

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release following the event:

"MAINTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID"

A Rally and Demonstration

In Opposition to the Visit of President DeKlerk to the U.S.

Place: South African Consulate, 50 N. La Cienega, Beverly Hills

Time: Sunday, September 23rd, 3:00 p.m. 1990

Sponsor: Friends of the ANC and the Frontline States,
2824 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90018.

STATEMENT

For the first time in 42 years of institutionalized apartheid in South Africa, the White House has invited a South African president to visit Washington. George Bush initially arranged for F.W. DeKlerk to visit even before Nelson Mandela, but due to public outcry, that visit was postponed. Now, across the U.S., his September 24th visit is being protested, since apartheid is still a horrendous crime against humanity, with its basic pillars still very much in place. This is not the time to receive a head of state who has yet to declare himself ready to dismantle the system of apartheid, whose government continues to foment violence, who continues to detain citizens under the continuing state of emergency.

There have been indications that the visit is planned to arrange for a curtailment of economic sanctions against apartheid. The U.S. 1986 Anti-Apartheid Act allows the U.S. President to modify or suspend sanctions only when all political prisoners are released, when there has been substantial progress toward dismantling apartheid and establishing a nonracial democracy, and when three of the four conditions listed below are met:

- * repeal of the state of emergency
- * permit of free political expression and participation
- * repeal of Group Areas Act and Population Registration Act
- * agreement to enter into good-faith negotiations with representatives of the Black majority.

There is strong opposition across the land, reflected in Congress, against any hint that sanctions should be suspended. Clearly the prescribed conditions for modification have not been met.

ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela, speaking to the Congress of the United States on June 26th, stated that "sanctions should remain in place because the purpose for which they were imposed has not yet been achieved." We must apply sanctions, as Mandela said, "until South Africa is set on an irreversible course leading to its transformation into a united, democratic, and non-racial society."

The apartheid system is still in place. The majority of the people are still prohibited - on the basis of their race - from voting.

KEEP THE PRESSURE ON APARTHEID