

SECTION V : DOCUMENTATIONSTATEMENT BY THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, MAY 26, 1977

The Christian Institute strongly reaffirms its stand on Investment in South Africa of October 22nd 1976, maintaining that economic pressure is one of the few remaining peaceful methods of bringing about meaningful change, and therefore no further investment in South Africa should be encouraged.

According to the Press Statement issued by Grinaker Projects (Pty) Ltd., on 21st May 1977, a new chemical plant is being opened by Chief M G Buthelezi at Isithebe, Kwa Zulu.

This is an enterprise in which leading companies in the chemical field from Holland, West Germany, and South Africa have joined with the Bantu Investment Corporation to provide basic materials for the detergent and cosmetics industry.

The total investment involved is R3 150 000. The plant is fully automated and will employ 35 Blacks initially, rising to 45. A "social programme" to operate the enterprise on a non-discriminatory basis, with full benefits to all employees, is in operation. The company hopes that labour intensive industries will be attracted to the area.

The Christian Institute is glad to note that the scheme appears to break new ground in offering reasonable benefits to its 35 Black workers, and unknown number of White staff.

However, the Christian Institute expresses its grave concern because this development:-

1. Appears to exploit the South African scene for the benefit of White investors mainly from Europe, who will presumably receive the major profits from the venture.
2. Gives strong support to the Kwa Zulu Homeland and Bantu Investment Corporation which are foundation stones of the apartheid system.
3. Mentions no provision for investment in the project by South African Blacks, or the appointment of a Black Board of Directors.
4. Was originated and is designed to obtain maximum benefit for the investors, not to provide maximum opportunity to the needy people of Kwa Zulu.
5. Ignores the expressed desire of Black leaders and organisations that foreign investment be rejected until a free society is established in South Africa.
6. Appears to question whether a scheme of this nature meets the requirements for "a radical redistribution of wealth, land, and political power" in the statement by Chief Buthelezi in March 1976, supported in his personal capacity by our director Dr C F B Naudé.
7. And therefore requests that Akzo Chemie of West Germany, Akzo Chemie of Holland, S.A. Chemical Holdings, the Anglo American Corporation, Grinaker Projects (Pty) Ltd., and Chief M G Buthelezi declare the principles under which they are acting in this matter, and show in what ways these are calculated to support the liberation and well-being of the people of South Africa.