

February 17, 1972

LIQUIDATION OF U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS IN APARTHEID AND
REPRESSIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Congressional Black Caucus has introduced legislation designed to liquidate all American business operations in the Republic of South Africa, South West Africa, Rhodesia and territories under Portuguese control.

"For us, it is a travesty that scores of U.S. business concerns--including many of the largest companies in the nation--are inexorably linked with racist, oppressive regimes," said Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D/Calif), the chief sponsor of the measure (H.R. 13147). "For these businesses and their leaders, profit knows no politics."

The bill sets up a Reparations Commission to study the relationships between U.S. businesses and governments and government policies in the Republic of South Africa, South West Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese territories. The Commission would establish amounts of reparations to be paid by American business with operations in those countries. The money would go to a trust fund to be paid to victims of apartheid and repression, and to African liberation groups. U.S. businesses would be given one year from issuance of the Commission report to liquidate fully their holdings; if they refuse, the Attorney General would be empowered to seize assets equal in value to their African holdings from their domestic operations.

After noting that "already there is ample evidence that American business concerns aid and abet the oppressive and apartheid policies" Congressman Dellums inserted nearly 50 pages of relevant background material into the Congressional Record (starting on page H1147 of the February 16, 1972 Record).

for information contact: M.J. Duberstein (202) 225-2661

note: Black Caucus convention in Gary, Indiana, March 10-12
Sometime in May, Black Caucus meeting on Africa and U.S. Foreign Policy
in Washington (date to be announced).