U.S. GOVERNMENT IN DANGER OF CLOSER TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME.

President Ford is expected to make a major decision on weakening the 12-year Export-Import Bank policy toward South Africa - IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

An alert from the Washington Office on Africa describes pressures on the administration from US corporations, members of Congress and from South Africa - all working for relaxation of restrictions on Ex-Im Bank transactions with South Africa in effect since 1964.

A story in the 31 January NEW YORK TIMES quotes a high official of Ex-Im Bank: "It's a concerted effort by the South Africans to stir this up, and it stems from their embassy here in Washington".

The Vorster regime in Pretoria is making desperate efforts to draw the United States of America closer into defense of the white redoubt. The South African Department of Information staff at the Washington embassy has recently been doubled. THE NEW YORK TIMES on Sunday, 22 February, carries 10 pages of advertisement and argumentation for increased US investment and tourism in South Africa. Repeated press reports in the USA, South Africa and other countries tell of official collaboration between Washington and Pretoria in the Angolan war and by extension in the protection of white minority racist regimes in Southern Africa.

AFRICA NEWS of 23 February reports that a letter subscribed to by 28 US Senators urges the President to end the American arms embargo against South Africa and to lift restrictions on direct loans from the Export-Import Bank. Pressure is coming also from members of the House of Representatives.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED AT ONCE:

Wire or Phone:

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
PHONE: (202) 456-1414

Your Senators
Washington, DC 20510
PHONE: (202) 224-3121

Your Representative
Washington, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 224-3121

(Or, contact local offices in home districts)
The intensive campaign from corporations, members of Congress and the South African regime concentrates on forcing the Export-Import Bank to make loans directly to the South African government, specifically to the state-owned Sasol II plant to convert coal into gasoline, a resource South Africa is in dire need of. Limits on Ex-Im loans at present demand:
- no loans or guarantees to South African companies or the South African government;
- no direct loans to American companies for South African transactions over $2 million;
- loan guarantees to US companies can be granted only for five-year 'medium-term' loans.

At the same time that America is being induced to come to Pretoria's rescue, the British and others are disturbed by events in Southern Africa:

London's SUNDAY TIMES of 22 February says in its financial section that the City's "market reaction verged at times on panic at the thought of fresh complications thrown up by a strong and possibly permanent Cuban/Soviet influence emanating from Angola" and told of the virtual disengagement of business-emperor John Schlesinger from the Republic of South Africa. Gold mine shares have "averaged a fall of more than 1% each trading day. Platinum shares have dropped even faster...In fact Europe's rapid disenchantment with anything in Southern Africa has been noticeable for a total lack of discrimination". THE SUNDAY TIMES makes further points: "Investments in Namibia (and naturally Rhodesia) must now carry a high political risk....The South African economy may well be blighted in a more permanent way than the post-Sharpeville era produced".

"The reaction, in short, is highly reminiscent of the flight that followed the Sharpeville massacre of 1960."

Remember well - 16 years ago after Sharpeville, a US bank consortium was hastily put together to steady and build up overseas investments in the shaky Pretorian regime.

US corporate interests are engaged in the same strategy - trying to get this nation entangled in support of the doomed racist regimes in Southern Africa in the face of the rapidly mounting surge for liberation.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. CONTACT THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESSPEOPLE!

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