

UDF STATEMENT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

2 APRIL 1985

In the last three months our people have been mercilessly mowed down by police and the SADF while they protest against the daily misery of their lives under apartheid. Already 106 people have been killed in the last three months and many more have been injured or maimed. One of the many recent atrocities, the Uitenhage massacre has been condoned by President Reagan. He chooses to blame those who struggle against apartheid rather than those who commit its crimes.

1. We protest the collaboration of the United States of America with Apartheid. The USA under the guise of 'constructive engagement' continues to lend political support to South Africa's apartheid masters from as early as Reagan's first term of office so as to safe-guard the interests of American companies in our country and in Namibia.
2. We protest the financial back-bone that foreign companies provide for the apartheid machinery in our country. American, British and corporations from other countries pay large sums of money in taxation to the apartheid state, thus buying the teargas, bullets and rifles, tankers and other weapons of war which are used to kill our unarmed and defenceless people whenever they protest the pass laws, forced removals, inferior education, land hunger, destruction of Black family life through the migratory system of labour and the denial of political rights in the land of their birth.
3. We protest the silence of foreign companies each time the apartheid state violates the rights and humanity of our people. For decades while the Industrial and Conciliation Act denied Black workers trade union rights, British, American and companies of other countries were content to reap super profits from the cheap and unorganised labour of our people.
4. We protest the collusion of foreign companies in the periodic massacres of our people. Foreign companies have repeatedly refused to condemn the bloody suppression of our peoples' resistance to apartheid. They kept quiet in 1960, 1976 and when mine workers were

shot and killed in September 1984. They have allied themselves with Reagan's sentiments by not challenging the contents of his statement on the latest massacre in Uitenhage.

5. We protest pretensions of concern for our people by foreign companies and their puppets who claim that foreign investment benefits the oppressed people of South Africa. We note with contempt the chicanery of those companies which finance Gutsha Butulezi and others to travel abroad and campaign in defence of the super profits while professing concern for those "who will suffer if divestment takes place". Our view is that foreign investment facilitates the oppression and exploitation of our people.

We of the United Democratic Front struggle for principles shared by the United Nations Organisation and all democratic states. We struggle to govern our country and to free ourselves from oppression and exploitation. This is a struggle that deserves international support. Indeed we believe that there is an international duty to isolate the apartheid regime and support the just struggle of the people of South Africa to free themselves from the scourge of apartheid.

MOSIUQA LEKOTA
National Publicity Secretary