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A LETTER TO MY FRIENDS

by

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In July, 1977, as I transferred from the Chicago AFSC office to the Pasadena AFSC office, I also transferred my bank account. Carefully avoiding the Bank of America (especially because of its loans to South Africa), I favored Security Pacific...only to discover later that they too are involved, along with 50 other banks, in loans that support the racist apartheid system in South Africa. And, last week, among 30 U.S. corporate executives visiting South Africa, Rhodesia, and Tanzania, was the president of Crocker National Bank; he is especially proud of their pro-apartheid loans, for he himself identifies deeply with the Vorster regime. Here's a challenge: massive withdrawals from all of them, on the June 16th anniversary of Soweto! How about it?

Also here to meet with President Nyerere was AFSC's long-time protagonist Rockwell International's president. To defend their involvement in South Africa, including the sale of aircraft which can be used for military reconnaissance, Rockwell recently stated to the U.S. Senate:"...the need for Western involvement is critical to the growth of South Africa to prevent non-free-world elements from taking over." Symbolizing the so-called "free world" operation in South Africa, Rockwell (remember the B-1?) pays Africans only basic survival wages, has no Africans as skilled salaried workers, and recognizes no worker representation at all for its African employees. Another challenge: no more B-1, no more Rocky Flats, no more aircraft to the apartheid regime in South Africa. Agreed?

Time magazine arranged the tour for these executives to sound out business climate in South Africa and Rhodesia... and to get ammunition against anticipated share-holder resolutions in annual meetings this spring. It is clear that such challenges have a deep impact. Ambassador Andrew Young described this tour group, saying they probably control more wealth than the U.S. government. That wealth and power must not be available to the apartheid evil. Mwalimu Nyerere challenged them, calling for withdrawal of investment in South Africa. Indeed, he was well prepared, having studied dossiers on 18 of them, which several friends and I put together last week, uti-

lizing files I have compiled over the last six years.

Even as they arrived at their beach hotel at midnight on March 22nd, the next morning's edition of *Daily News* was in their rooms, complete with a first page notice of their arrival and a reference to page four, where a half-page article was headlined "U.S. Finances Apartheid." It was written by Carol Thompson and me. The next day, we also taped a half-hour interview on the subject, which was then broadcast over Radio Tanzania on March 24th, 5:00 p.m., following Good Friday services. Now, we have been invited to prepare a thirteen-week series for the radio. And, Mwalimu has indicated an interest in viewing the AFSC slide show, "South Africa and U.S. Global Corporations," which I brought with me.

Such challenging opportunities are rare. I could not have hoped for such early involvement in the struggle here in Dar, possible because of long involvement in such issues and because of the rapport built by Carol and others here. Indeed, just a week earlier, she led a delegation to the American Ambassador, submitting a petition signed by 45 Americans in Dar, calling for U.S. denunciation of the Rhodesian internal settlement. The front page coverage heralded much press coverage last week of visits by Andrew Young, Charles Diggs, and the Frontline Presidents. It is very possible for me that my Southern Africa interests are fully utilized, even by a Frontline President!

March 30, 1978

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