

## Rally fails to spur divestment vote

Toronto (CUP) - A 27-hour sit-in, a rally and a near-riot in the chambers of the University of Toronto's Governing Council did not convince council members to put a divestment motion on the agenda of a March 5 meeting.

About 28 members of the U of T's Anti-Apartheid Network took over president George Connell's office shortly after noon on March 4. Students held the sit-in to protest an earlier decision by a Governing Council executive committee not to propose a divestment vote for the March 5 meeting.

U of T has \$4 million and \$280,000, respectively, invested in American and Canadian companies with South African ties. In Sept. 1985, the Governing Council voted to divest of all companies

that did not comply with the federal government's criteria outlined in a Code of Conduct.

Connell was not in his office when the students entered, but arrived shortly after 6 p.m., and met privately with Anti-Apartheid Network leaders Tom Parkin and Akwatu Khenti.

"The sit-in is a way to show our disgust with the watered-down divestment policy U of T came up with, and as a way of getting media attention to the issue," said Khenti.

Campus police were called to the scene, but did not remove the protestors, who spent a night in the president's office. Protestors left the office the next afternoon to attend a pro-divestment rally outside.

About 300 students attended the rally,

where sit-in organizers distributed lyrics to a song called "Come On, George", typed on official Office of the President note paper.

When Khenti told demonstrators he had been permitted a five-minute address at the Governing Council meeting, the crowd followed him into the council chamber. However, campus police would only allow 150 of the students into the chamber, and barred entry to television cameras.

Before Khenti's address, Connell told the meeting he had sent a letter to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, asking that the Code of Conduct be revised. He said U of T administrators were not satisfied with the code.

"I believe the university policy on divestment should

be reviewed in October 1987," said Connell, evoking boos and hisses from the crowd.

"The U of T policy on divestment has racist and paternalistic connotations," said Khenti. "It implies a few white people in North America can decide what is right for the black people of South Africa. 'Avoiding the issue through non-action will not make us go away,' Khenti said. 'Bring this motion to the floor. Divest now.'"

After Khenti's address, which was peppered by chants and cheers from supporters in the crowd, Claire Johnson, a part-time students' representative on council, introduced a motion to add a divestment motion to the meeting's agenda.

"We should consider this motion (to

divest) now," Johnson said. "No reconsideration or review of the policy will address the concerns of the students here today. The Code is utterly inappropriate."

When Johnson's motion was defeated 16 to 13, the crowd erupted into chants of "Racist scum" and "Freedom yes, apartheid no." Protestors weaved their way through the meeting room, and some climbed onto table, pointing and yelling at council members who had voted against Johnson's motion.

"It gives me not pleasure in disrupting a meeting," said Khenti into the chair's microphone. "But the time for debate, for talk is over. You leave us no choice - there is blood on your hands."

Con't on Page 7



## The Tradewind of the Field and Stream Club CHARLOTTETOWN'S MOST POPULAR DANCE SPOT

- Monday Nights: Blast to the Past!  
Music from 1965-1985
- Tuesday Nights: Ladies Night: You could win a \$100.00 CASH DRAW
- Wednesday Night: Student Night
- Thursday Night: Birthday Night! Free cake for Birthday party of five or more

Monday to Thursday — Happy Hour till 10:00 PM

Super Flash Specials All Night 'Till Closing

Dining from 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Our 8 oz. Steak special for just \$3.99 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM Daily

Lounge Opens 11:00 AM to LATE  
189 Kent Street, Charlottetown