who ought to hear about the anti-apartheid movement and we will send them information about the movement.



## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available from ACOA. Prices are listed. Please add 15% postage on orders under \$5.00, 10% postage on all other orders. Indicate the number of copies desired.

### Sun City

#### The Music

*Sun City* by Artists United Against Apartheid (Manhattan Records). Check one: ☐ Album (list \$8.85) Our price: \$6.95; ☐ Audiocassette (list \$8.95) Our price: \$6.95; ☐ 12 inch Single (list \$5.95) Our price: \$3.95.

#### The Video

*Sun City Videocassette* (51 min., Karl-Lorimar). The music video and documentary on the "making of Sun City." Check one: VHS ☐ BETA ☐ (list \$19.95) Our price: \$16.95.

#### The Book and Teaching Guide

*Sun City: The Struggle For Freedom in South Africa* (Penguin, 1985), 122pp. The book on the making of the record. (list \$8.95) Our price: \$6.95.

*Sun City Teaching Guide* (Africa Fund, 1986), 6pp. Specially written to be used by educators with the video and the book "Strangers in Their Own Country" (see below) \$1.00.

#### Other Resources

*Strangers In Their Own Country* by William Bigelow (Africa World Press, 1985), 92pp. An excellent curriculum guide on South Africa. \$14.95.

*Computers in South Africa* by Richard Knight (Africa Fund, 1986), 10pp., typescript. Overview of US computer companies in South Africa with profiles of ten US corporations including Control Data, IBM and Hewlett-Packard. \$2.00.

*Voices for Withdrawal*, compiled by Stephanie Urdang and Donald Jamison (Africa Fund, 1985), 6pp. Quotes from Nobel Peace Laureates and South Africans, as well as from prominent Americans in support of sanctions and divestment from South Africa. 35¢. Over twenty, 20¢ each.

*Unified List of United States Companies with Investments or Loans in South Africa and Namibia*, compiled by Pacific Northwest Research Center (The Africa Fund, 1985), 98pp. Most comprehensive list of US corporations in South Africa with update sheet. Individuals \$5.00. Institutions \$20.00. Add \$1.00 postage per copy.

*Summary Chart on Public Fund Divestment* (ACOA, 1986), 8pp. A regularly updated list of actions by states and cities. \$1.00.

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## MORE STATES DIVEST

Continued from page 1

rooms across America. For the first time in decades, in 1985 no new corporations opened offices in South Africa and at least 28 companies pulled out. In early 1986, when Bell & Howell announced it was leaving South Africa, the company's chairman cited specifically his "real fear" of boycotts by state governments. General Electric announced plans to withdraw and AT&T stopped sales of its products following pressure for divestment spearheaded by company employees.

There are also new signs that this activity has not gone unnoticed in Pretoria. Late last year the white minority government signed a total of \$1 million in contracts with three new lobbyists in Washington to represent South Africa's interests. Efforts to put an acceptable face

on apartheid include government-sponsored trips to South Africa, such as one last year when two key state representatives from Arizona were flown to South Africa. Not surprisingly, they have been active opponents of divestment since they returned.

As the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa intensifies, anti-apartheid actions in the US become ever more important. In a statement in early April, Archbishop-elect Desmond Tutu reaffirmed this point when he said, "I have no hope of real change from this government unless they are forced... Our children are dying, our land is burning and bleeding and so I call on the international community to apply punitive sanctions against this government."

## MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT IN U.S.



Mozambique President Samora Machel and his wife, Graça, greet ACOA Director Emeritus George Houser at a reception for the Mozambique President during his visit to the United States last fall.

## HELP FIGHT APARTHEID—SUPPORT THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

The South African government and its corporate allies spend millions of dollars every year selling apartheid to Americans.

The American Committee on Africa depends on contributions from ordinary people like you to continue our efforts.

*We need your help. Won't you mail your contribution today?*

I am enclosing \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to help bring the truth about South Africa to the American people.

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## ANTI-APARTHEID EDUCATION

When popular musicians speak out, the world pays attention. So it was when 54 artists, ranging from rock to reggae, Bruce Springsteen to Herbie Hancock to Pat Benatar, joined Little Steven to produce the anti-apartheid hit *Sun City*. ACOA's associate The Africa Fund was involved from the start. A few highlights are below:

- *Sun City* was judged among the best singles of the year by critics in Time, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Rolling Stone and The Village Voice.

- African National Congress President Oliver Tambo in thanking the artists said he was "greatly touched by your immense effort in solidarity with our struggle."

- Congressmen William Gray and Walter Fauntroy and Senator Bill Bradley were among those hosting a press conference on Capitol Hill to endorse the effort.

- Coretta Scott King, a member of the Advisory Committee of The Africa Fund, called it "a remarkable example of what performing artists can do in the struggle against racism." At a press conference in Atlanta hosted by Mayor Andrew Young, King accepted, on behalf of the Fund, the first \$50,000 raised from the record. Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, also a member of the Advisory Committee, also attended the press conference.

- A rock video has been produced, which includes an interview with Winnie Mandela and a book on the making of *Sun City* has been published by Viking/Penguin.

- A *Sun City* Teaching Guide has been

produced. The author of the teaching guide, William Bigelow, has also produced a comprehensive curriculum guide on South Africa for high schools.

No major artist has performed at the Sun City resort in South Africa since the record was released. Hundreds who have bought the album have flooded The Africa Fund with letters and calls wanting to become involved. *Sun City* has inspired

anti-apartheid dances, fund raisers and teach-ins. A radio station in Salt Lake City started a move by radio stations to play the album on Martin Luther King's birthday. Students at a junior high school in Brooklyn saw the video and then contributed daily nickels and dimes out of pocket money totaling \$500.

To purchase the items mentioned above, see the order section.

## THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

**Founded in 1953, the American Committee on Africa is devoted to supporting African people in their struggle for independence. ACOA projects inform and mobilize Americans to work for policies supporting African freedom.**

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