



PRESS RELEASE

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US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSES ASSISTANCE FOR INKATHA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has prepared a new proposal for the expenditure of \$10 million dollars, appropriated by Congress last year to "support democracy in South Africa." These funds have yet to be disbursed, as some members of Congress opposed USAID's original apportionment plan.

The Washington Office on Africa has learned from sources on Capitol Hill that USAID's new proposal, due to be officially announced later this week, includes \$2.5 million for Chief M.G. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party. Other beneficiaries are expected to be the African National Congress (\$4.5 million), the South African Council of Churches (\$1 million), the US Information Agency (\$1 million), and the National Endowment for Democracy (\$1 million).

Given Inkatha's central role in instigating and perpetuating political violence, the Washington Office on Africa rejects the suggestion that assistance to Inkatha could improve the prospects for democracy in South Africa. According to a recent study by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry, Inkatha has been reported as the aggressor in 66% of attributable incidents of violence in the Johannesburg area, as compared to 6% for the ANC. These figures echo similar findings in Natal. As the ruling party of KwaZulu, one of South Africa's "homelands," Inkatha has used its control of jobs and public resources to recruit members and punish opponents.

Furthermore, this proposal follows in the wake of revelations concerning covert South African government support for Inkatha. The South African government diverted more than \$610,000 in public funds to Inkatha and its affiliated labor organization over the past five years. The money came from a "Secret Services" slush fund, maintained by the South African government to finance "dirty tricks" against its political opponents.

Press reports have also offered evidence that the South African military has used Inkatha in a deliberate attempt to escalate the conflict in Black townships. According to a former military intelligence operative, the South African Defence Force has been supplying Inkatha with AK-47 rifles. Last year, the *Weekly Mail* reported that the SADF also ran a camp in Namibia's Caprivi Strip, which it used to train Inkatha members in the use of AK-47s, rocket launchers, and submachine guns. Township residents have repeatedly accused security forces of failing to prevent--or actively encouraging--Inkatha attacks.

The Washington Office on Africa urges that USAID funds earmarked for Inkatha be reallocated to one of the several other South African anti-apartheid organizations whose commitment to democracy is evident in their actions as well as their rhetoric.

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