

TRANSAFRICA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April/May 1990

I. SOUTH AFRICA

A. H.R. 21/S. 507 Anti-Apartheid Act Amendments of 1989

The people of South Africa are at a crucial stage in their fight against apartheid. President De Klerk announced to the South African Parliament on April 17, 1990 that he was not in favor of majority rule in South Africa, and that he was "not prepared to destroy existing rights or allow them to be destroyed." Mr. De Klerk further stated that "anyone who believes that we will accept a dispensation in which the quality of existing liberties and rights are dismantled is mistaken." It is now clear that the president intends on maintaining minority rights, privileges, and control.

Therefore, sanctions remain a priority for the international anti-apartheid movement and the people of South Africa. Congressional support has not waned, and the President has stated that he will not repeal sanctions until the South African government meets the conditions set forth in the 1986 sanction's bill. Those conditions include:

- Release Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners.
- End the State of Emergency, and release all detainees.
- Un-ban all political organizations.
- Establish a timetable for the elimination of the pillars of apartheid
(*Group Areas Act, Population Registration Act, etc.*)
- Cease all military activities in, and invasions of, the surrounding states.
- Negotiate with representatives of the disenfranchised majority.

Please call or write to your Senators and Representatives and demand that they support the call for ***one-man, one-vote in a unitary South Africa***. Their support of H.R. 21/S. 507 can help the people of South Africa realize this goal.

B. H.R. 3458 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, Amendment (Financial Sanctions)

A bill to amend the comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 to prohibit United States banks from providing certain financial services to South African banks and the Government of South Africa, and for other purposes.

Status: Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, and the House Committee on Rules.

Please contact your Representatives and ask that they support this measure.

II. ANGOLA

Covert aid from the United States (estimated at upwards of \$80 million) continues to destroy the fabric of Angola. U.S. recognition of Angola has not been forthcoming, even though President Dos Santos has met all U.S. demands including: instituting free market practices, initiating a peace process in which UNITA is a participant, and the announcement of plans for one-man, one-vote elections in which UNITA members may run for office. The U.S. Congress must hear our voices loud and clear on the issues of U.S. covert aid to the UNITA rebels, and the normalization of relations between Angola and the United States.

A. H.C.R. 203 Resolution Concerning Relations between the United States and the Government of Angola

Status: Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs.

Please contact your Representatives and ask that they support this measure in its entirety.

B. *S.R. 196 -- We must mobilize against Senator DeConcini's resolution S.R. 196. This measure calls for the United States to support the demands of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. Please write and call your Senators to stress that a vote in support of this resolution means a vote **against** them in your state-wide elections.*

C. **Aid to UNITA -- It is imperative** that the following members of the House and Senate Select Intelligence Committees be contacted to demand that they **cease funding** of UNITA:

David L. Boren (D-OK)
SR-453 Russell SOB
Wash D.C. 20510-3601
(202) 224-4721

William S. Cohen (R-ME)
SH-332 Hart SOB
Wash D.C. 20510-1901
(202) 224-2523

Anthony C. Beilenson (D-CA)
1025 Longworth HOB
Wash D.C. 20515-052 3
(202) 225-5911

Matthew F. McHugh (D-NY)
2335 Rayburn HOB
Wash D.C. 20515-3228
(202) 225-6335

III. FOREIGN AID

A. FY 1990 aid for Africa and the Caribbean is as follows:

Sub-Saharan Africa

\$515 million in developmental assistance
\$50 million allocated to SADCC

Caribbean

\$78.7 million in developmental assistance
\$60 million in economic support
\$12 million in military aid

The battle for FY91 has already heated up. TransAfrica, with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), has pledged to put much of its efforts this year into lobbying the Congress to increase aid to Africa and the Caribbean. In light of this pledge, the CBC has introduced:

B. H.R. 4443 Mickey Leland African and Caribbean Development Act of 1990

A bill to promote economic development in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean.

The following chart shows the comparison of aid requests to Africa and the Caribbean contained in the:

	<u>Administration's FY 91 requests</u>	<u>Mickey Leland Act requests</u>
Deve Fund (Africa)	\$510.5m	\$1 b
SADCC	\$ 50 m	\$85 m
ESF	\$ 56.1 m	----
Namibia	\$ 7.8 m	\$15 m
ESF (Caribbean)	\$ 41 m	\$60 m
Deve Asst	\$ 27 m	\$93.6m
Eastern Caribbean/Belize	\$ 25 m	\$33 m
Deve Asst (Haiti)	\$ 29.1 m	\$40 m
ESF (Haiti)	\$ 10 m	\$39 m

We urge you to support us in this effort by contacting the following members of Congress:

David Obey (D-WI)
Chairman, House Foreign Operations
2217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907
(202) 225-3365

Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Chairman, Senate Foreign Operations
SR-433 Russell SOB
Washington D.C. 20510-4502
(202) 224-4242

URGE EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN FY 1991

IV. CARIBBEAN

A. H.R. 1233 Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Expansion Act of 1989

A bill to improve the operation of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes. The measure is presently before the House Committee on Ways and Means. Parts of this measure have also been incorporated into other legislation.

Please contact your Representatives and ask that they support this measure.

V. HAITI

The call for civilian government has come to the people of Haiti. Former Supreme Court Justice Ertha Pascal-Trouillot was chosen by a coalition of political parties to be the provisional president until elections are held in 3-6 months. It will be her responsibility to prepare Haiti for elections. Congress is watching to see what kinds of electoral structures will be set up by the new civilian president, and whether or not the military will cooperate.

VI. NAMIBIA

President Sam Nujoma was sworn in as president of Africa's newest nation, Namibia. March 21, 1990 saw the dreded South African flag removed from Namibia's soil, and a new flag of Nambia was planted. The constituent assembly has constructed for this new nation the most democratic constitution in Africa.

Issues of concern for the new nation:

- a. Foreign Aid (*US 1990 allocaton is a grant for \$500,00*)
- b. Independence of Walvis Bay
- c. Trade relations with South Africa
- d. Debt incurred by the South African government in the name of Namibia

VI. "SOUTH AFRICA NOW"

"South Africa Now", the only programming dedicated to covering Southern Africa is in need of our support. We should lobby our local public television stations to distribute the programming in their area. TransAfrica's Executive Director, Randall Robinson, can be seen giving weekly commentary on recent events in Southern Africa, and how the United States can make a difference in the region.

VII. Meet your Congressman

Your members of Congress will be in their districts on the following days. This would be the most oportune time to make an appointment and register your views concerning U.S. policy toward Africa and the Caribbean.

April 6-17, 1990
July 2-9, 1990

May 25 - June 4, 1990
August 6 - September 4, 1990

VIII. Elections

1990, 1992, and 1994 are election years. Please register to vote and participate in the electoral process.

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