

RUTGERS COALITION FOR TOTAL DIVESTMENT

HISTORY OF THE DIVESTMENT MOVEMENT AT RUTGERS

Since the 1960's, Rutgers organizations such as the African Student Congress, the Coalition Against Racial Injustice, the Busch Minority Affairs Council and other concerned students have united in the goal of divesting this university's investments from companies with holdings in South Africa.

During this time period, representatives of the entire student body including all of the student governments and the University Senate have passed resolutions supporting divestment. In 1978, the university divested from companies not adhering to the Sullivan Principles. However, in 1980, the university reinvested in these companies. In 1982, the Rutgers Coalition for Divestment, now the Coalition for Total Divestment, was formed. In November of last year, over 1000 people attended a public hearing in which over thirty people expressed their demands of divestment. By February 8, 1985, Rutgers still had \$13 million invested in companies with holdings in South Africa. On Friday, April 12, 1985, 500 students rallied against this university's continued investments in these companies.

At 2:30 pm, approximately 200 students blocaded the student center and have remained there ever since with a growing number of sit-ins every day. On April 18, 1500 people rallied for divestment, and the nation-wide effect of this protest was apparent. National figures such as the Reverend M. William Howard, President of the Black Council of Reformed Churches and former President of the National Council of Reformed Churches, Christine Camrody, coordinator of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Betsy Watson, President of the Young Women's Christian Association, and many more expressed their support for the movement against the Apartheid regime. In a telephone communication at the rally, the Reverend Jesse Jackson declared his support and announced his plans to attend the rally of Tuesday, April 23, 1985.

The Rutgers Coalition for
Total Divestment