

# TRANSAFRICA

The Black American Lobby for Africa and the Caribbean

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Vol. 1, No. 4 April 1986

### FAUNTROY SEEKS ADDITIONAL AID TO HAITI

Upon his return from the Congressional Task Force on Haiti's recent fact finding mission (see Legislative Update vol. 1, no. 3), task force chairman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-DC) introduced an amendment to supplemental appropriations bill H.R. 4515 that would provide 25.7 million dollars in emergency economic and non-lethal military support to Haiti.

According to the amendment, 21.7 million dollars in economic assistance beyond Congress' FY'86 allocation to Haiti, is to be appropriated from the Economic Support Fund in Public Law 99-190. 1.7 million dollars of the Economic Support Fund appropriations is to be transferred to the Inter-American Foundation for the organization's grassroots literacy, agricultural, and community organization programs.

Initially, the nonlethal military aid portion of the amendment amounted to 4 million dollars. The funds were to be used by the Haitian National Council of Government to purchase communications and transportation equipment for the Haitian army and to provide additional training for military personnel. Dispensation of the funds was to be contingent upon the Haitian government meeting five conditions:

- 1) The assistance would not be used to suppress legitimate protests.
- 2) The government would investigate the shootings in Martissant and Gonaives of unarmed civilians and work to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

- 3) The government would initiate efforts to disarm the Volunteers for National Security, more commonly known as the Tonton Macoutes.
- 4) The government would act to remove military personnel guilty of human rights violations.
- 5) Military personnel would be provided with education and training "... with respect to internationally recognized human rights and political rights essential to democracy..."

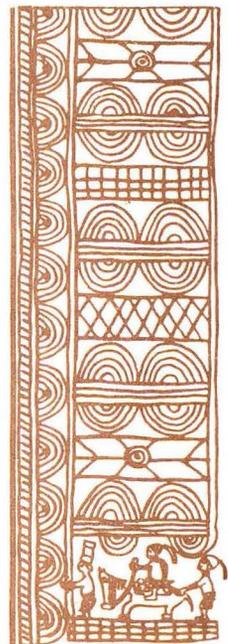
On April 28, Congressman Fauntroy withdrew the controversial non-lethal military aid provision from the supplemental appropriations amendment. Fauntroy's decision came after Haitian troops in Port-au-Prince opened fire upon unarmed civilians conducting an anti-Duvalier rally in front of Fort Dimanche -- a former prison and torture center of the Tonton Macoutes. Eight protesters were killed and 20 were wounded in that tragic incident.

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### HOUSE HEARINGS ON SOUTH AFRICA SANCTIONS BILL

The House Subcommittee on Africa held hearings on April 9th and April 16th concerning H.R. 997 -- Ronald Dellums (D-CA) comprehensive South Africa sanctions bill introduced last year. If passed, H.R. 997 would ban all investment and trade with South Africa and would prohibit South African aircraft from landing in the United States.

During last spring's drive in the House for sanctions against South Africa, H.R. 997 was overshadowed by selective sanctions legislation that was eventually ratified. Congressman Dellums has renewed efforts to pass H.R. 997 this year due to the deteriorating situation in South Africa and the apparent failure of President Reagan's executive order sanctions. As you may well know, the President implemented a set of weak penalties against South Africa on September 9, 1985 that successfully derailed efforts in the Senate to pass far more stringent sanctions.



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