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AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA SAYS REAGAN GAVE SOUTH AFRICANS GREEN LIGHT FOR LESOTHO INVASION

New York, N.Y., December 10, 1982...Judge William Booth, the President of the American Committee on Africa, issued the following statement today on the South African invasion of Lesotho:

"The Reagan Administration gave the South African government the green light for the invasion of Lesotho and the murder of 30 South African refugees and 10 Lesotho citizens through its policy of "constructive engagement". Time after time South Africa has struck into the neighboring states of Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in violation of international law. Each time the Reagan Administration has refused to take any action, even going so far as to veto a 1981 UN Security Council Resolution condemning the invasion of Angola.

"The Administration's eloquence in calling for sanctions against the Soviet Union over Afghanistan and Poland stands in sharp contrast to its virtual silence over this latest South African invasion. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that President Reagan cares more about the $2 billion invested in South Africa by U.S. corporations than he does about the lives of black people murdered by the South African armed forces in a desperate attempt to preserve apartheid."

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