

# Anti-Apartheid

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SOUTH AFRICA DISINVESTMENT GROUP. FEBRUARY, 1978.

At the present time, Leeds University have investments in more than 20 companies with South African subsidiaries. These include companies such as BP, Shell and Trust House Forte. The present situation within the University is that while the University Council has condemned the exploitation of African labour by certain companies, the University will only not invest in companies whose South African interest exceeds 5% of its total interests. It is this policy which the Leeds University South Africa Disinvestment Group (LUSADIG) is at the moment trying to change.

### The general case for Disinvestment

British investment in South Africa now stands at £7000M - about 60% of total foreign investment. Britain therefore has a large responsibility to the South African workforce. However, under the apartheid system great injustices take place within the industries which Britain finances. In mining in 1977 the ratio between average White earnings to average African earnings was 8.2:1 and in manufacturing the ratio was 4.3:1. Until 1977 African workers were not allowed by law to strike and even now there are so many restrictions as to make this right virtually meaningless. It should therefore be apparent that intervention by British firms is non-existent or is ignored. Instead, in order to get a high return of capital or for more sinister reasons, British firms are continuing to invest in the apartheid system, serving to strengthen an oppressive and racist regime. Liberation movements, therefore, call on Britain to remove its economic support for South Africa by disinvestment.

### The case against the 5% ruling

There are several reasons why the University decision is unreasonable. Firstly, this decision means the University continues to invest in companies such as BP and Shell who are obviously two of the largest contributors to the apartheid system (Shell intends to invest over £330M in South Africa in the next decade) while it has disinvested in companies such as Bridon Ltd. Although having

more than 5% interests in South Africa, Bridon Ltd.'s entire turnover was less than Shell's turnover in South Africa in 1977. Secondly, the 5% ruling does not take into account the conditions of the workforce in South Africa. For example, one of the companies - C. T. Bowring - in which the University invests, was recently found by a Government report to pay some of its African workforce below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) which was set up as a minimum wage. Thirdly it is usually impossible to determine the exact percentage of investment of a company in South Africa. LUSADIG therefore calls on the University to disinvest entirely in companies with South African interests. We also call on you to support the campaign by attending meetings and helping us to pressurise the University.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

15th February. Public meeting with speaker from AAM.

5th-9th March. Week of Action - proposed events are public meetings with several AA representatives, including Sean Hosey, a former prisoner in a South African prison, films, a play and an exhibition. There will also be a material aid collection. Further details will be publicised soon or are available from C. Brobby, the President in Executive or from the AAM noticeboard by Executive.

## Act Now!

# SAVE



# MAHLANGU

### Save Solomon Mahlangu

The British Government has at last appealed for clemency for Solomon Mahlangu, the ANC freedom fighter sentenced to death by the Apartheid regime. France, the FRG, Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Norway have all intervened - Solomon Mahlangu is now awaiting the outcome of his final appeal for clemency.

The Anti Apartheid Movement asks all supporters to send messages of solidarity to Solomon's mother, Martha Mahlangu, 2445 Section H, Mamelodi West, Pretoria, South Africa, and to write to PM Botha, Government Buildings, Pretoria, asking for clemency.

### Ballot rigged in Namibia

On 4th-8th December, South Africa stage managed an 'election' in Namibia. The result - a landslide "victory" for official South African policy - was only obtained thanks to an array of well tried techniques of coercion. These included threats to get Namibians to register, then more threats to force them to vote. Rio Tinto Zinc, for instance, threatened their workforce with dismissal if they refused to vote. Most European, US and South African did the same. All opposition was brutally repressed, but despite this SWAPO was able to call out demonstrations of thousands in protest.

### South Africa plan to buy into U.K. publishing firm

Evidence published by the Rand Daily Mail has linked the U.K. publishing adventures of South African businessman David Abramson with a key figure in the South African Department of Information, Louis Loyt. Abramson attempted a takeover bid for the Investors Chronicle in the U.K., as well as Investors Review. In fact Abramson now has his own U.K.

publishing company. Furthermore the evidence published by the Rand Daily Mail suggests a clear link with the Department of Information in their attempts to mount a worldwide pro-South Africa propaganda campaign, involving bids to take over the Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg Sunday Times, and the Washington Star. It is estimated that the Department of Information founded more than 130 secret projects to present "a more favourable image" of South Africa abroad.

### Colleges sell shares in Apartheid

Aberdeen University is to sell shares in Barclay's Bank as a result of a long campaign by the Students Union. The University has already pulled out of six other companies which have South African subsidiaries.

In London Birkbeck College has withdrawn funds from Consolidated Goldfields - the College's Finance Committee has also agreed to pull out of Charifunds - a Trust Fund which has a big holding in Consolidated Goldfields.

At the Universities of Leicester, Leeds, Durham and East Anglia students and staff are planning to present submissions to their Finance Committees in support of their call for disinvestment.

### Sanctions - from the U.S.

The U.S. Congress has voted to stop all financial guarantees by the Government-run Export-Import Bank for trade deals with the South African Government and its agencies. It has also barred all free banking

business between U.S. firms and South African companies which are not implementing the Sullivan Code of Conduct. These are the first ever economic decisions voted by the U.S. Congress against the racist regime.

### ICL: Computerising Apartheid

A report published by the Anti Apartheid Movement and based on confidential information about ICL's operations in South Africa draws attention to the role played by this company in buttressing Apartheid.

- \* two 2960 computers sold to the South African Police in 1978.
- \* three 2903s supplied to the Bantustan authorities in 1976.
- \* two computers installed at Atlas Aircrafts Corporation - one of the main suppliers of the South African armed forces.
- \* at least five computers supplied to the Department of Bantu Administration, to administer the Pass Laws.
- \* four computers sold to the South African occupying authorities in Namibia.



### AUT Disinvests - Leeds Leads

At its last National Council in December 1978, the Association of University Teachers passed a resolution submitted by Leeds University AUT, instructing the Executive of the AUT to withdraw investments in companies with South African subsidiaries - this motion was passed in spite of an E.C. recommendation for its withdrawal.



For further information about the activities of LUSADIG contact :-  
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