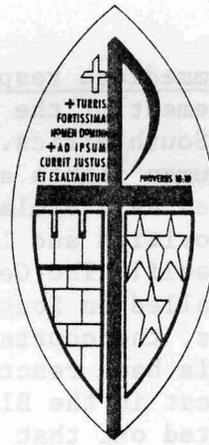


LUTHERAN COUNCIL



in the United States of America
315 Park Avenue South, New York,
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Office of GENERAL SECRETARY

18 May 1976

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State
U. S. State Department
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The members of the Executive Committee of the Lutheran Council in the USA, consisting of chief officials and representatives of the three largest Lutheran Church bodies in the U.S.A. (over 8 million members) are pleased to note your expressions of support for majority rule in Southern Africa, especially in Zimbabwe and Namibia. This announcement of U.S. policy for Africa, made in Africa itself, was constructive and for us, encouraging.

On 20 November, 1974, we wrote to you about some of our concerns as they relate to the people of Namibia and urged specific actions in response to them. Among these were the following:

- * Early positive consideration and a generous funding commitment for the Namibia Institute which will provide Namibians with education and training so as to strengthen their efforts to acquire freedom and will equip them for participation in government and other service on various levels. We believe that God-given talents should be developed to their full potential and invested in service for the common good.
- * Concurrence with the principles (validity) of the Decree passed on 27 September, 1974 by the U.N. Council for Namibia to protect the natural wealth and resources of that country and denial of U.S.A. protection to those who violate its provisions. We believe that the people of Namibia should be the primary beneficiaries of the natural wealth and resources within their boundaries and, therefore, deserve legal protection by the world community until they achieve independence and self-rule.
- * Early positive consideration for joining the U.N. Council for Namibia to assist the council in implementing as much of its mandate as is practical and possible. While recognizing that there may be some features of the mandate which are unworkable at the present time, these should not cancel out the potential effectiveness of the Council.

We believe that the implementation of these recommendations is urgently needed to awaken the government of South Africa to the serious commitment to Namibia held by the United States.

Since 14 May, however, other immediate responses are indicated. We are all painfully aware of the harsh enforcement of the repressive Terrorism Act which is illegally imposed on Namibia by South Africa. This notorious piece of legislation, which violates the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Namibia, has been condemned as a violation of the rule of law not only by eminent international legal authorities and legal societies, but by eminent bar associations in South Africa itself! The General Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations has called on South Africa to cease application of the Terrorism Act. In spite of this, the courts have sentenced two people to death. Church leaders inside Namibia have reacted to this severe judgment by stating that it will "cause new unrest in the Black community and lead to the spilling of blood." They have pointed out that "violence gives birth to violence" and have called for the sentence to be set aside "for the sake of peace in the territory". We share these views and appeal to you, Mr. Secretary, to make strong representation in behalf of those who were declared guilty under this South African Act, Aaron Mushimba and Henrik Shikongo, both sentenced to death; Anna Ngaihondjwa and Rauna Nambinga to 5 and 7 years respectively, in prison, and call upon the South Africa government to commute their sentences. It is imperative that South Africa hear again that the world community rejects its illegal application of this unjust and inhuman legislation in Namibia.

Finally, in view of the 31 August compliance date for Security Council Resolution 385, we urge that the United States government continue to affirm its unequivocal support of every part of the Resolution, pressing for South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia and the right of all Namibians to determine their own future by free election under UN supervision and control. We believe that continued defiance by South Africa constitutes a threat to international peace and security and the United States should use every conceivable means open to it under the UN charter to bring about South Africa's compliance with 385.

In the interest of peace, justice and human rights, we are

Respectfully yours,

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| sg. George S. Schultz, President Lutheran Council in the USA | Milton Carpenter, Treasurer Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod |
| Edward A. Lindell, Vice President Lutheran Council in the USA | Vernon A. Mohr, President Southern District, American Lutheran Church |
| Herbert A. Mueller, Secretary Lutheran Council in the USA | Philip L. Wahlberg, Jr., President Texas-Louisiana Synod, Lutheran Church in America |
| Robert J. Marshall, President Lutheran Church in America | George F. Harkins, General Secretary Lutheran Council in the USA |
| David W. Preus, President American Lutheran Church | |
| Jacob A. O. Preus, President Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod | |