

ACTION ALERT

INFORMATION FOR ACTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES

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SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA **HR 1580 / S 556**

On October 2, 1987 in compliance with PL 99-440, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, President Reagan issued a report on the extent to which South Africa has made significant progress towards dismantling apartheid. As expected, he concluded that sanctions are counter-productive and have caused increased repression in South Africa. He violated the sanctions law when he admitted that South Africa had made no attempt to end apartheid but refused to recommend to Congress additional sanctions to be imposed on the Pretoria regime.

At an October 8, 1987 press conference, a bi-partisan group of Congressional-anti-apartheid leaders in the House and Senate denounced the President's report and called upon the Administration to comply with the law and recommend additional sanctions. Congressman Howard Wolpe (D-MI), Chairman of the House Africa Subcommittee opened the press conference by outlining the escalating South African repression and destabilization in southern Africa and the unwillingness of the Reagan Administration to act decisively against apartheid. He also embraced the Dellums bill, (HR 1580/S 556) as the primary legislative vehicle in the upcoming sanctions struggle in the Congress. HR 1580 sponsor, Congressman Ronald Dellums (D-CA) called on Democrats in the Senate, who are now the majority, to take the lead and embrace strong sanctions against South Africa. The Senate companion of the Dellums bill, S 556, has been introduced by Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA). It only has 2 co-sponsors, while the House version has 65.

Comprehensive Economic Sanctions Now!

On February 19, 1987, in anticipation of the continued anti-sanctions position by the Reagan Administration and congressional conservatives, HR 1580/S 556, the Dellums/Cranston comprehensive sanctions legislation was introduced. This important legislation was introduced early in the 100th Congress to begin building congressional and grassroots support for stronger sanctions against South Africa. **Comprehensive sanctions, rather than the limited measures passed by the Congress last year, are the necessary response to the continuing violent repression of the apartheid government, its illegal occupation of Namibia, and its economic and military assaults on neighboring states.**

HR 1580/S 556 mandates complete disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia within six months of passage of the legislation. In addition, most trade with South Africa will be banned. The Dellums/Cranston bill also includes some of the stronger sections of the present sanctions law,

such as the termination of the treaty permitting air flights between South Africa and the U.S.

While the present limited sanctions law enacted October 2, 1986 represents an important step towards ending U.S. support for the apartheid government and economy, its provisions were limited and circumventable. **The Reagan Administration exploited the loopholes in the law and weakened some of the stronger provisions of the bill by imposing loose regulations which permit business as usual in many sections of the South African economy.**

In spite of the loopholes, even the adoption of selective sanctions by the U.S., has had some impact on South Africa. White business, academic and church groups have been encouraged to open discussions with the ANC. Confidence among some whites has been shaken. The apartheid government, which arrogantly proclaims that it can ignore outside pressure, has been forced to allocate more resources to sanctions busting and anti-sanctions propaganda. Although these limited measures have provoked "window-dressing reforms" in South Africa, much of this reaction would never have occurred without U.S. sanctions and the threat of future stronger measures. The anti-apartheid movement has never claimed that sanctions were the "quick-fix" for apartheid. But only comprehensive sanctions by the U.S., globally applied, can apply the maximum pressure on the Pretoria regime to raise the cost of maintaining apartheid for white South Africans. Black organizations including COSATU, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the South African Council of Churches (SACC), and individual leaders such as Alan Boesak and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, continue to call for disinvestment and stronger sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Timeline

Hearings on the President's report were held by the Senate Africa Subcommittee on October 22, 1987. Unfortunately, few Democratic members of the full Foreign Relations committee and only one member of the Africa Subcommittee (Paul Simon, D-IL), attended a portion of the hearings, while a full Republican contingent led by Jesse Helms (R-NC), was present. Therefore, the only substantive Senate challenges to conservative resistance to strong sanctions, came from Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Lowell Weicker (R-CT) who testified before the committee, and Senator Simon, as Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee. The House Subcommittee on Africa is scheduled to begin hearings on sanctions the second week of November. House floor action on HR 1580 will not occur until Congress re-convenes in 1988.

URGENTLY NEEDED ACTION ON SANCTIONS

- * **RECRUIT COSPONSORS FOR HR 1580 / S 556.** The Dellums/Cranston Bill needs additional co-sponsors immediately! As of October 26, there were only 65 co-sponsors of HR 1580 and 2 co-sponsors of S 556. If we can obtain at least 100 co-sponsors in the House and 25 in the Senate, we can send an important message to undecided members of Congress that the American people are serious about comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.
- * **WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS NOW URGING THEM TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT AND CO-SPONSOR H.R.1580/S.556!** Letters and phone calls are very highly regarded by Representatives. Let them hear from you!

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PENDING SANCTIONS LEGISLATION IN THE 100TH CONGRESS (10-29-87)

HR 1580/S 556: Comprehensive Sanctions bill, introduced Feb. 19th by Representative Ron Dellums (D-CA) and Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), would impose a total trade embargo and require complete withdrawal of U.S. corporations from South Africa.

Status: Referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The House Africa Subcommittee will hold hearings on sanctions in mid-November. The Senate Africa Subcommittee has held similar hearings on October 22. Substantive action is not expected until after January, 1988. There are 65 cosponsors of HR 1580 and 2 for S 556.

HR 1005: introduced February 4th by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) seeks to **deny foreign tax credit for any tax paid or accrued to the Republic of South Africa**. Currently, U.S. companies doing business in South Africa can claim credit against their U.S. taxes for those paid in South Africa. HR 1005 would remove this credit, encouraging U.S. companies to leave South Africa.

Status: Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. Hearings on HR 1005 were held in July. The bill was included as a revenue-raising proposal in the Budget Committee's budget reconciliation package, H.R. 3545, which may go to the floor the first week of November.

HR 3328: the Apartheid Profits Disincentive bill, introduced in September by Representative Mickey Leland (D-TX), seeks to prohibit investment in United States capital markets by certain South African mining interests.

Status: Referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Hearings before the Energy and Commerce committee were held October 20. The bill has no co-sponsors yet.

HR 3317: the Petroleum Sanctions bill, introduced by Representative Robert Wise (D-WV), would require U.S. companies and their subsidiaries to end petroleum trade with South Africa. The bill would prohibit companies which break the ban from bidding on Federal oil, coal, and gas leases.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee. The bill has 29 cosponsors.

HR 1051: Prohibition on the importation of South African diamonds into the U.S. Introduced on February 9, 1987 as an amendment to the anti-apartheid act of 1986. This legislation would prohibit the import of any South African or Namibian diamonds into the U.S.

Status: HR 1051 has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee in the House. It has no Senate sponsor and no House co-sponsors. Hearings have not been scheduled.

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