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May 13, 1989

To: Friends of The Africa Fund

From: Jim Cason

Re: Recent Statements of Herman Cohen,  
Nominee for Asst Sec State Africa

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The Bush administration's nominee to replace Chester Crocker is Herman J. Cohen. In answer to questions posed by members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee May 3, 1989 Cohen made the following points:

\* "A large number of American companies in South Africa are doing excellent things, which, in my view, could lead to the dismantling of the apartheid system." "We should encourage companies to remain."

\* "South Africa has been scrupulously complying with the" agreement reached in December on Angola/Namibia. As have Cuba and Angola. "It was very unfortunate that the SWAPO leadership made the decision to send some of their troops over the line in violation of the tripartite accords." But he remained "fairly optimistic" that things will go well.

\* "We are supplying UNITA with military and non-military support...We should maintain that support in an effort to keep up the pressure on the [MPLA] government." He also said: "We cannot recognize the government of Angola until such time as there's national reconciliation in Angola." Jonas Savimbi would meet with Bush if he came to the US. Dismissed reports of witches, human rights violations.

\* On the ANC: Cohen resisted pressure to refuse to negotiate with ANC until they renounce terrorism. "I think the ANC is too important and too influential for us not to talk to them." Secretary of State James Baker very likely will meet Tambo when he comes to US, Not sure if President should see him.

\* "RENAMO, are victims of their own military success. They've been so successful that there's no food even for them to eat...I believe it may be moving toward some sort of pre-negotiation stage. I'm very pleased that the South Africans are encouraging this, and that they are doing their best to stop all assistance going into -- or military arms --the country." Senator Helms quoted US Ambassador in Mozambique as saying US will not talk to RENAMO. He ask whether US would hold talks with RENAMO: "I feel the situation in Mozambique is so bad and the need for peace is so great, I will talk to anybody if it would help."

