

June 25, 1986

MJC POSITION PAPER ON APARTHEID

The Milwaukee Jewish Council, since its founding, has always been committed to the principles of equality and justice for all, without regard to race, religion, nationality or sex. As Milwaukee's Jewish community relations agency, we have consistently opposed all forms of discrimination and have supported human rights struggles and efforts to promote equal opportunity, individual dignity and freedom.

We affirm our abhorrence of South Africa's legalized system of apartheid, whereby 23 million non-whites are oppressed by a controlling 4 million whites and are denied the most basic human, political and economic rights. We abhor this brutal political system that totally dehumanizes the vast majority of its population.

In keeping with the religious and ethical traditions of Judaism which teach that we must pursue the principles of justice and equal opportunity for all, the Milwaukee Jewish Council recommends implementation of the following measures:

1. To oppose the Administration's policy of "constructive engagement," or quiet diplomacy.
2. To support mandatory enforcement of guidelines such as the "Sullivan Principles," codifying fair employment practices and labor organizations' rights for employees of both U.S. and foreign firms in South Africa.
3. To endorse the efforts of local groups and organizations to educate and advocate for change in South Africa, through the dismantling of the apartheid system.
4. To support divestment of governmental and private funds in corporations doing business in South Africa, which do not adhere to the Sullivan Principles. To support policies which will ban new business investment and bank loans in South Africa to entities that do not adhere to the Sullivan Principles; that bans the sale of U.S. equipment for military and police purposes to the government of South Africa, that bans all sales, sharing or transfer of nuclear technology to South Africa.