Experts analyze apartheid issue

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ment mandated the separation of public places, followed by a pass system. Today, blacks are allowed into white areas, but only if they carry special passes distributed by the government. Blacks are subject to arrest if they have either no pass or a slightly different version than is accepted.

Approximately 500,000 to 600,000 blacks are arrested each year as a result of the pass laws. The South African government practices apartheid for two basic reasons, Ruberg explained. First, the government believes blacks are a threat to white rule, he said. Secondly, the government believes that the blacks are neither ready nor capable of governing themselves.

The official government position is that the situation in South Africa is very tense, and that the blacks threaten the reform which is already in motion, Ruberg added.

Divestment attempts

College protests called for schools to divest interests in South Africa in 1967-68 and in 1977-78, according to John Parsons, assistant professor of finance at the Sloan School of Management.

Since 1975, according to Parsons, some states and pension funds divested their interests in both South Africa and corporations that invest heavily in South Africa.

"No one expects corporations to move their plants out of South Africa," Parsons said, "but it doesn't make any difference if American corporations fail to continue to license their products or stop sending parts to South Africa" because of a South African law sanitizing assets of corporations that pull out of South Africa.

Two other South African laws relate to the US-South African business relationship, according to Parsons. The first one requires all foreign plants in South Africa to provide military supplies for the South African government in the event of a government-defined "civil emergency." Foreign corporations must also cooperate completely with the South African government in the same situation. All foreign plants must be designed to be secure against possible violence, Parsons said.

The second law is a tax treaty the United States has with South Africa. Protests that US corporations make in South Africa are subject to tax paid directly to the South African government, providing revenue.

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