ACTION ALERT

INFORMATION FOR ACTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES

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SUPPORT AID TO THE NATIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

In February, 1987 Members of Congress introduced legislation to 1) Impose COMPREHENSIVE economic sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa and 2) Aid Black-rulled southern African states. The anti-apartheid movement has a strong chance to succeed in strengthening the U.S. Congressional response to apartheid terrorism in southern Africa. It is vital that activists educate and mobilize anti-apartheid networks now to support these important bills. We must start now to build the grassroots support necessary for passage of aid to southern Africa and comprehensive economic sanctions.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

On February 19, 1987 the Washington Office on Africa (WOA) joined with Congressman Ron Dellums (D-CA) and Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) to sponsor a press conference announcing the introduction of H.R. 1580/S. 556, comprehensive sanctions legislation against South Africa and Namibia. The Washington Office on Africa believes that passage of comprehensive sanctions is a necessary response to the deteriorating situation in southern Africa.

H.R. 1580/S. 556, the Dellums/Cranston bill, mandates complete disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia within six months of passage of the legislation. In addition, all trade with South Africa will be banned. H.R. 1580/S. 556 is an updated version of H.R. 997, the Dellums bill, which passed in the House last July. Introduction of this legislation early in the 100th Congress sends an important warning signal to South Africa, the Congress and the Reagan Administration that the anti-apartheid movement remains actively committed to comprehensive economic sanctions against Pretoria.

The present limited sanctions law enacted October 2nd, is an important step towards ending U.S. support for the apartheid government. However, the loopholes in the law are permitting South Africa to continue business as usual in many sectors of its economy. The South African government is actively seeking and finding methods of undercutting the intent of the sanctions law by exploiting those loopholes. The Reagan Administration is ignoring the intent of the law by imposing loose implementing regulations which are allowing continued imports and exports of prohibited items.

H.R. 1580/S. 556, includes some of the stronger sections of the present sanctions law, such as, the termination of the US/South Africa treaty to permit air flights between the two countries. In addition, the section which prohibits collaboration between U.S. and South African armed forces, includes a prohibition on all intelligence cooperation.

The Dellums/Cranston bill may not be considered by Congress until after th
October, 1987 deadline for South Africa's adherence to certain conditions for abolishing apartheid, as outlined in the current sanctions bill. The schedule for hearings will be set in the early summer.

**Urgently Needed Action on Sanctions:**

***The Delors/Cranston Bill Needs Additional Co-Sponsors Immediately. As of May 18th, there are close to 60 House Co-Sponsors and only 5 Senate Co-Sponsors. An Important Sign to Undecided Members of Congress that the American People are Serious About Comprehensive Sanctions Against South Africa, Would Be to Obtain at Least 100 Co-Sponsors in the House and 25 in the Senate.***

It is imperative that you write your House Representative and Senator and demand their support and co-sponsorship of H.R. 1580/S. 5561. Write to Congressman Howard Wolpe (D-MI), Chairman of the House Africa Subcommittee and strong supporter of sanctions. Ask him to hold hearings on H.R. 1580 as soon as possible.

**Aid to Southern Africa**

Congressmen Julian Dixon (D-CA), Bill Gray (D-PA), and Mickey Leland (D-TX) and Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Arlen Specter (D-PA) and Lowell Weicker (D-CT) have taken the lead in sponsoring legislation that would give aid to the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and distribute aid through international organizations with established programs in the region. The nine black-rulled nations of SADCC (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) have suffered $15-16 billion in damage between 1980-1986 from South Africa's war of regional destabilization. Through regional cooperation, SADCC, formed in 1980, works to improve the living conditions of the people of southern Africa and strengthen their economies to withstand South Africa's destabilization policies.

**The FY 1988 Foreign Assistance Act**

H.R. 1074/S. 475, (now incorporated in the FY1988 Foreign Assistance Act) introduced in the House by Representative Bill Gray and in the Senate by Senators Kennedy, Specter and Weicker, originally requested $140 million per year for 5 years for SADCC. The budget-cutting mood in the Congress, general resistance to providing urgent and necessary assistance to Africa, and Congressional ignorance about South Africa's total strategy of regional destabilization, has resulted in a reduction of funds for Africa, particularly SADCC. The House Foreign Affairs Committee authorized $50 million each year for 5 years. 50% of the funds must be used on transport and the remainder on agricultural training and research. This legislation will be considered in the House Appropriations Committee by June and a floor vote is anticipated in July.

The Senate began consideration of the SADCC portion of the Foreign Assistance Act during hearings in late April. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved $60 million in aid to SADCC for 1988 only with the majority of those funds earmarked for transportation projects. The Senate Appropriations Committee will not begin its action on the Foreign Assistance Bill until June.

**Action on Aid Bills:** 1) call your Representatives and urge them to support increased U.S. funding to SADCC.