The 1984 Presidential and Congressional elections will be a watershed in determining US policy toward Southern Africa in the Eighties. Never before have we had an administration so determined to support racist, white minority rule in South Africa. The Reagan Administration has supported the repressive government of South Africa in its efforts to retain its heinous apartheid system, maintain its illegal military occupation of Namibia, and escalate armed attacks against neighboring states. The administration has supported racism and repression in the name of global anti-communism. We believe this support is wrong in its violation of basic American values of justice, freedom, and human rights. The 1984 elections are a referendum on Reagan: they give us the opportunity to reject the current Cold War, interventionist foreign policy emanating from the White House and demand a policy that promotes majority rule, self-determination and liberation.

Eight Democrats are running for the presidential nomination and other candidates are running on third party tickets. Thirty-three Senate seats and every House seat are up for re-election. Election year 1984 offers a unique opportunity to promote public and candidate awareness of Southern Africa issues, voice our concerns, and elect officeholders who will support freedom in Southern Africa and an end to US support for apartheid.

The issues confronting Southern Africa are ones that concern us all:
- **Peace.** South Africa is waging an increasingly violent war in the region emboldened by US silence.
- **Nuclear War.** South Africa has the capability to build nuclear weapons and is being assisted by US materials and technology.
- **Freedom and Justice.** South Africa continues to deny basic human and civil rights to its Black majority population without censure from the Reagan Administration.

Now is the time to elect candidates who will stop US support for apartheid once and for all.
Reagan's Policy a Disaster

The Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" has meant renewing the alliance between the US and South Africa by increasing political, military, and economic support to the white minority regime. The Reagan policy has been more concerned with US corporate investment and access to strategic minerals than with human rights and self-determination.

The Reagan Administration argues that this policy has been necessary to re-establish Pretoria's "trust" in the US so that the white minority regime will agree to a settlement for Namibian independence and "reform" its racist apartheid system. However, the effect of Reagan's policy has been the opposite: it has emboldened the South African government to solidify apartheid and increase its repression of the Black majority population, maintain its illegal military occupation of Namibia, and escalate armed aggression against the neighboring Frontline nations.

South Africa through its apartheid system is the only government in the world which constitutionally enshrines racism. South Africa's 4.5 million whites ruthlessly control the political, social, and economic lives of the country's 26 million Blacks. Although whites are only 16% of the population, they control 87% of the country's land, denying Blacks access to employment and education opportunities, as well as all political rights. Opponents of this system are government under Ronald Reagan's leadership has been increasingly supportive of the white minority regime.

The following list highlights the Reagan Administration's acts to reinforce apartheid:

1981
- Nominated pro-South Africa Ernest Lefever for Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. Lefever eventually withdrew because of public and Congressional opposition.
- Asked Congress to repeal Clark Amendment which prohibits covert military aid to Angolan rebels. Congress rebuffed Reagan and kept the Clark Amendment.
- Vetoed resolution in UN Security Council to impose sanctions on South Africa because of its intransigence on reaching a Namibia settlement.
- Met South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha in White House. Leaked State Department documents from meeting revealed administration's desire to end Pretoria's "polecat status" in world community.
- Trained South African Coast Guard.
- Increased number of South African honorary consulates in US.
- Issued visas to South African Springboks rugby team.
- Rejected French-initiated diplomatic protest of South Africa's bulldozing of squatter camps near Cape Town.
- Declared US "neutral" on South African invasion of Angola; vetoed UN Security Council resolution condemning invasion.

1982
- Rescinded controls on "non-lethal" exports to South African military and police.
- Appointed Herman Nickel, advocate of corporate investments in South Africa, as US ambassador to Pretoria.
- Allowed several nuclear sales to South Africa and facilitated the sale of enriched uranium from Europe to South Africa.
- Voted for a $1.1 billion IMF loan to South Africa.
- Attempted to deport South African poet and activist Dennis Brutus from US. Brutus eventually won his case after a long, national campaign to let him stay.
- Conditioned Namibian independence on agreement for withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.
- Allowed the export of 2,500 electric shock batons to South Africa.
- Granted license for US companies to service South African Koeberg nuclear power reactor.
- Established office in Johannesburg to promote trade between US and South Africa.
- Allowed export of military computer to South Africa.
- Cut in half promised US aid to Zimbabwe.

Re-election to a second term would allow the Reagan Administration to freely pursue its policy of support for racism in Southern Africa without thought for voter accountability. 1984 is our chance to prevent this.

In addition, by raising specific Southern African issues with candidates and showing your concern now, you can make a difference later in getting legislators to support bills ending US support for apartheid.
The Issues

US Strategic Interests
Reagan: Imposes Cold War perspective onto conflict in Southern Africa • Supports South Africa as bulwark of anti-communism in region • Views all struggles for national liberation as Soviet-dominated.
Ask the candidates: Do you believe US national security and foreign policy interests are best served by supporting the racist regime in South Africa? What do you think is the root cause of the struggles in Southern Africa: the Soviet Union or the continuation of white minority rule?

Nuclear Relations
Reagan: Increased sales of high-technology nuclear equipment to South Africa • Facilitated shipment of enriched uranium from Europe to South Africa • Trains South African nuclear technicians • May grant export licenses for US-enriched uranium and helium-3, which can be used to make thermonuclear weapons.
Ask the candidates: Do you support current legislative restrictions barring certain nuclear collaboration with South Africa until it signs the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and agrees to full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards? Would you support further restrictions that would completely cut off the export of nuclear materials and technology which might assist South Africa in producing nuclear weapons?

Export Controls
Reagan: New guidelines lift the ban on sales of "non-military" items to several South African government agencies, including the military and police, and allow sales of computers, airplanes, and helicopters.
Ask the candidates: Do you support pending legislation to restore a complete ban on exports to the South African military and police?

Corporate Investment
Reagan: Rapprochement with South Africa has smoothed the road to further US corporate expansion there • Appointed US Ambassador to South Africa advocating increased corporate investment • Voted against sanctions at United Nations.
Ask the candidates: Do you favor US corporate withdrawal from South Africa? Do you support pending legislation to prohibit new investment in South Africa? Do you support the efforts of state and local legislatures to divest from corporations and banks profiting from and helping to maintain apartheid?

Namibia
Reagan: Introduced obstacle to Namibian independence by insisting on agreement of withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as precondition to settlement • Rejected international efforts to censure South Africa for continued illegal occupation of Namibia.
Ask the candidates: What would you do to bring about a swift internationally-acceptable independence settlement for Namibia? Do you support the Reagan policy of conditioning Namibian independence on Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola? Would you support legislation to impose stricter sanctions on South Africa if it refuses to withdraw from its illegal occupation?

Relations with Angola
Reagan: Unsuccessfully sought repeal of the Clark Amendment, the legislation prohibiting covert military assistance to factions in Angola.
Ask the candidates: Do you support the Clark Amendment restricting US military intervention in Angola? Do you favor diplomatic recognition of the Angolan government as all US European allies and all African countries have done?
You Can Make a Difference!

The anti-apartheid movement has been able to mobilize concerned legislators and citizens on the state and national level to pass bills which decrease U.S. support for apartheid and roll back "constructive engagement." Help to elect candidates which will ensure further victory. Since 1981, we have:

- Stopped repeal of the Clark Amendment prohibiting CIA military aid to Angolan rebels.
- Passed legislation placing conditions on future US support for International Monetary Fund loans to South Africa.
- Passed legislation in House to stop exports to South African military and police.
- Passed legislation in House to prohibit new corporate investment in South Africa.
- Passed legislation in House to stop commercial bank loans to South African government and Kruggerrand imports.
- Passed legislation in House to limit nuclear exports to South Africa.
- Passed legislation which continued funding for the UN Institute of Namibia and South Africa Trust Fund.

Organizers’ Tips

1. **Identify good and bad candidates early in the race.** Attend meetings where candidates appear and ask specific questions on Southern African policy (such as those suggested above). Find friends who will do the same. Plan questions in advance and station people throughout the meeting so that they can be quickly recognized to speak. If unsatisfied with candidates’ answers, call or write their headquarters seeking clarification. Organize candidate forums in your neighborhood, church, or community group.

2. **Raise public awareness of Southern African issues.** Petitions can be useful tools to gauge public opinion and foster exchange of information. Prepare a brief statement on any of the issues outlined in this resource and solicit supporting signatures at churches, shopping malls, schools, meetings, or through door-to-door canvassing. Continue to raise these issues at public meetings, even after you have decided to support a specific candidate. Work to increase the visibility of Southern African issues in the media through “media events” (such as a vigil or demonstration using educational leaflets or speakers), letters to the editor, responding to negative news stories, and urging local reporters to cover the issues.

3. **Work in coalitions.** Join with other activist groups in your area to link Southern African issues with Central American, environmental, nuclear, labor, hunger, disarmament, or other concerns. You will often find yourself supporting or opposing the same candidates as these other groups. By joining your efforts, you can be more effective.

4. **Help elect progressive candidates.** If you have identified a candidate with a sound stance on Southern African issues, work to help her or him to get elected. Hold a neighborhood coffee to familiarize your community with the candidate and his or her positions. Volunteer to work with the campaign committee.

With your help, we can make great strides toward a progressive US policy toward Southern Africa this November. The Washington Office on Africa can provide additional background materials on the issues, as well as voting records for incumbents upon request. As always, please keep us informed about your work: Who are the worthy (and unworthy) candidates? What strategies have you developed or found useful? Let us hear your comments!

Bulk orders of this leaflet will be available at a cost of 12¢ each for 1-50 copies; 10¢ each for more than 50 copies; please add 35¢ for postage.

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