



# The Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity

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NEWS RELEASE

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CHURCH ORGANIZATION TO PROTEST SOUTH AFRICA RACIST POLICIES AT GENERAL MOTORS  
SHAREHOLDERS MEETING IN DETROIT. ADOPT EQUAL EMPLOYMENT POLICIES THERE OR PULL OUT

When the shareholders of General Motors Corporation meet in Detroit's Cobo Hall on Friday, May 20th, they will be asked by a representative of an Episcopal Church organization to consider the adoption of equal employment policies at GM's South African plants or the possible withdrawal of investments in that country.

The Atlanta-based Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, which owns five shares of GM stock, is sending its former national President, the Rev. Joseph A. Pelham, to represent it at the shareholders' meeting. Mr. Pelham is Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington, Michigan.

In Atlanta, ESCRU's Executive Director, the Rev. John B. Morris, said that this would be the first time such a concern has been raised in a stockholders meeting of American corporations that are heavily invested in South Africa. "It is inevitable and right that Civil Rights forces here begin to question American firms about their racial policies abroad", said Mr. Morris, "and I predict that this will only be the beginning of pressure on U. S. industry to cease and desist from its partnership with racism in South Africa."

From Detroit, the Rev. Mr. Pelham has indicated that other ESCRU members who individually own stock in GM are planning to attend the meeting to lend him support if it is necessary.

In its Annual Report, General Motors lists "General Motors South African Limited" as its subsidiary, with a plant at Port Elizabeth manufacturing Chevrolet, Vauxhall and Opel passenger cars, as well as Frigidaire and other products.

(Mr. Pelham's full statement is attached)

OVER

A QUESTION CONCERNING THE CORPORATE POLICIES & PRACTICES OF GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

To Be Submitted at the Meeting of GM Shareholders

Detroit, Michigan, May 20th

I am authorized by the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, which has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., and which is the owner of five shares of General Motors stock, to inquire into the Company's intentions and plans in the Republic of South Africa, where we have extensive interests, insofar as the racial policies and practices at assembly and other plants are concerned. We are strongly persuaded that General Motors, as well as other American firms doing business in South Africa, must utilize the same equal employment policies in that country as we are required to observe in this country. We feel that the company is obligated morally, if not legally, to use this and every other opportunity available in its dealings in South Africa to foster that spirit of racial justice and democracy which, ultimately, is the only basis for a sound and secure economy; and which reflects a higher law under which we all stand subject. We feel that the company, if it is not able to observe the same employment standards in South Africa which we follow here, must begin to consider the withdrawal of operations from that country; divesting itself of all interests which are in any way implicated in the apartheid and racist traditions of the government of South Africa. With this background of concern, then, Mr. Chairman, my question is: What kind of racial policies now constitute the Company's basis of operations in South Africa, and what changes do you foresee for these in the future?

- The Rev. Joseph A. Pelham\*

(\* - Mr. Pelham has been provided the proxy form sent to ESCRU, together with a further proxy authorizing him to speak and vote in behalf of ESCRU.)