Dear Friends,

We all just won a hard-fought victory!

On the last day of the 95th Session, Congress decided to severely restrict Export-Import Bank support for South Africa. This is the first time Congress has ever cut United States support for South Africa. The work that we all put into this important victory lays bare the lie that the South African government has tramurred for a year that the Carter Administration is out in front of the American people and the Congress in calling for majority rule in South Africa.

This is how, somewhat unexpectedly, the Eximbank provision passed. The House had adopted a compromise amendment in June that would end all Eximbank financing for exports to the South African government and its agencies, and to private companies which are not "proceeding toward implementing" fair employment practices. In the Senate, the bill had been bottled up for months, and we feared the incomplete House action would die with the end of the 95th Congress. But at 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning, October 15th, the House added the language they had adopted in June to another bill regulating U.S. banks. The bill was rushed to the Senate. Having met all through the night, the Senate adopted the entire bill without amendment, accepting the cut in Export-Import Bank support for South Africa without debate. The President is expected to sign the bill into law this week.

We've also learned how tenuous our victories can be unless we remain organized.

In the spring of 1977, we finally won a five-year fight to close the "Byrd Amendment" loophole in U.S. compliance with United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia. But this summer, the entire sanctions program came under surprise attack, when Senate conservatives made a bid to lift sanctions altogether...
Senate conservatives made a bid to lift sanctions altogether in order to back Ian Smith and his black colleagues in the internal settlement. With less than a month to organize for the next fight in July, we were only able to come up with a compromise which left the door open to lifting sanctions later. We know this battle isn't over, and we can't afford to get caught next year unprepared.

This is why we urgently need your help - to pursue further cut-backs in U.S. support for apartheid and to fight defensive battles forced on us by the expanding, well-financed right wing organizing on southern Africa.

We ask all of you who receive and use our publications to contribute at least $5.00 to cover the costs of printing and mailing. If you gave during this year, we thank you very much and hope you will be able to repeat your support for 1979. If you haven't contributed yet, please do so if at all possible. This will ensure that we can continue to supply well-researched, timely and accurate quarterly "Washington Notes on Africa" and pamphlets and updates on legislative action campaigns.

We would also like to make a special appeal to you to become a Sustaining Contributor to the Washington Office on Africa by giving $25 or more. Again this year, we will send you your choice of a premium in special recognition of such contributions:

- The striking 1979 Anti-Apartheid Calendar from the American Committee on Africa and the United Nations Center Against Apartheid (22" x 12")
- Ba Ye Zwa: The People Live, a series of drawings, newsclips, passages from South African writers and original poetry and prose depicting life in South Africa, by Judy Seidman (160 pp)

We deeply appreciate your political and financial support which sustains us in our work. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Edgar Lockwood
Christine Root

Maghan Keita