STATEMENT BY

Senator Christopher J. Dodd  Congressman Bruce Morrison  
Congressman Sam Gejdenson  Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly

January 16, 1985

We ask that Connecticut residents join with us in demonstrating our opposition to the South African Government's apartheid policy by peacefully picketing in front of the South African Consulate in New York City on Saturday, January 26th. We will be leaving from New Haven on the noon train to New York City. From there, we will walk together to the South African Consulate to begin our peaceful protest.

Protests like this issue new warnings to the South African government that it must end its system of racial segregation. No system can be more abhorrent to the conscience of Americans than the system of apartheid practiced in South Africa. Apartheid, which perpetuates the rule of the minority over the majority, is so offensive to our consciences that we feel we must bear witness. As representatives of the citizens of Connecticut, we have a responsibility to demonstrate our disapproval of this system and affirm our commitment to the values of human dignity.

It is critical that, in the wake of the passage of the South African Constitution, we not be misled into giving up the fight against apartheid. The Constitution offers absolutely no concession to the 22 million black citizens of South Africa and must be broadened to address all South Africans. This 75 percent black majority is still subject to the institutionalized, inhumane repression that is apartheid. Blacks continue to be banned from government, denied legal treatment, and forcibly 'resettled' against their will. In the past several months alone, nearly 200 black opponents of apartheid have been killed, 1,000 have been injured and over 3,000 have been arrested.

Economic and political pressure by the United States Government is vital in forcing the South African regime to dismantle its system of apartheid. We will continue to work hard to pass legislation imposing economic and political sanctions against the South African Government. The Administration's constructive engagement policy is not working--the United States must end its hypocritical support of South Africa and begin applying direct pressures on their government.

Any residents wishing to participate in the protest can contact our district offices for further details. (Senator Dodd in Hartford-722-3470; Congressman Morrison in New Haven-773-2325; Congressman Gejdenson in Norwich-886-0139; Congresswoman Kennelly in Hartford-772-2383)