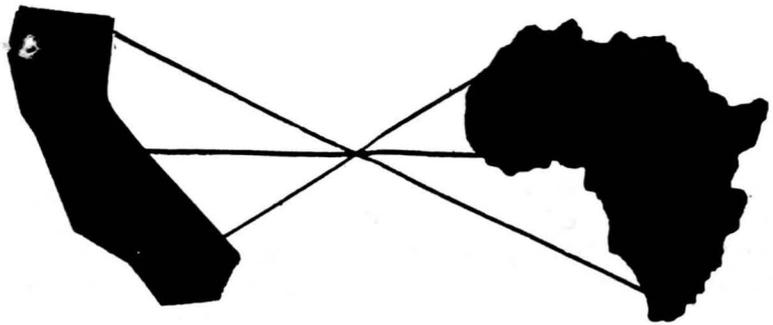


THE WEST COAST LINK

AN INFORMATIONAL LINK WITH
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA
2824 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90018 USA

(213) 733-2107



PARTICIPANTS

July 2, 1991

Friends of the ANC
and Frontline States
Committee for Health in
Southern Africa
Namibia Support
Organization
Mozambique Support
Network
Southern Africa Resource
Project
All Saints South African
Ministry
California Democratic
Council

For the second time, the House Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa is chaired by an African American. Congressman Mervyn Dymally is now the new chair. He contacted the Friends of the ANC and Frontline States to assist him in developing a West Coast Link to the Subcommittee to disseminate information regarding legislative action relative to Africa. There have been some positive actions, notably, the 1986 Comprehensive Sanctions Act. However, we have noted a more frequent non-progressive, and at times, racist relationship which the U.S. has had with Africa, making it important for activists to be up on their activities.

The "Friends" called for meetings of several local anti-apartheid organizations to meet with the Congressman. The following is our analysis of the first two meetings.

* **Sanctions:** The first concern discussed was the current move in Congress to remove Sanctions from South Africa. We expect President Bush to ask for sanctions removed by mid-July and it is imperative that people contact their elected officials immediately.

Remember: The effort to lift sanctions in Congress has started; it appears Senator Lugar of Indiana will again be the point person. We need to urge our congresspersons to hold the line. This is going to be an uphill battle, so we strongly request you call as many representatives as you can afford.

The Congress exchange is (202) 224-3121. We recommend contacting the following:

Ted Kennedy (202) 224-4543 Paul Simon (202) 224-2152

Mervyn Dymally (202) 225-5425 Dave McCurdy (202) 225-6165

David Boren (202) 224-4721 Donald Payne (202) 225-3436

Sample Message "Please cosponsor H.R. 126 to urge President Bush not to lift sanctions until all Africans are included in the democratic process."

* **Aid package:** After much debate an aid package was passed with many different provisions. \$10 million was earmarked for South Africa to be dispersed through the National Endowment for Democracy to fund Inkatha and

the ANC. The way the money will be divided was unclear. Our knowledge of the "tilt" of the N.E.D. worried us, but not as much as the idea of government money going, in any form, to the ANC worried Jesse Helms. With the looming threat of a filibuster, Helms and Dan Burton held up the vote until June 18th, but it finally passed. Money was named for "prodemocracy parties not supported by the government and not supporting armed struggle." Our research indicated that Inkatha certainly is supported by the South African government, and only refrains from armed struggle with the white minority regime.

Another \$10 million was set aside in a discretionary fund for organizing voters.

Also within the bill was:

. . . An increase in money for the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC);

. . . \$1 Million for the establishment of an "African Conflict Resolution Center;"

. . . A new U.S. Commission on Southern Africa to train people for urban middle management; and

. . . Sanctions on aid, and no military aid to Zaire, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan, with a new policy for the Horn of Africa.

Our understanding of the history of U.S. "aid" is that it is not always either helpful or non-interfering. Too often it ends up in U.S. companies and repressive labor conditions are maintained or created. The United States has never offered aid packages to Africa comparable to other world regions, yet has interfered through covert and overt operations to destabilize countries not towing the U.S. line.

The West Coast Link needs your participation if you, or an organization you work with, would like to share in this effort you are welcome to do so. Please contact us (213) 733-2107.

A LUTA CONTINUA - AMANDLA NGWETHU

FRIENDS OF THE ANC AND FRONTLINE STATES