



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Manager,
Tesco Stores Ltd.,
222, High Road,
TOTTENHAM N15

26th September 1987

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as the Member of Parliament for Tottenham to express my profound disapproval of your store's policy of stocking goods originating from the Republic of South Africa, and to ask you to reconsider this policy.

I know that this disapproval is shared by the vast majority of the community in Tottenham. I have worked closely with the community in Tottenham for more than 20 years. It is a community made up of many races and cultures, bound together by a strong belief in the importance of equal opportunity for all, and by an appreciation of the richness of our multi-racial and multi-cultural life in this area. It is not surprising therefore that there are very strong feelings against the practise of apartheid in South Africa, and a determination to support the black majority in that country in their struggle for self determination.

Reporting restrictions mean that little news is coming out of South Africa at the moment, but the average black South African continues to be exploited for the comfort of the white minority. The black majority has inferior housing, an inferior diet, inferior medical care, inferior education inferior rights, and is constantly subjected to the humiliation of racist laws. At the same time there are systematic attempts to intimidate the leaders of any organisation which criticises the government which perpetuates these outrageous practices.

The overwhelming demand of the black majority in South Africa is



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that the outside world should cease to trade with that country, that it should cease to prop up an economic system which is built upon the exploitation of black people. Any company that deals in South African or Namibian produce therefore needs to question whether it can justify this trade.

I believe that there is only one reasonable answer to that question, and on behalf of the people of Tottenham I therefore call upon you to remove the products of Apartheid South Africa from your store in Tottenham. Their presence is demeaning to your company, and an offense to the vast majority of my constituents.

I understand that some Tesco stores have now revised their policy on this matter and have stopped selling South African goods. It would do much to enhance your company's standing in this area if your store here would do likewise.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

BERNIE GRANT M.P.