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TO: Friends of The Africa Fund  
FROM: Jennifer Davis  
RE: South Africa Sanctions Update

As you know, the comprehensive Dellums-Cranston sanctions bill [HR1580/S556] is currently making its way through the halls of Congress. Although initially the number of co-sponsors of the legislation was slow to grow, as I write to you today there are 107 co-sponsors in the House and 7 in the Senate.

Yesterday the bill passed its first major hurdle on the House side and was passed out of both the Africa Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade to which it had been initially referred. As was hoped for and expected, the bill was voted out of the subcommittees with its provisions effectively intact. In both subcommittees, the vote came down pretty much along party lines, with the Africa Subcommittee voting 6 to 4 and the IEPT voting 7 to 4.

You will recall that the bill as introduced bans all investment in and bank loans to South Africa and Namibia, requiring disinvestment within six months of the passage of the bill. It bans all trade with South Africa, except certain strategic minerals if the President determines them vital and prohibits all U.S. military and intelligence cooperation with South Africa.

A significant addition to these provisions was made in committee by amending the strong oil and oil leasing provisions of the Wise bill onto the Dellums bill. Multinationals with U.S. subsidiaries which do not end pretroleum dealings with South Africa will be prohibited from bidding on Federal oil, coal and gas leases. The only negative amendment to be approved was one by Burton of California which struck the language calling for an independent office to monitor the implementation of the measures.

The timeline for action by the full Foreign Affairs Committee and a floor vote in the House is a bit sketchy, but it is safe to expect consideration in the full committee by the middle of May and a floor vote near the end May or June.

Sanctions strategists see this as the time to be putting pressure on all members of the House to co-sponsor the legislation and vote for it when it comes to the floor.

If you are interested in swing lists of key people on the Foreign Affairs Committee or the full House, you can contact the office, and we will get those to you.