Dear Friend,

We have enclosed information which we hope will be helpful to you as you continue your important grassroots activities in support of comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa. **Now more than ever, passage of strong sanctions legislation is dependent on massive grassroots pressure on the Senate.**

On the enclosed "swing list" is a column entitled "supports." Of those 24 Senators in that column, only 6 have co-sponsored the Simon version (S. 507) of the Dellums sanctions bill. If your Senator is in that column and is not a co-sponsor, please contact him/her immediately. It is critical that Members who support sanctions be encouraged to take leadership in the struggle for passage of strong measures against South Africa.

It is no longer enough for Congressional supporters to simply vote in for sanctions. Because of the strong conservative Democrat/Republican alliance opposed to additional legislative punitive action against the apartheid regime, all allies against Pretoria's injustices must take leadership in support of passage of S. 507. Senators must lobby other Senators. Political maneuvering mastered by right wing forces against sanctions, must be employed by Senators in support of sanctions. For example, amendments that would close vital loopholes in the present law, can be attached to other legislation as it passes through various Senate committees.

If your Senator is in any of the three "undecided" columns, please plan visits, demonstrations at their home offices, church prayer vigils, marches, educational workshops, letter writing parties or other activities to generate as much public support for sanctions as possible. As you can see by the numbers, the overwhelming majority of the "undecided" Senators must be convinced to support S. 507 if the measure is to have a chance for passage.

Passage of disinvestment in the Senate has always been difficult and continues to be an uphill battle. But, without a strong grassroots message in support of stronger measures against Pretoria, some Senators can continue to claim that "my constituents don't care about this [apartheid] issue."

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While the major strategy of anti-apartheid lobbyists is focused on the "undecided" members of the Senate, House passage of the Dellums bill (H.R. 21) is by no means assured. Activists should focus on the Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee after completing the targeted Senate lobbying actions.

Make your voice heard! Please refer to our Action Alert for more details. Also, remember to call our Anti-Apartheid Action Hotline at (202) 546-0408 for weekly updates on the legislative situation.

Yours in the Struggle,

Jacqueline Wilson Asheeke
Assistant Director
ACTION ALERT!

INFORMATION FOR ACTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES

April 21, 1989

THE DELLUMS/SIMON COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS BILLS,
H.R. 21/S. 507,
NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT!!

On January 3, 1989, Congressman Ronald Dellums (D-CA) introduced H.R. 21, legislation to impose comprehensive economic sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. H.R. 21 has over 120 co-sponsors. S. 507 was introduced in the Senate by Paul Simon (D-IL) on March 3, 1989. The measure was initially co-sponsored by Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA), Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Albert Gore (D-TN). To date, Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Robert Leiberman (D-CT) have also joined as Senate co-sponsors of the measure. The language of the Simon sanctions bill is identical to H.R. 21 in the House.

The Washington Office on Africa remains committed to working for passage of the strongest sanctions possible against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Strong sanctions, globally applied, is one of the most effective responses to South African sponsored destabilization, internal repression and rampant human rights violations in southern Africa. The U.S. must take the lead in the imposition and enforcement of comprehensive sanctions against Pretoria.

The essence of H.R. 21/S. 507 is the same as H.R. 1580 as introduced in the 100th Congress. Among other sanctions, it mandates complete disinvestment by U.S. corporations that are presently buttressing the apartheid economy with millions in tax dollars, reinvestment of profits made in South Africa, and technical expertise. The legislation also mandates a near total embargo on trade with South Africa. Further restrictions on military cooperation with South Africa and support for multilateral imposition of sanctions are also included in the measure. Both sanctions bills also include language originally introduced last year by Congressman Robert Wise (D-WV), which prohibits U.S. oil companies who sell to South Africa from bidding on any federal oil, gas and coal leases.

H.R. 21 has been referred jointly to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, Energy and Commerce, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Interior and Insular Affairs, Ways and Means and Rules. Presently, there is no date set for Hearings.

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S. 507 has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee for consideration. Presently, there is no date set for hearings. However, Senator Simon, Chairman of the Senate Africa Subcommittee, will be holding confirmation hearings for the Bush Administration's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Henry (Hank) Cohen by the early May, 1989. During those hearings, the questioning will include a review of the Bush Administration's proposed southern Africa policy, including official statements of the Administration's probable opposition to the Dellums-Simon sanctions measure.

As predicted, opposition to the measure in the Senate is quite substantial. Along with the usual Senate supporters of the status quo in South Africa, there are a few Members declining to take action prior to the November implementation of elections in Namibia. Others are insisting on "giving the President a chance" to define U.S. policy objectives in southern Africa. Still others, particularly so-called "moderate" Republicans, are refusing to support the divestment provision within the sanctions bill. In our February/March, 1989 survey of Senate positions on H.R. 21/S.507, we found that there were some southern Democratic Senators who are staunchly opposed to the oil provision within the sanctions bill.

It is critical that S. 507 generate as many immediate co-sponsors as possible. In addition to the six Senate co-sponsors that have already joined the struggle, there are about 18 others who have stated their support for H.R. 21/S.507. We need their immediate signatures on the bill to generate the momentum necessary to pressure the Senate leadership to support prompt consideration of strong sanctions against South Africa. Grassroots activists hold the key to attaining additional co-sponsors. Local mobilization specifically demanding co-sponsorship of S. 507 in the Senate is critical!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

**** Write to the Washington Office on Africa for a copy of our Senate swing list and other information on sanctions. Call our anti-apartheid action hotline: (202) 546-0408, for a 24-hour, 3-minute taped legislative update.

**** Demand your Senators' and Representative's strong leadership on the Dellums/Simon bill. If your Member is already supports sanctions, it is crucial that he/she be encouraged to lobby other Members who are not.

**** If your Representative or Senator is staunchly against sanctions, don't give up! Challenge them! Find out when their re-election date is and remind them of your disapproval of their position. Make them explain in detail why they are opposing sanctions.