

## THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

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### STATEMENT BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA ON THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE S2701 (The Lugar Bill)

On Friday August 1, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a vote of 15-2 [Helms (R-NC) and Pressler (R-SD) dissented] approved a bill providing for limited sanctions against apartheid in South Africa. S.2701 was offered by Senator Richard Lugar (R-ID) and was strengthened in committee by a key amendment by Senators Mathias (R-MD) and Evans (R-WA). Attempts by Senator Cranston (D-CA) during the first day of mark up (August 1) to substantially strengthen S.2701 were defeated. Cranston first proposed S.2570 as a substitute which was defeated 9-7. He later offered a package of stronger but less sweeping sanctions which failed 10-7. A Cranston amendment to ban textile imports from South Africa was defeated on a 8-8 tie vote.

The vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was significant in that it approved any sanctions at all against South Africa. No action would have occurred were it not for the pressure generated by the growing pressure for sanctions here and abroad. However, S.2701, as amended, is an inadequate response to the worsening crisis in South Africa. The measure contains limited sanctions, some containing loopholes which would render them ineffective. As approved, the bill's key provisions would:

- Codify the limited sanctions contained in the President's Executive Order issued September 9, 1985. These sanctions are riddled with loopholes.
- Ban loans to the private sector (however it would allow short term trade credits and financing. More than 67% of South Africa's total foreign debt is short-term loans. This is a major loophole)
- Ban on new investment (does not include a ban on reinvestment of profits and would allow "contributions" to corporations "so they can continue to operate in an economically sound measure".)
- Ban the importation of uranium and coal (no explicit ban on steel, although steel imports would be affected by ban on imports from parastatal producers).
- Ban imports from parastatals that are producers, not marketers (this will affect steel, uranium and cement).

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- Prohibit landing rights for South African airlines
- Deny visas to government officials (including South African controlled companies)
- Prohibit U.S. banks from holding deposits from South African government or its agencies (one diplomatic account is allowed and South African nationals could still make deposits)
- Terminate the sanctions if South Africa fails to meet certain conditions. (Including the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners)
- Impose future sanctions if significant progress in dismantling apartheid is not made (e.g. ban on diamond and steel imports, prohibition on holding bank accounts from South Africans, prohibition on military assistance to countries violating international arms embargo aimed at South Africa, and a ban on the importation of strategic minerals).

The Washington Office on Africa reiterates its support for the comprehensive sanctions provisions of S.2570. However we will be working for passage of the strongest possible sanctions bill in the Senate short of S.2570. Consequently we are circulating a number of strengthening amendments in order to secure passage of effective sanctions.