

Patrick Hagopian

Martin Luther King ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION

Bishop Desmond Tutu
See of Johannesburg
Republic of South Africa

December 4th, 1985

Dear Bishop Tutu:

I am writing as a Steering Committee member of the Martin Luther King Anti-Apartheid Coalition, and as a member of the University of Pennsylvania Anti-Apartheid Coalition, with reference to your forthcoming visit to Philadelphia, in particular your visit to the University of Pennsylvania campus on January 15th. I understand that Joe Miller has informed you by telephone that in addition to the lecture in Irvine Auditorium on the evening of 15th Jan., there will be an anti-apartheid demonstration held on the campus earlier that afternoon. I would like to reiterate the invitation which Joe Miller extended to you, and to thank you for your preliminary agreement to participate in the demonstration which he reported to the concerned Coalitions. I would also like to share with you some information about the significance of the event, as far as we in Philadelphia are concerned.

A year ago, the Martin Luther King Anti-Apartheid Coalition formed in order to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday by holding an anti-apartheid rally and vigil on January 14th-15th. The coalition was endorsed by dozens of religious, community, student and labor groups, and the rally brought together people from all over Philadelphia. The demonstration on January 15th, 1986, will be a similar city-wide event.

One of the reasons that the attention of Philadelphia anti-apartheid campaigners will be on the University of Pennsylvania campus that week in January is that the trustees of the university are holding their quarterly meeting on January 16th-17th, and will be deciding whether or not to divest their \$92 million holdings in U.S. corporations which do business in South Africa. We have been campaigning for divestment at the university for a number of years--in the last year alone we have held four rallies, two vigils, and a number of other events on the university campus. We have convinced the University Council, representing faculty, administrators, and students, and the student assemblies to endorse the call for complete divestment. Nevertheless, the university trustees have doggedly stuck to a position of support for the Sullivan Principles, and have indeed expanded their investments in corporations which subscribe to the principles. For the past year, they have refused even to discuss the divestment question, and have

put off their decision until their January meeting. This meeting is the culmination of both the anti-apartheid campaign on campus, the trustees' campaign to justify their existing policy, and an information-gathering process that has been going on for the last few weeks. The January 15th demonstration will be a crucial opportunity to exert influence on the trustees' decision, immediately prior to their meeting.

In terms of the logistics of the day's events: I understand from Jacqueline Wade of the Afro-American Studies Department and of the committee organizing the Martin Luther King Commemoration at the university that you will be at an event downtown which should be over by about 3.00 p.m. Your next official appointment is dinner with President Hackney of the U. of Penn. at 5.30 p.m. In order that you should not be too rushed, it would be ideal if you could arrive at the Penn campus at 4.30 p.m. for the demonstration. (Apparently Joe Miller suggested 5.00 p.m.--that would probably be cutting things unnecessarily close). Please let us know, in writing if possible, if there are any problems concerning your participation in the demonstration, or with the schedule which I have suggested. I realize that you will be very busy during your visit to the area; but I cannot over-emphasize the morale boost that your support will give us, or the gratitude that we feel for the prospect of your participation in the demonstration.

I enclose some material on the University of Pennsylvania's investments.

Sincerely

Patrick Hagopian

Patrick Hagopian, p & p Martin Luther King Anti-Apartheid Coalition,
University of Pennsylvania Anti-Apartheid Coalition.

cc. Dr. Jacqueline Wade