On January 3, 1989, Congressman Ronald Dellums (D-CA) introduced H.R. 21, legislation to impose comprehensive economic sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Mr. Dellums has consistently sponsored strong sanctions legislation as one of the most effective U.S. responses to South African sponsored destabilization, internal repression and rampant human rights violations in southern Africa. H.R. 21 has over 100 co-sponsors.

S. 507 was introduced in the Senate by Paul Simon (D-IL) on March 3, 1989. The measure was initially co-sponsored by Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA), Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Albert Gore (D-TN). The language of the Simon sanctions bill is identical to H.R. 21 in the House.

The essence of H.R. 21/S.507 is the same as H.R. 1580 as introduced in the last Congress. Among other sanctions, it mandates complete disinvestment (withdrawal) by U.S. corporations that are presently buttressing the apartheid economy with millions in tax dollars, reinvestment of profits made in South Africa, and technical expertise. The legislation also mandates a near total embargo on trade with South Africa. Further restrictions on military cooperation with South Africa and support for multilateral imposition of sanctions are also included in the measure. Both sanctions bills also include language originally introduced last year by Congressman Robert Wise (D-WV), which prohibits U.S. oil companies who sell to South Africa from bidding on any federal oil, gas and coal leases.

H.R. 21 has been referred jointly to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, Energy and Commerce, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Interior and Insular Affairs, Ways and Means and Rules. Presently, there is no date set for Hearings.

S. 507 has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee for consideration. Presently, there is no date set for Subcommittee hearings. However, Senator Simon, Chairman of the Senate Africa Subcommittee, will be holding confirmation hearings for the Bush Administration's nominee for
Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Henry (Hank) Cohen by the end of April, 1989. During those hearings, the questioning will include a review of the Bush Administration's proposed southern Africa policy, including official statements of the Administration's probable opposition to the Dellums-Simon sanctions measure.

As predicted, opposition to the measure in the Senate is quite substantial. Along with the usual Senate supporters of the status quo in South Africa, there are a few Members declining to take action prior to the November implementation of elections in Namibia. Others are insisting on "giving the President a chance" to define U.S. policy objectives in southern Africa. Still others, particularly so-called "moderate" Republicans, are refusing to support the disinvestment provision within the sanctions bill. In our February/March, 1989 survey of Senate positions on H.R. 21/S.507, we found that there were some southern Democratic Senators who are staunchly opposed to the oil provision within the sanctions bill.

It is critical that S. 507 generate as many immediate co-sponsors as possible. In addition to the three co-sponsors in the Senate that have already joined the struggle, there are about 20 others who have stated their support for H.R. 21/S.507. We need their immediate signatures on the bill to generate the atmosphere of pressure in favor of sanctions. This pressure could create some momentum which is necessary to start movement on sanctions in the 101st Congress. Grassroots mobilization will be critical to our ability to gain co-sponsors in Congress.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

**** Write to the Washington Office on Africa for a copy of our Senate swing list on sanctions and other information on sanctions. Call our anti-apartheid action hotline: (202) 546-0408, for a 24-hour, 3-minute taped legislative update.

**** Organize local actions to demand your Senators' and Representative's strong support and leadership on the Dellums/Simon bill. If your Member is already in support of sanctions, it is crucial that he/she be encouraged to lobby other Members who are not.

**** If your Representative or Senator is staunchly against sanctions, don't give up! Find out when their re-election date is and remind them of your disapproval of their position. When dealing with anti-sanctions Senators, we suggest that you plan demonstrations at their offices. Make sure to invite the media. Organize delegations of community, labor, black and student leaders to visit them when they are home on Easter vacation. Make them explain in detail why they are opposing sanctions. Challenge them!