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Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

SAVE DEVELOPMENT AID TO AFRICA

March 31, 1995

Dear Friend of The Africa Fund,

Newt Gingrich, Jesse Helms, and the Republicans in Congress are trying to abolish development aid to Africa that is needed to build schools, purify drinking water and provide immunization against childhood disease.

Senator Mitch McConnell who chairs the Sub-Committee which appropriates foreign aid has already announced that "I have a hard time justifying expenditures in most of the African continent. I know they have enormous problems, but I have a hard time finding an American national interest."

Last month McConnell tried to sneak through a bill to cut \$110 million from Africa's \$802 million budget. His justification was that the funds were needed to build houses for Russian army officers returning from the Baltic states.

An emergency Africa Fund mobilization stopped him at the last minute. Working with Congressional opponents of the aid cut, we targeted three undecided Republican Senators - Specter of Pennsylvania, Jeffords of Vermont, and Hatfield of Oregon.

We worked around the clock to reach out to religious leaders, state and municipal officials and leaders of community organizations, labor unions and civil rights organizations. With each person, Africa Fund staff explained the danger and asked for phone calls and faxes to their Senator.

The response was overwhelming. By the time the vote was scheduled it was impossible to reach Senator Specter's Washington office because calls about aid were jamming the phones. Jeffords and Hatfield were also deluged with faxes and calls.

Just before the vote, all three Senators announced that they would oppose the aid cut. McConnell withdrew his proposal to prevent certain defeat.

This was an important victory.

But now the right wing is escalating the crusade against Africa. Newt Gingrich has vowed to eliminate all development aid for Africa in the 1995 budget. He has scheduled the first hearing for next week. Jesse Helms and Mitch McConnell are preparing to lead the fight in the Senate.

Without development aid, Africa won't have a future. Children will die for lack of vaccinations. There will be no money to build schools and roads. Countries that don't have an educated work force or transportation systems won't be able to attract investment.

That is why The Africa Fund is leading a campaign to save development aid for Africa:

We worked with the U.S. Conference of Mayors as they developed a resolution supporting aid to Africa and the maintenance of social services at home, which has now gone out to 1,000 mayors.

A similar resolution is being introduced in state legislatures and city councils.

We are alerting community leaders to this new attack on Africa.

We can't allow Gingrich and Helms to succeed. The Africa Fund has already shown that the right wing can be defeated when we mobilize caring and committed people in every part of America.

Your generous, tax deductible contribution will help us save development aid to Africa:

- * \$25 will enable us to phone fifty community leaders.
- * \$50 will pay for xeroxing an information alert.
- * For \$200 we can send a representative to testify in Congress.
- * A \$1,000 contribution would pay for sending Africa Fund staff members to speak to organizations throughout the country about Africa's desperate need for development aid.

I know we can count on you.

Thank you.

For justice and peace,


Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

P.S. The right wing attack on aid is only the beginning. Gingrich and Helms won't stop until there is a new Africa policy that puts profits before people, and replaces compassion with calculation. They want to write off most of Africa because it doesn't generate enough profits for the multi-national corporations. There is a long struggle ahead and your support is going to be critical.



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

a resolution

passed

**by The United States Conference of Mayors International
Affairs Committee**

at the Winter Meeting, January 1995

WHEREAS, the old economic order--apartheid, colonialism, and slavery--helped devastate Africa, leaving it the poorest of continents;

WHEREAS, Congress created the Development Fund for Africa more than a decade ago to protect badly needed development aid to Africa;

WHEREAS, Congress earmarked \$802 million for the Development Fund for Africa;

WHEREAS, African countries desperately need foreign aid to build schools and roads, purify drinking water, pay for immunization medicines and fight childhood diseases;

WHEREAS, Congress is debating destroying the safety net which secures survival living standards in the United States, thereby forcing states and cities to assume the burden;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fulfill its responsibility in the United States by ensuing public and private investment in productivity-enhancing training and education for the disadvantaged; and call upon Congress to help Africa achieve sustainable development for Africa by maintaining the Development Fund for Africa at its current level.

The Africa Fund
17 John Street
New York, NY 10038

YES: I want to help The Africa Fund defeat the Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms attack on Africa. Here is my tax deductible contribution of:

() \$25 () \$50 () \$100 () \$1,000 () \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____