

March 10, 1978

Robert E. Nederlander
1930 Buhl Bldg.
Detroit, MI 48226

Regent Nederlander:

We are a group of clergy and laity concerned over the financial involvement of the University of Michigan in U.S. corporations in South Africa. Our group addresses issues and problems relating to corporate responsibility. We view the University's present financial ties to an ~~Apartheid~~ state to reflect an abuse of corporate responsibility to the community.

Although the effects of economic policy reach black workers in a state outside the country, the University is liable for indirect support of discrimination practices. The University Regents have provided regulations for protecting individual rights; these provisions must be extended to the operation of the administrative finances. The effect of policy on the rights of others must be criterion for decisions by the administration of The University of Michigan.

We feel it is our responsibility as members of the community to express opposition when the University does not comply to these basic principles expressed in the provisions of University Title IX code:

The University shall not discriminate against any person because of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin, or ancestry. Further, it shall work for the elimination of discrimination (1) in private organizations recognized by the University, and (2) by non-University sources where students and employees of the University are involved.

--from the Regents' Bylaws,
Sec. 1.14

Although the methods for bringing liberation to South Africans oppressed by the ~~apartheid~~ regime is a difficult problem provoking conflicting solutions, the immediate issue of divestment, however, leaves no room for debate and is action agreed upon by many University and community groups and individuals. We join these groups and demand divestment on the grounds that the University must comply to the by-laws of the Regents protecting the rights of all persons.

Anne R. Lawrence

COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE
RESPONSIBILITY

Jan Marie Coleman
T. H. H. H.

Camille S. Gubbeling

Patricia Thier

Donald Coleman
B. H. H. H.