

STATEMENT TO MAYOR BRADLEY PRESENTED ON JUNE 16, 1980

The Honorable Mayor Tom Bradley,  
Los Angeles City Hall  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mayor Bradley,

The United Nations has declared the South African system of apartheid a "crime against humanity" because this system has denied the Black majority basic political, economic and human rights to an extent that is tantamount to racial genocide.

We the citizens of Los Angeles are deeply concerned and outraged that the white minority regime of South Africa intends to open a consulate here in Los Angeles. The projected opening of a S.A. consulate has the disturbing effect of furthering recognition of S.A. and also provides exposure for the apartheid system. A S.A. consulate in Los Angeles would make us complicit in furthering the aims of the S.A. foreign policy (worldwide approval of the apartheid system). This defacto approval of the apartheid system is contrary to our belief in majority rule and racial equality; it is also contrary to the principals of democracy upon which our system of government is based.

We request that you convey to the state department our desire to join the rest of the world in voicing condemnation of the apartheid system. We are also deeply concerned with relations with the other 54 countries on the African continent who are vehemently opposed to the apartheid system. In particular we are concerned about our relations with Zambia. The capital of Zambia is Lusaka and Los Angeles is its sister city. The South African military, in recent months, has continually violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zambia. The Zambian ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Paul Lusaka, stated in a letter to the security council that South African troops, "are repeatedly crossing into Zambia to commit the bestialities of intimidation, harrassment, torture and outright destruction of Zambian life and property." In the face of such information the recognition of South Africa by the presence of a consulate here would be a direct affront to the City of Lusaka and the citizens of Zambia by the City of Los Angeles.

In view of the economic crisis facing us here in Los Angeles due in part to the unemployment facing many of our citizens because of plant closures in the automobile industry, we ought to be concerned about the starvation wages paid to Black workers in S.A. An atmosphere has been created by the legal restriction of wages; the right to strike; the right to collective bargaining by Black workers that make it profitable for companies in the automobile industry to continue to operate in S.A. while those same companies are closing plants here in Southern California.

Thus the presence of a S.A. consulate here is an insult not only to the unemployed automobile industry workers but to all of us who suffering under the burden of the deepening economic crisis.

We as taxpayers are outraged that our tax dollars will be used to provide services such as police, fire, water, sewer and other general services that will maintain the operation of the consulate. In particular we are opposed to our tax dollars being used to provide special security services to representatives of S.A., who by their presence and through their public relations efforts would espouse a racist philosophy that would discriminate against a substantial portion of the Los Angeles population, namely the people of color. Governmental support for a racist consulate in Los Angeles, would occur during a period when school desegregation and affirmative action are under attack and may generate bitter feelings when a concerted effort by all is needed to maintain racial harmony.

Today is the fourth anniversary of the Soweto uprising, South African Martyrs Day. In commemoration of the 2000 people who died asking for majority rule and racial equality during that uprising, we implore you to convey to the state department our concerns and we implore you to use all your power to prevent the opening of the South African consulate in Los Angeles.

Yours truly,

National Anti-Imperialist Movement in Solidarity with African Liberation  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)  
Association of Film Craftsmen (Local 531) NABET - AFL-CIO  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Trade Union for Action and Democracy (TUAD)  
Reverend Edgar R. Edwards (Immanuel United Church of Christ)  
Southern California United Church of Christ Conference  
African Activists Association  
Bishop H.H. Brockins (AME 5th Episcopal District)  
American Federation of Teachers - Black Caucus (AFT)  
Reverend Phillip Zwerling  
National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL)  
Dr Daniel Morgan (Guidance Church of Religious Science)  
Reverend John Bradford (Guidance Church of Religious Science)  
Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE)  
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE Local 1421)  
Reverend A.F. Rousseau (McCarty Memorial Christian Church)  
California Democratic Council - Black Caucus South  
International Brotherhood of General Workers (IBGWU Local 301)  
Coalition for Economic Survival (CES)  
Communication Workers of America (CWA Local 11505)  
National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR)  
United Steel Workers of America (USWA)  
U.S. Peace Council  
South Africa Support Coalition (SASC)  
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME - Local 2070)  
Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL)  
L.A. Committee in Defense of the Bill of Rights  
Frank Wilkinson