House action on the Export-Import Bank authorization bill, H.R. 12157, has now been tentatively set for Thursday, June 1st. This postponement is actually useful, because it means that most House members will be spending the week before the vote in their home districts.

This means that you will have a much better chance to arrange a time to meet personally with your Representative to urge him or her to support the end of Export-Import Bank financing for South Africa.

The House Memorial Day recess lasts from May 27th to May 30th. So try now to call the local office of your Congressperson to arrange for a meeting during that period for a delegation of representatives from various concerned groups in your community.

At this stage, we still don't have a very complete reading on where most House members stand on the issue, so any intelligence you can pick up and phone to us at (202) 546-7961 will be very useful. Our South African and industry opponents are certainly continuing their lobbying, so we must try to take advantage of this extra time to organize more support for ending Eximbank financing of trade with South Africa.

The Memorial Day recess will also probably be the best time to try to see your two Senators on this issue as well. The Senate will be in recess from May 27th to June 4th. The Senate vote on the Export-Import Bank bill (S. 2520) will almost certainly follow action by the full House, probably sometime during June. The Senate Banking Committee defeated the South Africa prohibition when it was offered by Senator Riegle of Michigan, by a vote of 9 to 6. But whether the South Africa cut-off will be offered from the Senate floor will depend largely on how strong the House vote is, since it is in the House where the momentum for taking action against South Africa is the strongest.

We really appreciate all your support! Feel free to phone us any time for an update.