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July 15, 1985

To: Members of the Executive Council,
Ranking Officers, Representatives and
Local Unions of Affiliated Organizations,
Federations of Labour and Labour Councils,
Directly Chartered Local Unions

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UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES'
UNION (C.U.P.E.)

Greetings;

This letter is further to my recent appeal to you for assistance in implementing a telephone campaign strategy to frustrate the operations of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce VISA Centre whose management until now has refused to negotiate in good faith with its employees represented by the Union of Bank Employees.

As you are no doubt aware some 250 bank workers are now into the second month of a strike at the Commerce VISA Centre in Toronto in an attempt to secure an all-important credible first agreement. As I indicated earlier it is crucial that we obtain a collective agreement which not only will satisfy the legitimate needs of these bank workers but which will serve as a bench-mark for negotiations in other sectors of the banking industry.

The telephone campaign continues to grow and there is every indication that it is having an effect on the bank's operations. At the same time there clearly is a need for other measures.

We are in the process of structuring a corporate campaign to challenge the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and its associated enterprises. As an initial and interim measure in this campaign I am requesting that as of this date your organization withdraw any assets or investments you may have with the Commerce and make it clear to the management of your branch that you are doing so because of the bank's labour relations policies at the Commerce VISA Centre in Toronto.

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I realize that in some instances this will create inconveniences, but I am sure you will agree with me that it is nothing compared to the inconveniences and difficulty facing bank workers not only at the VISA Centre in Toronto but throughout Canada.

As with the telephone campaign I am requesting that you advise me of any action you are able to take in this regard.

Thanking you for your continued support, I remain,

Fraternally,



Dennis McDermott,
President.

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cc: CLC Headquarters Staff and Field Staff