

Anti-Racist and Anti-Apartheid Policies.

LAMBETH

LAMBETH IS
AGAINST
RACISM
of course!

POLICY BACKGROUND

The Council's policy on Anti-Apartheid must be located within the broad equal opportunity policy spectrum. Although at different times throughout the 1970's the Council made ad hoc statements and policy commitments about race equality, race relations and anti-apartheid concrete policy developments emerged as follows :-

- 1978: Equal Opportunity Policy Statement adopted.
- 1979: Established Race Relations Unit.
- 1980: Banking contract reviewed and Barclays replaced by Co-op Bank.
- 1984: Anti-Apartheid Declaration

IMPLEMENTATION

There are four major areas of concern in respect of the Council's Declaration against Apartheid. These are:

- (a) Tender/Contracts for building works
- (b) Superannuation Fund
- (c) Banking Services
- (d) Purchasing

TENDERS AND CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING WORKS

These are subject to compliance with Standing Orders 86(i), (2) and (3) which cover requirements under the Race Relations Act 1976; assurances about employment policies and practices, conditions of employment in both the UK or elsewhere; assurances about non-discrimination on grounds of colour, race, ethnic or

national origin, religion or sex; written declaration about interest/investments in Republic of South Africa.

As far as resources allow, this requirement has been monitored as part of the tendering arrangements since 1980 and to date no contractor has ever made a declaration of South African interest.

It is expected that the Contract Compliance Unit, when established (hopefully by May '85) will vigorously enforce the anti-apartheid requirements through its capacity to undertake investigations, visits reviews etc.

SUPERANNUATION FUND INVESTMENTS

The Investment level is bound by the Standing Orders of the Council in particular that which resolved to avoid "*doing business or making purchases from, firms having financial interest, whether direct or indirect, in South Africa*".

Prior to the SO revision in 1980, the Council was already engaged in disinvestment. Holdings in prescribed companies (those which were known to pay "slave wages" to Black African employees in South Africa) were sold as soon as possible within the legal constraints of good investment decisions. Since then no further investments in South African companies or companies with a significant South African interest have been made.

Inevitably, over the years, a company's investment in South Africa may change as a result of mergers or changes in trading policy. Thus the Council, as advised by its advisory stockbrokers has to be vigilant and seek continuously to review its investments.

Two legal constraining factors must be noted:-

- (i) Local Government Superannuation Regulations require authorities to "*have regard to the need to diversify their investments, to the suitability of proposed investments, and to proper investment advice*".
- (ii) The inherent duty of trust owed to beneficiaries of the Fund to obtain the best available return to the Fund from its investments. Any decision therefore not to invest in a particular

company must be matched by a suitable alternative, thus ensuring that the Fund's performance does not suffer.

BANKING SERVICE



The Council took decisions in 1980, on the recommendation of Policy and Resources Committee, to discontinue use of Barclays Bank because it could not comply with the Council's Standing Orders as revised, particularly in relation to race relations, equal opportunities and links with South Africa.

PURCHASING

The intention of S.O. 86 is to ensure that, wherever possible, the Council does not make its purchases from companies and business which have any financial interest in South Africa or which discriminate by colour, race, ethnic or national origins, religion or sex.

In effect, therefore, such purchases are not absolutely prohibited for two main reasons :-

- (i) The Council is required to give "due consideration" to the fact that a contractor has trading links with South Africa when considering whether to place a contract or not.

Factors which must also be taken into account would include the nature of the product and whether there was no other available alternative, as well as the dependency of the product.

- (ii) There is no guarantee that suppliers or contractors who sign the undertakings do not have any financial interest or connections in South Africa.

The real dilemma is that whereas the bigger purchases, which are subject to contracts through tendering arrangements and therefore monitorable, many local purchases were made by the Council from a variety of establishments out of petty cash and this is more difficult to control. Thus SO 86 cannot be policed with total effectiveness without massive additional resources.

It must also be noted that suppliers are also very good at disguising products to make these appear as non-South African. For instance, removing the Outspan labels on fresh oranges being supplied.





Declaration against Apartheid

This Declaration is made by Lambeth Borough Council as an expression of its firm opposition against apartheid and its commitment to the cause of freedom, justice and equality in South Africa/Azania, to pay tribute to those, who through struggle against apartheid, have become its victims in one form or another, and to salute the struggles and sacrifices of the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania, Azania Peoples Organisation and the South West African Peoples Organisation of Namibia to liberate their peoples.

This Council declares its abhorrence of and opposition to the racist regime in South Africa/Azania and its illegal, barbaric occupation of Namibia. The Council believes that the apartheid system of South Africa is a suppression of human dignity, and a threat to world peace and racial justice.

In accordance with these views, the Council will, within the limits of its legal powers, campaign to end all links between the Council and the apartheid regime of South Africa, utilising all social, political, economic and measures that are at its disposal. In particular it will, having regard to the Council's legal powers and duties, pursue the following practices:

- 1 Cease the purchase of any goods originating from South Africa and Namibia;
- 2 Withdraw all investments in whatever form held by the Council in companies with South African interests or companies with investments in South Africa and Namibia; and continue to avoid investments in companies with substantial South African interests;
- 3 Ensure that the Council is not officially represented at any function attended by representatives of the White South African Government, South African Embassy, the "Bantustans" or trade missions and refuse to meet or receive any official visitors from the white South African regimes in South Africa/Azania, and Namibia;
- 4 In Lambeth to campaign against investments and loans held by companies in South Africa/Azania and Namibia, discourage all economic links between Lambeth and the white South African regimes in South Africa/Azania and Namibia and promote better relations with the developing economies of the Third World;
- 5 Campaign against all official links Britain has with the white South African regimes in South Africa/Azania and Namibia;
- 6 Withhold use of leisure facilities from any sporting, or political event involving participants who are known to be supporters of the white South African regime in South Africa/Azania and Namibia;
- 7 Promote public understanding and courage the positive teaching of the situation in Southern Africa through highlighting the history, culture and struggle for self-determination of the Black South African/Azanian and Namibian people, and in particular the roles of black women and black organised labour in this struggle;
- 8 A commitment towards the naming of streets and buildings in Lambeth after prominent opponents to the white racist regime in South Africa/Azania and Namibia;
- 9 Discourage the advertisement of South African products at public sites and facilities in Lambeth;
- 10 Ensure that there are the requisite structural changes to implement this policy throughout Lambeth Council.

The Council hereby declare that Lambeth, as part of the Anti-Racist commitment, is opposed to apartheid in all its forms, and undertakes in co-operation with those organisations and movements named and identified above to organise appropriate events to publicise and implement the adoption of this declaration to encourage other organisations in Lambeth to do likewise.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of May 1984.

LAMBETH

Anti-Racist Year