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# PAN-AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 514

BROOKLINE VILLAGE, MASS. 02147

March 27, 1972

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Honorable Louis Stokes  
Congressman  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stokes:

In the fall of 1971, our Committee sent you a copy of its study, Repression in Southern Africa: An Indictment of Harvard University. The paper reveals Harvard's substantial economic involvement with the white minority rule regimes of Southern Africa and in that connection calls for Harvard to divest of its Gulf Oil Company stock valued at \$21 million. Enclosed is a copy of our study and a list of those who have joined with members of the Black Congressional Caucus in support of our position. Also enclosed are articles that detail what has transpired subsequent to the formal presentation of our demands to President Derek Bok in February 1972.

Since our Committee received in February the active support of the Harvard - Radcliffe African and Afro-American Association of Students and the Harvard Black Faculty and Administrator's Association, the campus has become an expanding hotbed of protest. On April 4, our representative joined by representatives from the Black students group, the Black Faculty Association and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), will formally present our demands to the Harvard Corporation. The Corporation is faced with the options of doing nothing, voting its stock for a proxy resolution requiring Gulf to disclose its activities in Angola or divesting totally of its Gulf holdings. The first two options are meaningless. There is little for Gulf to disclose that is not already public knowledge. Further, the resolution has no chance of passing at the stockholders meeting. We have demanded with the support of your membership that Harvard not only divest but publicly condemn Gulf and encourage other stockholders to sell their shares. At this writing, Harvard stands opposed to our demand for divestiture and will likely retain its stock and vote for the meaningless and ill fated disclosure resolution.

The Gulf Oil Corporation is the largest American investor in Portuguese Africa. Harvard is Gulf's largest university shareholder. Needless to say, African-Americans can do real service to the cause of African liberation by forcing Harvard to use all of its substantial influence to get Gulf Oil out of Angola.

Congressman Louis Stokes  
Page Two

March 27, 1972

We have learned that the Black Congressional Caucus and Harvard will co-sponsor a conference entitled, "What Our National Priorities Should Be", which will run from April 5 - 7. Not accidentally, Harvard will host the Black Caucus during its Spring vacation in an effort to create an atmosphere of deception. Fortunately, many students intend to remain here through their vacations.

We are asking that the Black Congressional Caucus join with us by holding a press conference in Cambridge on the eve of the "National Priorities" forum on which occasion your membership will have the opportunity to publicly affirm the support you've given to date. Additionally, we ask that you make this issue of Gulf specifically and Southern Africa generally an item on the agenda either by allowing us to speak or by having a statement of support coming from the Black Caucus. We would of course prefer to have one of your members speak on this issue at the conference but if necessary we will gladly do it.

In closing, we hope that you will consider our request favorably. It would seem terribly inappropriate to hold a conference to ponder national minority priorities while ignoring the enormously important problems of Southern Africa; a problem in which the very host of a conference on Black problems finds itself deeply implicated.

Please call me collect at (617) 427-4470 or (617) 739-1884. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Randall Robinson*

Randall Robinson, Esq.

RR:kw  
Enclosures

The following individuals have indorsed the Pan-African Liberation Committee paper, "REPRESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA," An Indictment of Harvard University:

Hussein M. Adam - Chairman, Afro-American Studies Department,  
Brandeis University

Talmadge Anderson - Director of Black Studies, Washington State University

Johari M. Amini - Author

Derrick A. Bell, Jr. - Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

J. Herman Blake - Department of Sociology, University of California  
Santa Cruz

Julian Bond - Member, Georgia Legislature

His Excellency Mainza Chona - Vice President, Republic of Zambia

Honorable Ronald V. Dellums - U.S. Congressman, California

Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr. - U.S. Congressman, Michigan

Ollis Douglas, Jr. - Director, Pan-African Skills Project

James Farmer - Former Assistant Director, HEW

Dr. William Gordon, Jr. - Professor, Tuskegee Institute

William H. Grier, M.D. - Author, Professor of Psychiatry, University  
of California Medical Center

Honorable Bobby L. Hill - Member, Georgia Legislature

Mack H. Jones - Department of Political Science, Atlanta University

Mel King - Former Director, New Urban League of Boston

Joyce A. Ladner - Author, Professor, Howard University

Don L. Lee - Author Editor, THIRD WORLD PRESS

Philip N. Lee - Instructor, Malcolm X Liberation University

Richard A. Long - Author, Professor, Atlanta University

Channing E. Phillips - Nominee for President 1968 Democratic Convention

Chester M. Pierce - Professor, Harvard University Department of  
Social Relations

Alvin F. Poussaint - Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

**Indorsements (Cont'd)**

**Benjamin Quarles - Historian, Professor, Morgan State College**

**Honorable Gosbert M. Rutabanzibwa, Ambassador to U.S. Republic of  
Tanzania**

**Henry Sanders - Community Lawyer, Huntsville, Alabama**

**A. B. Spellman - Author Editor, Rhythm Magazine**

**Karen Spellman - Community Worker, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Honorable Louis Stokes - U.S. Congressman Ohio**

**Chuck Stone - Author**

**Andress Taylor - Associate Dean Federal City College**

**Robert Van Lierop - American Committee on Africa**

**Clemmont E. VonTress - Author**

**Wyatt Tee Walker - Civil Rights Leader, New York**

**Annette W. and Ernest Wards - Community Workers, Gainesville, Florida**