Columbia divests, but Dartmouth refuses

By Earl C. Yen

Columbia divests: In April, the Columbia Board of Trustees approved a divestment policy that would require the university to sell its holdings in American companies doing business in South Africa. The policy was adopted unanimously by the board of trustees.

Dartmouth divests: Dartmouth College decided in September to sell its holdings in American companies operating in the racially-divided nation of South Africa. The decision was made after a two-year period, during which the trustees had discussed the issue.

The trustees were aware that many American companies operating in South Africa had made significant efforts to improve conditions for blacks in the country, he noted.

The decision to divest was made after a month-long discussion by the trustees and faculty on the issue. The decision was to be carried out over a two-year period, according to the terms of the policy.

The trustees explained that the decision was made in response to growing pressure from students and faculty who were concerned about apartheid in South Africa.

The trustees stated that the decision was made after careful consideration of the issue, and that it was in the best interests of the university.

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