

An Open Statement For Private Citizens and Public Officials

A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM  
FOR  
DISENGAGEMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA,  
AN END OF SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL'S ULTRA COLONIALISM,  
AID FOR AFRICAN STATES BESEIGED BY APARTHEID

The U.S. should disengage from South Africa.

- Our relations with South Africa are normal. Normal relations are not neutral. Disengagement is a call for neutrality.
- Communications with South Africa have failed. In more than 20 years of relations with South Africa under its Nationalist Party the amount of oppressive legislation has steadily increased.
- Under normal relations the bureaucracy of our government interacts with the bureaucracy of South Africa, and, through their own inertia, these institutional relations facilitate deeper involvement with the South Africa regime. This process must be reversed through disengagement.
- South Africa is the world's only racist dictatorship. The totality of its oppression is unique.
- The growing American economic exploitation in South Africa deepens the U.S. stake in the status quo in South Africa.
- South Africa has continued to defy international opinion with its new administrative take-over of Namibia (South West Africa).

The U.S. should end the contradiction in its avowed support for self-determination in Africa and its real support for Portugal's military suppression in its "overseas" territories.

- Portugal, the most backward country in Europe, retains the world's largest colonial empire through U.S. support.
- Portugal, in its so-called civilizing mission in Africa, first depopulated its 'provinces' by selling the people as slaves to the Americas. Now it seeks to divest those territories of their mineral wealth with the help of Gulf oil and other American interests.
- U.S. military support to Portugal through NATO, while not officially used in Africa, allows Portugal to free other resources for use in suppressing its colonies.

The U.S. should aid independent Africa in its quest for self-reliance and progress:

- American foreign aid to independent Africa is a pittance while we continue to extract great riches from South Africa with the aid of the racist regimes in that part of the continent.
- Our own population of African descent should be enough cause to support a "special relationship" with Africa.

THE U.S. SHOULD REDUCE ITS LEVEL OF SUPPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

1. The American subsidy to South Africa through the sugar quota should be revoked. The Bingham-Kennedy amendment to the Sugar Act should be supported.
2. Laws facilitating foreign commerce should be amended to protect Americans from compulsory religious and racial discrimination. The Federal Aviation Act should be amended so that an air carrier such as South African Airways would have its permit suspended until it exhibited an understanding that Americans would not be hindered in their commerce or passage for religious or racial reasons.
3. Congress should instruct the Secretary of Labor to undertake a review of countries which mandate discrimination in employment on account of race or religion. The Fair Employment Practices Act should be amended to require that American firms divest themselves of any subsidiaries in any country which requires and enforces through its legislation racial or religious discrimination in employment.
4. The Appropriations bill for the State Department should be amended to the effect that 10% of the funds for any embassy are to be held by the Treasury until the Secretary of State verifies in writing that racial or religious discrimination is not practiced in the assignment of Foreign Service personnel to that Embassy and its consulate offices.
5. Congress should allocate no more funds for the U.S. Space Tracking Station in South Africa. It should support the expansion of the NASA facilities in Malagasy and/or the development of space tracking facilities, as required, in Zambia or Botswana.
6. The Appropriations bill for the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Science Foundation, and the National Space and Aeronautics Administration should be amended to provide that the directors of these instrumentalities must confirm that none of its funds are spent in cooperation with countries which require by law the separation of races in its educational and scientific institutions.
7. An amendment to tax legislation should provide that income from new American investments in South Africa should not be exempted from "double taxation".
8. A "sense of Congress" resolution should indicate apprehension about any increase in private American economic involvement in South Africa. The International Finance Subcommittees of the Banking and Currency Committees should conduct hearings and investigations into the activities of the American mining companies, and their inter-locking directorships, which operate in southern Africa.
9. The arms embargo on South Africa should be extended by Congressional action amending the Export Control Act to provide that any materials convertible to military purposes (such as trucks and aircraft) would also be defined as military exports.
10. The Export Control Act should be amended so that countries enforcing religious or racial discrimination by law would be classified as a special category of country. General exports to these countries would have to be approved annually by the President in accord with his foreign policy.
11. Refugees from South Africa and the non-independent states in southern Africa should be given appropriate refugee status, similar to that extended to refugees for Hungary and Cuba. Support for their medical and educational needs should be provided.

THE U.S. SHOULD END ITS SUPPORT OF PORTUGAL'S ULTRA-COLONIALISM IN MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, AND GUINEA.

1. An embargo on all arms to Portugal should be imposed under Export Control legislation.
2. No appropriations for military or other forms of aid to Portugal should be voted.
3. No more appropriations for the American base in the Azores should be voted.
4. The Export-Import Bank Act should be amended so that no credits, guarantees or insurance subsidies are provided for use with non-self governing territories whose right to self-determination under majority rule has not been recognized.
5. Exports to, and imports from, non-self government territories should be prohibited by amendments to the relevant legislation until such time as the right to self determination under majority rule has been accepted by the administering power.

AMERICAN AID SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THOSE AFRICAN STATES THREATENED OR BESEIGED BY APARTHEID

1. Special trade and aid should be provided to the three African countries besieged by South Africa. These include Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland.
2. Zambia, Tanzania and the Congo, countries threatened by the racist regimes in the South, should receive special consideration for foreign and military aid.
3. Zambia should receive special compensation to help redirect its economy towards East Africa and away from its dependence upon South Africa and Rhodesia.
4. The U.S. South African sugar quota should be re-allocated among the independent African net sugar exporters. These include Malagasy, Mauritius, Swaziland, and Uganda.

OTHER MEASURES

Other legislative measures to support independence and progress in Africa and to extend a "special relationship" between the U.S. and Africa would include:

1. An expansion of the proposed Commission on Afro-American History and Culture (HR 3295 introduced by Hon. James H. Scheuer) to specifically include the relations between the U.S. and Africa.
2. The establishment through Congressional action of a Black Freedom Memorial Center in the District of Columbia named after Martin Luther King and Chief Albert Luthuli. Such a memorial would be a center for activities commemorating the black man's struggle for freedom and would also incorporate the African and Afro-American Freedom Museum and Study Center. Special fellowships could be provided for research into problems of safeguarding the freedom of the black man and the independence of African countries.

These proposals are directed at the Legislative Branch. Certain Executive measures could have the same net effect. However, the Executive actions necessary to change our relationships in southern Africa from "normal" to "neutral" require a certain amount of political leadership and perhaps courage. Presidential leadership is always carefully nurtured and rationed. It is up to the Congress to advance the public dialogue with respect to the moral issues present in the southern African situation. In so doing the Congress would best advance the long term interests of the U.S. in Africa.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

##### As A Private Citizen

Write to your Congressman and Senators urging support for legislative proposals which will disengage the U.S. from the racist regimes in southern Africa.

Write the President urging that he establish a policy of vigorous neutrality with South Africa by disengaging from the high level of involvement in that area.

##### As A Public Official

Support the legislative efforts to reduce our support for the regimes of southern Africa.

Increase American aid to independent African states.

Investigate and monitor the involvement of the U.S. government and American financial interests in southern Africa.

Advance the public dialogue by focusing attention on developments in Africa.

##### As A Member of Organizations and Institutions.

Investigate the extent of your organization's involvement in South Africa (through its investment portfolio, etc.)

Introduce policy resolutions relevant to your organization's objectives and American policy in southern Africa.

Urge local member units of your membership to cultivate the attention of their Congressmen on these matters.

This presentation has been prepared by the American Committee on Africa. Further information is available from the American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Avenue, New York, New York or Room 527, Woodward Building, 733 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Other publications discussing specific aspects of some of these matters include:

"Portugal in Africa"

"The United States and Southern Africa"

"Is There Nothing We Can Do About South West Africa?"

"U.S. Subsidy to South Africa: The Sugar Quota"