

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

March 22, 1978.

MEMO TO: Harold T. Shapiro, Vice-President for Academic Affairs
FROM: *Christopher J. Chetsanga*
Christopher J. Chetsanga, Assoc. Professor of Biochemistry
and Biological Sciences, U. of M.-Dearborn
SUBJECT: Some Thoughts on the Matter of U. of M. Investments in
Corporations Doing Business in South Africa

I am writing in connection with the February 28, 1978 recommendation made by the Senate Assembly Advisory Committee on Financial Affairs (chaired by Prof. Allan Emery) and in connection with the resolution made on March 16, 1978 by the Board of Regents that the University of Michigan retain its investments in Corporations doing business in South Africa. It is an unfortunate decision that is bound to dub the University an accomplice in the horrible political system of apartheid practiced in that country. The University is being very naive if it thinks it can help bring about change by continuing to invest money in South Africa. To the contrary, what will happen is that the resulting strength in the South African economy will enable Prime Minister Vorster to build a stronger army for oppressive purposes. Being from Rhodesia myself, I am only too aware of how white supremacist regimes, like that of John Vorster, benefit from such investments.

There is one approach that the University can use to partially play a more socially responsible role in helping young people of South Africa who are deprived of opportunities of living a more fulfilled life. As an educational organization, the University should use its good offices in providing educational opportunities for students from South Africa; this should include offering scholarships to African students from that area. It is my opinion that the University is contributing further to the exploitation of the South African peoples by lucratively investing money in South Africa and then turning around to charge students from South Africa the very high out-of-state tuition fees. There are only a few students in the University from these white ruled countries of Southern Africa, largely because the out-of-state tuition costs keep most of them from coming to the University of Michigan. If we are genuinely looking for ways in which our University community can contribute positively to helping the oppressed people in South Africa, this is one practical way in which we can do so. I would like to request that the University re-examine the whole business of out-of-state tuition as it applies to African students from the whole area of Southern Africa.

I would like to argue further that the University should take the initiative in appealing to these Corporations to set up a scholarship program in partnership with the University of Michigan to train Africans from South Africa in the several fields in which the apartheid system denies them educational opportunities. This may partially help to make the University a little more accountable and more humanitarian in its use of resources acquired from the investments in question.

I shall be pleased to expand further on these ideas if you should find that desirable. If you wish to contact me, please do so before the month of May because I shall be going away on sabbatical leave in early May.

cc. Prof Allan Emery
Chancellor Leonard E. Goodall
Vice-Chancellor Eugene Arden

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR

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Office of the Vice-President
for Academic Affairs

HAROLD T. SHAPIRO
Vice President

March 24, 1978

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Professor Christopher J. Chetsanga
Biochemistry and Biological Sciences
University of Michigan-Dearborn

MAR 24 1978

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

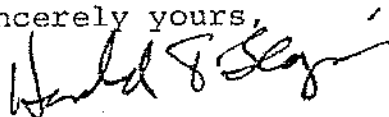
Dear Professor Chetsanga:

Thank you for your note of March 22, concerning the matter of the University of Michigan's investments in corporations doing business in South Africa. The University community has struggled with this question for over a year, and the position that the Regents have adopted is, in their judgment, the best alternative at the present time. We undoubtedly will continue discussion on this issue for some time to come and will re-examine the position as the situation changes.

We appreciate your taking the time to make comments.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Harold T. Shapiro

HTS:mg

cc: Professor Allan Emery
Chancellor L. E. Goodall
Vice-Chancellor E. Arden
Dr. R. W. Fleming
Vice President J. F. Brinkerhoff

from the desk of LEONARD E. GOODALL

Date

MEMORANDUM TO:

President R. W. Fleming

- For Your Information
- For Your Comments
- Please See Me
- Please Return
- For Your File
- For Handling

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MAR 28 1978

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

REMARKS:

Bob - You will remember the phone call
you received from one of our professors.
This letter to Harold is from the same
person.

Pat