



Don't let your **Senator**

Vote \$ for Apartheid !

June 9, 1978

Senate Action Likely Early July

The Senate will probably take up the Export-Import Bank authorization bill right after the July 4th recess, which ends July 10th. The Senate Banking Committee, unlike its counterpart on the House side, decided against a cut-off of Eximbank financing for South Africa which had been proposed by Senator Don Riegle (D-Mich.). Instead, it voted 9 to 6 to support an amendment sponsored by Senator Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.) which would mandate the President to prepare a list of all eligible countries within 60 days, taking into account a wide variety of factors, including their human rights record. Stevenson argued that the Congress ought to get out of the business of judging which countries are worthy of support and which are not, and leave that to the Executive. Illogically, however, the Stevenson amendment leaves untouched Eximbank restrictions on financing for exports to the Soviet Union.

It is likely that Senator Riegle and other Senators will introduce the South Africa cut-off during the floor debate. In any case, Senators mustn't be ignored, since the Senate will at minimum face a conference report on the issue.

Legislative Prospects

Some liberal offices in the Senate take the view that the Senate is moving into a much more conservative posture. The New Right has decided to make "Get Tough with the Soviet and Cuban Adventures in Africa" a theme of the fall election campaign. When conservatives say that the U.S. must oppose the side backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba in southern Africa, we must emphasize that they are recommending siding with the white regimes.

We believe that the Eximbank issue is one area where this tendency can be combatted. We should argue that Eximbank financing for South Africa should be stopped completely, because it gives direct U.S. government support to apartheid. We may not be able to win such a complete prohibition, but taking that position improves our chances of hanging on to what we have already achieved in the House in the conference committee.

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Why It's Important

The compromise vote in the House of Representatives, while it was far less than what is desirable or necessary, did represent a sign of growing strength of the anti-apartheid movement in this country. People who know the present mood of the Congress regard the House vote as remarkably good under the circumstances. The Evans compromise may in practice turn out to be more restrictive than it seems on the face, some people say.

However this may be, the important thing now is to keep pushing for a complete prohibition on Eximbank support for South Africa. This is an important symbol of citizen resistance to U.S. collaboration with apartheid.

The Gulf of Tonkin-resolution atmosphere being built around Zaire has important implications for possible U.S. intervention in southern Africa. A forceful position on the Eximbank issue articulated by concerned citizens can have important consequences in establishing our position of saying "NO" to U.S. intervention to safeguard interests in countries ruled by white minority regimes.



Financial Mail
That's agreed then, gentlemen: on moral grounds we won't invest in Johannesburg ... until there's some money to be made.

Points To Remember

Try to get mailgrams, letters and phone calls into your Senators' offices now, stressing that you want a complete cutoff of Eximbank financing. If possible, try to arrange a personal meeting for a delegation of people from different groups that support ending U.S. links with apartheid to meet with the Senator or a key staff person. Here are some points to stress:

Eximbank is a use of our government's resources to help South Africa buy strategic capital equipment. Purchases by private industries like coal mining companies play a part in making South Africa secure against world condemnation and possible sanctions.

Repression of human rights in South Africa is based on legalized racism sanctioned in the Constitution itself and is unique. Blacks, who are over 70 percent of the population, have no rights; they are regarded simply as a source of cheap labor.

South Africa is not improving in any significant way. Bantustans, pass laws, detentions without trial, and denial of political rights continue.

Ending Eximbank financing will not cost U.S. jobs. U.S. labor unions support ending it; they ought to know what is good for workers.