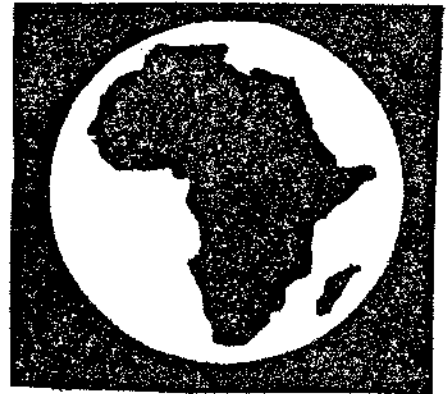


WASHTENAW COUNTY COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID

4316 MICHIGAN UNION
763-4799



PRESS STATEMENT***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***19 April 1979

We have come back today because the University of Michigan still has investments in South Africa. The University has holdings in 49 U.S. corporations which do business in South Africa: corporations which play a vital role in the maintenance of apartheid.

We are gagged today because; a) the Regents have used the courts to stifle the spirit of the Open Meetings Act; b) for two years the Board of Regents have avoided open discussion of divestment; c) in South Africa, to call for divestment is a violation of the Terrorism Act of 1967, which is punishable by a minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum sentence of death.

We strongly object to the manner in which the Regents have handled the issue of divestment. At their March 1978 meeting they proposed to form an investment advisory committee. Coalition members presented a proposal to the Regents, but it was rejected and such a committee has yet to be formed. At the same meeting the Regents resolved to hear a report "within one year concerning the actions taken and corporate response or lack of response thereto." They have not adequately fulfilled this obligation.

When students brought up these issues in March 1979 the Regents failed to respond directly. Instead they referred the matter to the Senate Advisory Committee on Financial Affairs (SACFA). This committee is chaired by Patricia Longe. Longe sits on the board of directors of Warner Lambert and Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit. Both of these corporations have ties with South Africa, and the University has investments in Warner Lambert. The Coalition demands her resignation from SACFA.

There has been widespread support for total divestment. ⁱⁿ April 1978 the students voted 3-1 for "immediate and total divestment." The Coalition has gathered well over 12,000 signatures from the University community, also calling for an end to investments in South Africa. In the past two weeks 109 faculty members have signed an open letter criticizing the Regents' intransigence and urging immediate divestment.

The Regents' present policy is ineffective and inadequate. Students, unions, churches, and the state legislature support divestment. The Regents' policy should reflect this.

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