

Prestasieprys vir technikonstudent

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Mynbou en Metallurgie het 'n paar jaar gelede 'n toekenning vir voortreflike akademiese prestasie deur vierdejaarstudente aan teknikons ingestel.

Die Senior Vise-president, mnr. H.E. James, vergesels van die Instituut se Sekretaresse, mev. Doris Gardner, het op 21 November 1984 'n prysuitdeling in die vorm van 'n middagete by die Holiday Inn, Pretoria, byge-

woon. Mnr. James het namens die Instituut 'n silwermedalje oorhandig aan David Roelof van Zyl wat die Nasionale Hoër Diploma in Fisiese Metallurgie met 'n gemiddeld van 88 persent verwerf het. Mnr. van Zyl is sedert 1981 Departementshoof vir Metallurgie aan die Technikon Pretoria en het ook 'n B.Sc-graad in Fisika en Chemie.

Links tot regs: mnr. J.R. Boot (Vise-Rektor, Technikon Pretoria), mnr. D.R. van Zyl (ontvanger van silwermedalje), mnr. H.E. James (Senior Vise-president, SAIMM), en mnr. N. v.d. M. Stofberg (Direkteur, Skool vir Fisiese Wetenskappe)



Disinvestment campaign*

As President of the Federation of Societies of Professional Engineers, which is an organization representing twelve institutions of the engineering profession comprising over 18 000 engineers of all kinds—of whom over 15 000 are either professional engineers or engineering graduates—I have been asked to make a statement on the disinvestment campaign on behalf of the profession.

The profession wishes to make known that we doubt the *bona fides* of many of the protagonists of disinvestment and doubt their understanding of the implications of their policies.

Some 340 American companies are directly represented in the R.S.A. and 80 per cent of their employees are Black. These companies generally set a good example of equal job opportunities, non-discriminatory wages, and fair employment. Should they have to close down as a result of disinvestment, the livelihood of some 750 000 Black South Africans will be directly affected, apart from the effect on the rest of the Black population, who will be the first to suffer. The principles of the Sullivan Code have been implemented in virtually all companies in the engineering industry.

Because such a large proportion of all employees in the engineering industry are Black, if this industry diminishes as a result of disinvestment, it is considered that some 10 million Black South Africans could be seriously and directly affected. It is significant that the majority of the

by COLIN M. SPENCE

people of South Africa oppose disinvestment, including most Black political, community, and trade union leaders.

On the contrary, continued and increased foreign investment is required in South Africa in order to uplift the quality of life of our Black population in the shortest possible time, and to strive towards complete parity in the physical, social, and political lives of all our peoples. Because all but four nations on the African continent maintain economic relations with South Africa, disinvestment in this country will also have a ripple effect throughout the whole African continent, further aggravating poverty and hunger in a region already seriously threatened.

Through our close contact with the engineering industry, it is clear to the engineering profession that foreign investment in South Africa remains in the best interests of shareholders, employees, and society at large. It is only through an improvement in the economic conditions of the under-privileged people of this country that the R.S.A. can attain a true and equitable society which recognizes the aspirations of all its peoples.

It is our considered view that disinvestment, which is simply a form of economic sanctions, is bound to fail in the long term because, although it will cause serious temporary hardship, it will eventually generate permanent self-reliance. This has been shown to occur whenever economic sanctions have been tried previously.

* Released by The Federation of Societies of Professional Engineers, P.O. Box 61019, Marshalltown, 2017 Transvaal.