

ACTION ALERT

INFORMATION FOR ACTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES

WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA • 110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 • (202) 546-7961

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SUPPORT AID TO THE NATIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

In February, 1987 Members of Congress introduced legislation to 1) give aid to black-ruled southern African states and 2) impose comprehensive economic sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa. Action on some of these legislative initiatives will begin immediately. It is vital that activists organize activities now to educate and mobilize anti-apartheid networks to work in support of these important bills. We must start now to build the grassroots support necessary for passage of aid to southern Africa and comprehensive economic sanctions.

AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

Congressmen Julian Dixon (D-CA), Bill Gray (D-PA), and Mickey Leland (D-TX) have taken the lead in introducing bills that would give aid to the Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and distribute aid through international organizations with established programs in the region. From 1980-86 South Africa's war of regional destabilization against its neighbors caused \$15-16 billion in damage to the black-ruled nations of southern Africa. Pretoria's military and economic policies have forced these governments to expend exorbitant sums of their meager resources on security rather than development projects needed to build strong and independent economies. South Africa invades its neighbors, and finances, equips and trains guerilla groups which destroy vital local infrastructure and terrorize the people. South Africa uses its economic and technical dominance in the region to threaten the independence of the neighboring states.

In 1980, nine black-ruled nations of southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) formed the Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference or SADCC [pronounced: saddick]. Through regional cooperation efforts, SADCC works to improve the living conditions of the people of southern Africa and strengthen their economies to withstand South Africa's destabilization policies. SADCC and the people of southern Africa have requested needed assistance from donor nations for important transportation, communications, and other development projects. The U.S. must help aid these nations without conditions or reservations to build a strong southern Africa.

AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA: Outline of bills, Timeline and Action

****H.R. 1034/S 475** — Principal sponsors are Representative Bill Gray (D-PA) in the House and Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Lowell Weicker (R-CA) in the Senate. This legislation requests \$700 million in funding for SADCC states over 5-years beginning 1988 (\$140,000 per year). 50% of the funds must be used on transport, 25% on agricultural research and training, and 25% on manpower development. The percentage divisions were based on priorities outlined by SADCC. This bill also includes language urging the U.S. to use diplomatic means to end South African aggression against its neighbors.

****H.R. 967/S 474** — Principal sponsors are Congressman Julian Dixon (D-CA) in the House and Senators Kennedy and Weicker in the Senate. The bill is an urgent supplemental request for \$100 million. It would re-appropriate monies unused from last year's budget. No less than 60% of the \$100 million is to be spent for the Dar es Salaam Port Transport System. Remaining monies would be spent on communication, energy, agricultural research and training, and industrial development.

****H.R. 776** — Principal sponsor is Congressman Mickey Leland (D-TX). The bill is an urgent supplemental request for \$144 million in humanitarian assistance to southern Africa. There is no Senate counterpart for the Leland bill. Funds will be granted to SADCC approved and affiliated projects and to several international and U.S. agencies already working in the region, to provide emergency and basic health care, refugee assistance, reconstruction of health clinics, basic agricultural inputs (tools, seeds and water), and training for women.

These three bills are on a fast track and need work immediately. Foreign aid legislation must be considered by several committees. Each of these bills must be authorized and appropriated by the relevant committees in the House and Senate. The key committees are the House and Senate Foreign Affairs/Relations Committees, with their Africa subcommittees, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, with their Foreign Operations Subcommittees. The first hearings on aid to southern Africa are scheduled to begin in mid-March before the Foreign Affairs Committee.

ACTION ON AID BILLS: 1) Write or call Senators and Representative urging them to co-sponsor and support the bill. 2) Write the House and Senate Democratic and Republican leadership urging their active support for the bills. 3) April 1, 1987 will be a lobby day in support of aid to southern Africa legislation. We urge you to call your Representatives' local and Washington offices to register your support for this important legislation. 4) Organize community delegations to visit legislators' home offices and lobby for these bills. 5) Support and organize people-to-people development projects for southern Africa in your area. Contact our office for additional details on this suggestion.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS: Bill, Timeline and Action

On February 19, 1987 the Washington Office on Africa (WOA) joined with Congressman Ron Dellums (D-CA) and Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) to sponsor a press conference announcing the introduction of H.R. 1153, comprehensive sanctions legislation against South Africa and Namibia. The Washington Office on Africa believes that passage of comprehensive sanctions is a necessary response to the deteriorating situation in southern Africa.

The present limited sanctions law enacted October 2nd, is an important step towards ending U.S. support for the apartheid government. However, the loopholes in the law are permitting South Africa to continue business as usual in many sectors of its economy. The South African government is actively seeking and finding methods of undercutting the intent of the sanctions law by exploiting those loopholes. **The Reagan Administration is further exploiting the loopholes in the law and weakening some of the stronger provisions of the bill by imposing loose regulations to implement the law which are allowing continued imports and exports of items prohibited by the legislation.** For example, the law prohibits imports of South African (and Namibian) uranium and uranium ore. Nevertheless, the Reagan Administration's regulations, including a special exemption, still allow uranium to enter the U.S.

H.R. 1153, the Dellums/Cranston bill, mandates complete disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia within six months of passage of the legislation. In addition, all trade with South Africa will be banned. H.R. 1153 is an updated version of H.R. 997, the Dellums bill, which passed in the House last July. Introduction of this legislation early in the 100th Congress sends an important warning signal to South Africa, the Congress and the Reagan Administration that the anti-apartheid movement remains actively committed to the goal of comprehensive economic sanctions against Pretoria.

H.R. 1153, includes some of the stronger sections of the present sanctions law, such as, the termination of the US/South Africa treaty to permit air flights between the two countries. The section which prohibits collaboration between U.S. and South African armed forces, is strengthened to prohibit all intelligence cooperation as well.

The Dellums/Cranston bill is not likely to be considered by Congress until after the October, 1987 deadline for South Africa's adherence to certain conditions for abolishing apartheid, as outlined in the current sanctions bill. Hearings may not occur until early summer.

ACTION ON SANCTIONS: We must use the coming months to begin educating our communities and Members of Congress on the need for strong comprehensive sanctions against South Africa. 1) Distribute fact sheets to your networks on the need for comprehensive sanctions. WOA can provide you with new sanctions talking points. 2) When organizing educational forums on South Africa's regional war, include a focus on the need for sanctions; 3) Begin letter writing and postcard campaigns to Congress **NOW**, urging comprehensive sanctions; 4) Combine action around sanctions with your local divestment campaigns which must now expose the corporate shell games or so-called "withdrawals" of corporations, such as, GM, IBM and others.

Call the Anti-Apartheid Action Hotline, (202) 546-0408, for updates and alerts.