

A PETITION OF CONCERNED AFRICANIST SCHOLARS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

We, the undersigned concerned Africanist scholars, call upon President Carter and the Congress to utilize this opportunity provided by a change of administration to undertake a serious reassessment of United States foreign policy toward Southern Africa. Specifically, we urge that the United States--

- make an outright and public rejection of the assumptions of the previous administrations about Southern Africa as reflected in Option #2 of the National Security Studies Memorandum #39 of 1969.*
- offer full support for the African people of South Africa in their efforts to attain majority rule and reject the South African Bantustan system.
- support a mandatory (rather than voluntary) arms embargo against South Africa.
- prohibit the export (or re-export) to South Africa of U.S. dual-purpose equipment which has a possible military use, of nuclear technology, and of highly enriched uranium by the U.S. government or U.S. corporations and their subsidiaries.
- govern U.S. policy toward Namibia by the plans of the United Nations Council for Namibia to establish majority rule in that country, including conformity to Council Decree #1** and Security Council Resolution #385*** of January 1976, for which the U.S. representative voted. We condemn the use of the veto to prevent implementation of Resolution 385.
- support the struggle of the Zimbabwean people for majority rule by whatever means they consider necessary and reject those financial plans to retain the whites which maintain the economic privilege of the minority white community.
- strictly enforce United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia, including repeal of the "Byrd Amendment" and amendment of Treasury regulations in order to apply sanctions requirements to subsidiaries of U.S. corporations wherever they are located to end the flow of petroleum products to Rhodesia.
- give diplomatic recognition to the Peoples Republic of Angola as well as support for its admission to the United Nations.

Notes:

* The "Premise" of Option #2 includes the following language -

"The whites are here to stay and the only way that constructive change can come about is through them. There is no hope for the blacks to gain political rights they seek through violence, which will only lead to chaos and increased opportunities for the communists. We can, by selective relaxation of our stance toward the white regimes, encourage some modification of their current racial and colonial policies and through more substantial economic assistance to the black states...help to draw the two groups together and exert some influence on both for peaceful change..."

** Decree No. 1 forbids the taking of national resources from Namibia without the consent of the UN Council on Namibia. Legal action for impoundment and damages for persons violating this provision is planned.

*** Resolution 385 called on South Africa to present a plan for withdrawal from Namibia by August 31, 1976 to transfer the territory to the people of Namibia and to cooperate in elections to be held under UN control and supervision in order to establish an independent Namibian government based on majority rule. South Africa failed to comply with this call.

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Return this petition no later than January 1, 1977 to:

Committee on Current Issues
African Studies Association
Shiffman Center
Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154