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Notes

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From the Editors Notebook

2 **The voice of the university community** was heard at the ongoing protests against the racist regime in South Africa. Nearly 200 students, faculty and staff staged a 2-hour peaceful demonstration behind police lines at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C., on the last day of February. They were joined by several more protesters representing the United Methodist Church.

Like numerous anti-apartheid groups who have preceded them in this public outcry against South Africa's racial policies and U.S. ties with that regime, the group from Howard carried an assortment of placards and posters to get the message across. "It is time to end the oppression in South Africa. . . None of us are free till all of us are free. . . Free South Africa. . . Break the ties with apartheid. . ." the demonstrators chanted as they moved back and forth in a slow procession a block from the chancery building.

Anthony Evans, a divinity school student at the university and one of the organizers of the afternoon's event, read a statement at a press conference. He said, in part:

"We the faculty, staff and students of Howard University are here at the South African Embassy to . . . educate the world about the most brutal, barbarian, inhuman, evil and immoral system of government and people that has ever existed. Our conscience, our history and our love for the people in South Africa compel us to denounce apartheid in the strongest terms."

In all, 14 individuals who willingly crossed police lines were arrested that afternoon, including six from the Howard group. As of that date, a total of 1850 protesters have been arrested nationwide, with 1300 of the arrests occurring in Washington, D.C. But so far government prosecutors are reluctant to press charges against any of those arrested.

The anti-apartheid protest began last November 21 in Washington and spread rapidly to 23 other cities where the South African government is represented. It is being organized by the Free South Africa Movement and coordinated by TransAfrica. (See related item in Newsfile.) □



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