EXCERPTS FROM CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS STATEMENT
IN RESPONSE TO BANNINGS AND ARRESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

from Press Release October 21, 1977

The Congressional Black Caucus yesterday wrote to President Carter, requesting an emergency meeting to discuss immediate steps to be taken in response to the most flagrant and brutal repressions ever perpetrated by the South African government. In addition, the Caucus has written to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill to request an immediate meeting to discuss steps for moving several key bills regarding trade and diplomatic relations with South Africa.

Speaking for the Caucus, Congressman Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich.), Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, said that "the Congressional Black Caucus strongly condemns the South African government for its actions of the past week, which represent the most repressive and tyrannical measures ever taken by the South African government against dissenters. These actions follow the death of Steve Biko and Pretoria's delay in revealing the autopsy findings. It should be clear to anyone who had any doubts, that South Africa is truly a police state for all its people." ...

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), Chairman of the Caucus, said that "By its repressive actions this week, the Afrikaner minority government of John Vorster has revealed its true nature and intentions, clearly ruling out any attempt at gradual reform in dismantling the South African system of separate development." Congressman Mitchell indicated that Caucus Members planned to discuss with the President actions which should be taken by the U.S. government in response to the South African government's massive jailings, bannings and other repressive measures.

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), who also serves on the International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, added, "The South African government leaves little doubt that it is a threat to international peace and security, and is therefore subject to mandatory enforcement action under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter."

The Congressional Black Caucus, in seeking the meeting with President Carter, endorsed the idea that the U.S. should begin scaling down its diplomatic representation in South Africa as an act of protest against the South African government's insensitivity and inhumanity. Several other possible steps will be discussed, including serious consideration by the Carter Administration of Nigerian Head-of-State Olusegun Obasanjo's statement during his recent U.S. visit, that American corporations seeking to do business in Nigeria would have to begin a withdrawal of their investments in South Africa.

Congressman Mitchell said, "Certainly, in light of this week's events in South Africa, our government must feel compelled to discourage U.S. corporate involvement in South Africa." The Caucus Members and other Members of Congress who are outraged at South Africa's actions will discuss with President Carter specific diplomatic, economic and legislative actions that should be taken immediately to signal the United States' intentions toward South Africa.
"IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON SOUTH AFRICA"

from the Congressional Black Caucus

1. Recall the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa for consultation.

2. Downgrade the U.S. mission to South Africa.

3. Eliminate U.S. commercial, defense and agricultural attaches to South Africa. End all U.S. - South African co-operative agency agreements such as the ones with Treasury, Department of Defense.

4. Deny tax credits to U.S. companies which invest in South Africa and pay taxes there. Develop strong tax disincentives to reduce U.S. investment in South Africa.

5. Support elimination of Export-Import Bank guarantees for loans to U.S. companies trading and investing in South Africa. This is especially critical to stop the advanced technology goods flow into the country.

6. End U.S. - South African co-operative agreement on nuclear technology and research. End the granting of export licenses for the export of nuclear materials to South Africa.

7. Stop Commerce Department licensing for export to South Africa of so-called "non-military" weapons.


9. Support U.N. resolutions on ending nuclear, military, and economic co-operation with South Africa in the General Assembly during its session on Apartheid November 7 - 10.

10. Support immediate Congressional action to pass legislation placing economic and diplomatic sanctions on South Africa.

11. Support a moratorium on all U.S. - South African exchange programs.


NOTE: The U.S. Ambassador was recalled from South Africa on October 21. The Security Council will begin consideration on South Africa on Monday, October 24.