

ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED AFRICA SCHOLARS

URGENT CALL TO CONGRESS - BREAK THE SILENCE

Raids by South Africa have increased since the beginning of May with South African commandos killing several people in Zambia, Swaziland, and most recently, Maputo, Mozambique. A bomb concealed in a television killed a woman in Zimbabwe. Attacks into Angola have continued.

At the same time, the Right in the US Congress has launched several initiatives against those resisting apartheid aggression. Those in Congress who have supported liberation in Southern Africa have recently been meek and often mute in opposing this newest right-wing offensive.

Your voice is needed to support members of Congress who oppose the right-wing attack on the independent states of Southern Africa. These members must know that they have support for their active opposition to these initiatives.

Call and write your Congresspersons to express your support for Southern Africa on the following issues.

1. Supplemental Aid Bill - FY 1987

a. Aid to SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference) - At the beginning of the year, a flurry of bills suggested as much as \$140 million per year for the next five years to the nine members of SADCC. The present House version has zero funds for SADCC; the Senate version reduces aid to \$50 million. There is little talk of any five year commitment.

b. Pressler Amendment - Passed in the Senate (77-15), this amendment bars any amount of the above economic assistance to the independent states of Southern Africa unless Reagan tells Congress they oppose terrorism and are making efforts to prevent their territory from being used for raids into South Africa; it requires them to renounce "necklacing" inside South Africa.

c. DeConcini Amendment - A non-binding, "sense of the Senate" vote passed 94-0 to condemn human rights abuses and renounce the Soviet-Cuban presence in Angola. It calls for the president to reinvestigate present US business links to Angola and to consider restricting US business relations.

The amendment does not mention human rights abuses of UNITA nor the continuing South African invasions of Angola. Such liberals as Senators Kennedy and Cranston voted for the amendment, excusing themselves by saying it was "non-binding."

The six who were absent for the vote were Inouye (HI), Simon (IL), Adams (WA), Bidden (DE), Rudman (NH), and Gore (TN).

2. Dole Bill - S1228 - Announced during the debate on the DeConcini amendment, this bill calls for US trade sanctions against Angola and requires the US to encourage its other trading partners to do likewise.

Preconditions before such sanctions would be lifted are that the government must have "discussions with the non-communist opposition" (i.e. UNITA), must withdraw all Cuban and Soviet troops and conduct "free and fair elections" by November 11, 1988. Angola must also pass laws to "assure full national participation of all the people of Angola in the social, political and economic life in that country."

Again no mention is made of human rights abuses of UNITA or of South African aggression into Angola.

Especially urgent is that the language of this bill could appear as an amendment to other bills, such as the trade bill presently under discussion.

3. Aid to UNITA - The House Intelligence Committee, in closed session, has voted additional funds to UNITA (estimated at \$27 million). The debate on the House floor (or Senate) is not yet scheduled, but is expected in the near future.

4. Ambassador to Mozambique - The Reagan Administration has appointed Melissa Wells as the new ambassador to Mozambique; she has been ambassador to Guinea Bissau and is considered knowledgeable about the issues. Senator Helms, joined by Senator Dole, is holding up the appointment with intensive questioning about her position on communism.

ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION ACTION

A. Those in the designated states should immediately contact the conference committee members to strike the Pressler and DeConcini amendments from the supplemental aid bill and to support SADCC.

Conference Committee for the Supplemental Aid Bill FY 1987:

Senate -- D. Inouye-D, Hawaii	J. Stennis-D, Mississippi
R. Caston-R, Wisconsin	M. Hatfield-R, Oregon

House -- S. Conti-R, Mass.	D. Obey-D, Wisconsin
J. Dixon-D, Calif.	J. Whitten-D, Mississippi

B. Everyone should contact her/his senators/representative in regard to the above items, including

** opposition to Pressler and DeConcini amendments, Dole bill (S1228) in any form, and aid to UNITA

** support for SADCC and appointment of ambassador to Mozambique

For further information - Washington Office on Africa

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