



The Washington Office on Africa

Educational Fund

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Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Washington Office on Africa Educational Fund we thank you for your important anti-apartheid work. Finally, we are beginning to see cracks in the apartheid system. It has only been because of the consistent struggle of the South African people, pressure from the international community, and the work of activists like yourselves that the Pretoria government has concluded that apartheid must be reformed. This is a very exciting time for all of us!

Tremendous challenges remain, however. Violence against anti-apartheid activists and organizations by police and ultra-right wing terrorist groups is on the rise. Here in Washington, economic sanctions are under the threat of being lifted by the Bush administration at a time when President F.W. de Klerk is trying to fashion a power sharing agreement that would guarantee the whites veto power over majority rule. And only now can southern Africa begin to rebuild after being **economically devastated--to the tune of 56 billion dollars--by Pretoria's destabilization policy.**

We at WOAEF firmly believe that the only way to create positive change in the region is to continue organizing and providing educational materials nationally. Limited resources, however, demand that we improve the ways in which we provide information. Thus, this summer we are directing our energy to improving efficiency by exploring ways to develop and solidify links with community activists.

We know that improved communication with activists like you will help us here in Washington, and we hope that it might help in your grassroots organizing efforts as well. To facilitate this process we are initiating a survey to collect information.

Your input is vital to our being able to effectively provide you with information. We urge you to fill out the form and send it back to us as soon as possible. Please include any additional information on your activities that you want. If you have any questions about this survey or about events in the region please call us at (202) 546-7961.

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Yours in solidarity,


Michael Shellenberger
Summer Outreach Director


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Associate Director

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THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

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PENDING LEGISLATION

The end of the Cold War has left U.S. foreign policy in serious need of fundamental restructuring. The Bush administration remains committed to an aggressive, covert policy of destabilization toward Angola at a time when the Soviet Union has ended intervention in Afghanistan and Eastern Europe. In South Africa, the U.S. places its faith in the white minority government as the vehicle for change instead of in the black majority and its vision of a nonracial democracy.

Despite Mandela's overwhelmingly effective emphasis on the need to keep economic pressure on the South African government, there has been speculation that Bush may want to lift sanctions prematurely. Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, has even suggested that some sanctions could be lifted by Labor Day of this year if more reforms occur.

For Angola, the U.S. has already approved the allocation of approximately six million dollars in supplemental aid to augment the 50-60 million dollar UNITA aid package for 1990. Reportedly, an additional 6-12 million dollars will be sent to UNITA this year if talks with the government fail. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has postponed acting on the administration's request because of "sensitive negotiations" currently underway.

The following list briefly summarizes some of the Congressional actions that affect the anti-apartheid struggle and legislation that you can influence.

SOUTH AFRICA

WOA SUPPORTS:

House Concurrent Resolution 270 urges that economic sanctions of the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 not be suspended or modified until all conditions for termination within the law are met and a democratic political process in South Africa is established. The bill also recognizes that recent reforms in South Africa and its willingness to negotiate are the results of economic sanctions and international pressure.

S. 507/H.R. 21 strengthens the economic sanctions of the 1986 Anti-Apartheid Act. The bill includes a mandatory disinvestment by all U.S. corporations doing business in South Africa.

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H.R. 4590 amends the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 by banning the importation of South African steel. Currently the Bush administration has a very narrow interpretation of the prohibition on steel imports. This bill defines steel in a broader context and would therefore ban many current imports.

H.R. 3458 amends the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 to prohibit banks and lending institutions from doing business with South African banks and lending institutions and the government of South Africa. The bill also prohibits U.S. individuals and companies from holding loans with any South African entity.

ANGOLA:

WOA SUPPORTS:

House Concurrent Resolution 203 calls for normalization of relations between the U.S. and the Angolan Government. Specifically the Resolution recognizes the Angolan government as a sovereign nation, recognizes positive moves toward democracy, and advocates the economic rebuilding of the country. Although it does not specifically call for an end in aid to UNITA, that is the position implied by the bill.

Plans are being made by Congressperson Ronald Dellums (D-CA) to force the issue of aid to UNITA to be debated on the house floor just as aid to the Nicaraguan Contras was debated.

WOA OPPOSES:

Senate Resolution 239 denounces the alleged Angolan military offensive and urges an immediate cease fire. The bill also reaffirms the negotiation process and claims the Angolan government is hampering the process. The bill does not mention the brutality of UNITA attacks or the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Senate Resolution 196 commends UNITA for negotiating at Gbadolite last summer. Further, the resolution sponsor, Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) falsely asserts that the Angolan government broke the cease-fire first by attacking UNITA troops in southern Angola.

House Resolution 327 denounces the Angolan government military actions and calls for aid to UNITA.

H.R. 280 would impose economic sanctions on Angola. The bill also prohibits all aid including food aid and prevents loans to or investments in Angola.

H.R. 1319 would prohibit aid to Mozambique and Angola by labeling the countries "communist".