

FILE NO. 001677

10/2/00

RESOLUTION NO. 849-00

1 [Resolution against purchasing World Bank bonds.]

2  
3 **Resolution prohibiting the City and County of San Francisco from purchasing bonds**  
4 **issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank)**  
5 **or investing money in any investment fund that holds World Bank bonds.**  
6 with exception

7  
8 WHEREAS, the World Bank controls more investment capital and, together with the  
9 International Monetary Fund, has more policy influence in the world economy than any other  
10 institution, and for the past fifty years the World Bank has accumulated more influence over  
11 the economic policies of less developed countries; and

12 WHEREAS, the World Bank uses its leverage over less developed countries to  
13 actively promote policies that favor the narrow profit interests of transnational corporations,  
14 such as low wages, repressive labor policies, and weak environmental regulation, at the  
15 expense of the interests of the majority to improve living standards; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the World Bank imposes a narrowly defined, export-led growth model on  
18 Third World countries so they can earn hard currency to make payments on foreign debts.  
19 To achieve this increase in exports, structural adjustment policies are imposed that include  
20 slashing public spending, increasing interest rates to exorbitant levels, deregulating markets,  
21 devaluing currencies and reducing existing labor protections. The impact on workers and  
22 their families is devastating. Workers face massive layoffs and wage cuts, while prices of  
23 basics such as food, housing, energy and transportation skyrocket; and  
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10/2/00  
rt

1           WHEREAS, structural adjustment policies worsen U.S. trade deficits, leading to the  
2 loss of solid family-supporting jobs while driving down the already abysmally low wages of  
3 workers living in the developing nations. Requirements that Third World countries deregulate  
4 and eliminate “barriers” to foreign investment pit poor countries and workers against each  
5 other in competition to attract foreign companies. This, in effect, leads to a race to the bottom  
6 in wages, working conditions and environmental standards as well as a loss of approximately  
7 one million U.S. jobs annually; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, the World Bank’s project lending is often environmentally destructive, and  
10 violates the rights of indigenous peoples; and

11           WHEREAS, the World Bank’s policy that countries expand their exports has led poor  
12 countries to overexploit their natural resources by cutting down forests, heavily using  
13 chemicals to produce export crops, and overfishing coastal and international waters. The  
14 World Bank also funds often inappropriate and controversial large-scale infrastructure  
15 projects that have displaced thousands of poor and indigenous people and destroyed fragile  
16 ecosystems thereby further endangering numerous animal and plant species; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, by keeping the governments of low-income countries dependent on new  
19 infusions of capital from high-income countries, the World Bank has reinforced an “external  
20 allegiance” of these governments, making them more accountable to World Bank managers  
21 than to their own people, thereby diminishing any real chance of meaningful development or  
22 democracy in these countries; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the World Bank operates in a secretive fashion and is accountable neither  
2 to the taxpayers who fund it nor to the citizens of debtor countries who are subjected to its  
3 policies; now therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That, from this date forward, the City of San Francisco will not purchase  
5 bonds issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World  
10/2/00  
rt 6 with the exception of investments issued by and through the U.S. Treasury  
7 Bank) or invest money in any investment fund that holds World Bank bonds.  
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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 001677

**Date Passed:**

Resolution prohibiting the City and County of San Francisco from purchasing bonds issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank) or investing money in any investment fund that holds World Bank Bonds.

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October 2, 2000 Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT  
COMMITTEE REFERENCE AGENDA

October 2, 2000 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED

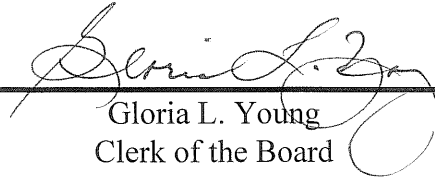
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom,  
Teng, Yaki, Yee

October 2, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom,  
Teng, Yaki, Yee

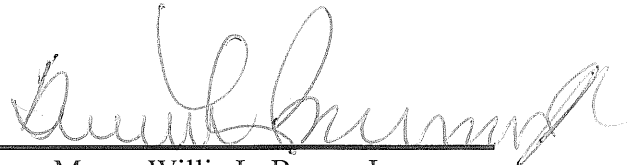
File No. 001677

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on October 2, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

OCT 13 2000

Date Approved

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.