Congressional Actions on South Africa

Following the significant anti-apartheid victories won at the State and City level this last year, with the passage of legislation aimed at cutting economic support for South Africa, similar action is now being debated in the U.S. Congress. This summer there is a chance to check the Reagan Administration's policy of constructive engagement, to cut the flow of dollars and strategic equipment going to Pretoria. The South Africa-related amendments are attached to two main bills. We urge you to give them your active support. With your help there is a good chance we can win the votes to get this legislation through Congress this year.

1. International Monetary Fund Authorization Bill (H.R. 2957)

In November 1982 despite strong international protests the International Monetary Fund lent South Africa $1.1 billion, an amount roughly sufficient to cover the costs of 2 years of apartheid's illegal war in Namibia and Angola. Now legislation pending before Congress would instruct the U.S. Executive Director of the IMF to vote against loans to countries which practice apartheid. California Democratic representative Julian Dixon, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, originally introduced this measure on January 30, 1983 and Democratic representatives Jerry Patterson and Mike Lowry then introduced it as an amendment to the International Monetary Fund bill on May 5.

ACTION: The House floor vote is expected after July 19. Write or call your Congressmember immediately, urging support for the Patterson-Lowry amendment.

2. Export Administration Act (H.R. 3231)

Two South Africa amendments have been attached to the Export Administration Act in committee and a third will be offered on the floor.

A). On May 27, the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a subcommittee recommendation to restore controls on exports to the South African military and police. These restrictions, imposed by the Carter Administration in 1978 were lifted by the Reagan Administration in March 1982. They cover strategic but technically "non-lethal" equipment such as computers, light aircraft, and helicopters, all of which are heavily used by the police and military. The amendment was offered by representative Howard Berman (D-CA) in the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade.

B). On February 25 New York Democrat Stephen Solarz introduced H.R. 1963, a bill which would a), mandate compliance with the Sullivan fair employment principles by U.S. companies with more than 20 employees in South Africa, b), prohibit commercial bank loans to the South African government except for loans made for education, housing, or health facilities accessible on a nondiscriminatory basis, and c), ban the importation into the U.S. of the Krugerrand, or any other gold coin minted by the South African government. On May 5, the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved this amendment, which will now go to the floor of the House.
C). Democratic Representative William Gray has reintroduced H.R. 1392 which would prohibit any new corporate investment in South Africa. This bill will be offered as an amendment to the Export Administration Act on the House floor to supplement the Solarz amendment.

**ACTION:** The House floor vote is expected in the latter part of July. Write or call your Congressmember immediately urging support for the Berman and Gray amendments, and the bank loan and Krugerrand provisions of the Solarz amendment. All these are attached to the Export Administration Act (H.R. 3231).

We are not asking support for the mandatory enforcement of the Sullivan Principles because we believe the Principles serve as corporate camouflage. They justify continued investment in South Africa while coexisting with disenfranchisement, detentions, torture and bannings; they cannot serve to end apartheid.

We do urge support of the other two provisions of the Solarz bill, which would move significantly in the direction of cutting economic ties with South Africa.

**Action is Needed Now**

1. Please write or call your Congressmember soon. Don't put it off or the vote will be over. If you write, do two letters if you can, one for the IMF Authorization Bill and one for the Export Administration Bill.

2. If you can, organize an hour, an afternoon or an evening of post card writing to your local Congressmember on the issue. Your voices need to be heard loud and clear.

Congress has not passed any legislation on South Africa for more than five years. This is a very important opportunity, let's seize the time.

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