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*International / S Africa*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 7, 1976

COMMITTEE ON  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY  
FISCAL AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
BANKING, CURRENCY AND  
HOUSING  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,  
REGULATION AND INSURANCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Congressional Black Caucus

FR: Walter E. Fauntroy,

RE: Request for Review and Comments of Draft Letter to the  
World Health Organization Concerning Alleged Violations  
of the Human Rights of Mental Patients in the Union of  
South Africa

Enclosed for your review and comments is a draft letter to the World Health Organization requesting an immediate investigation into charges that over 8,000 Blacks, 70% of all Black mental patients in the Union of South Africa, are being held in fourteen "psychiatric camps" and are being utilized as slave labor by private businesses earning profit on this labor.

The nature of the volatile racial situation in the Union of South Africa requires an expeditious inquiry by appropriate international organizations into the institutionalization of Black South Africans in these "for-profit" mental institutions. The violation of human rights in the Union of South Africa serves as the basis of racial and civil war and clearly has international implications.

These mental institutions, commonly referred to as human warehouses, are run by a Johannesburg-based business consortium under the direction of Smith-Mitchell & Company, an accounting organization. The Smith-Mitchell & Company mental institutions operate under the umbrella of Intrinsic Instruments. This company is linked to Protea Holdings, specializing in chemicals, drugs, hospital and medical supplies. According to information presented to my office, the majority share holder in Protea is the Standard Bank of South Africa which is largely controlled by the Chase Manhattan Bank.

MEMORANDUM  
Congressional Black Caucus  
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Thus, there appears to be a clear involvement of the United States of America (via a multinational corporate connection) which is of acute interest to the constituency we serve, particularly the millions of Black Americans we represent.

I will appreciate your timely response. Thank you for your attention!

DRAFT

September 7, 1976

Dr. Halfdan Mahler  
Director General  
World Health Organization  
1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland

Dear Dr. Mahler:

The Congressional Black Caucus has learned of, and is deeply alarmed by alleged psychiatric abuses taking place in the Union of South Africa which, if they exist, constitute a gross denial of fundamental human rights to Black South Africans.

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we represent millions of Black Americans who are concerned about the general denial of human rights to Black South Africans.

We make specific reference here to information in our possession (see enclosures provided by the Church of Scientology) concerning fourteen mental institutions run for financial profit by a Johannesburg-based business consortium under the direction of Smith-Mitchell & Company, an accounting organization. All of the Smith-Mitchell & Company mental institutions operate under the umbrella of Intrinsic Investments. This company is linked to Protea Holdings, specializing in chemicals, drugs, hospital, and medical supplies.

It is alleged that deplorable conditions exist in these mental institutions where over seventy percent of all South African Black mental patients are confined. Many of these "mental patients" have been confined without benefit of due process and competent, professional medical diagnosis.

We have been told that patients are responsible for maintenance, have been used to build some of these institutions, are subject to non-professional administering of anesthesia and relaxing drugs, the use of shock treatment, and most disturbingly that 8,000 Black South Africans have been hired out as slave labor to outside firms on contract to Smith-Mitchell & Company.

DRAFT

Dr. Halfdan Mahler

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Such accusations if borne out would constitute violations and/or fall under the purview of the "Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery" enacted on September 25, 1926, "the Supplementary Slavery Convention of 1957" and the Preamble and Articles 13, 55, 56, and 68 of the United Nations Charter.

The operations of these mental institutions also appear to be in violation of the basic principles of human rights and freedoms as delineated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with specific reference to Article 4, "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

Additionally, the mental institutions operated by Smith-Mitchell & Company are, if our information is correct, in violation of the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" under which United Nations members "undertake to enact, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the necessary legislation to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of (a) genocide, defined as including, with intent to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, by, "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group."

Shamefully, neither the Union of South Africa nor our own country, the United States of America, are parties to this convention. However, over seventy other countries are signatories to the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 and which stands as a universal standard of civilized behavior.

Finally, the mental institutions run by Smith-Mitchell & Company appear, from our reports, to be in violation of the "Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor" adopted at the Fortieth Session of the General Conference of the International Labor Organization in 1957. This convention seeks to suppress all forced labor (a) as a means of political coercion, or as punishment for expressing views opposed to established political, social, or economic systems; (b) as a means of mobilizing and using labor for economic development; (c) as a means of labor discipline; (d) as punishment for participation in strikes; or (e) as a means of racial, social, national or religious discrimination.

DRAFT

Dr. Halfdan Mahler

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It is our considered judgment that these charges warrant a full-scale investigation and that they are clearly a matter of international concern as evidenced by the aforementioned citations.

Therefore, the Congressional Black Caucus of the Congress of the United States of America is officially requesting the World Health Organization to undertake an immediate investigation of these charges.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Yvonne B. Burke  
Chairman  
Congressional Black Caucus

DRAFT

September 7, 1976

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Kissinger:

The Congressional Black Caucus has learned of, and is deeply alarmed by alleged psychiatric abuses taking place in the Union of South Africa which, if they exist, constitute a gross denial of fundamental human rights to Black South Africans. We believe that the allegations we are referring to are so serious that they should become a matter of official inquiry and policy initiatives towards the present regime of the Union of South Africa.

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we represent millions of Black Americans who are concerned about the general denial of human rights to Black South Africans.

We make specific reference here to information in our possession (see enclosures provided by the Church of Scientology) concerning fourteen mental institutions run for financial profit by a Johannesburg-based business consortium under the direction of Smith-Mitchell & Company, an accounting organization. All of the Smith-Mitchell & Company mental institutions operate under the umbrella of Intrinsic Investments. This company is linked to Protea Holdings, specializing in chemicals, drugs, hospital and medical supplies. According to our information there appears to be involvement of the United States of America through United States-based multinational corporations.

It is alleged that deplorable conditions exist in these mental institutions where, over seventy percent of all South African Black mental patients are confined. Many of these "mental patients" have been confined without benefit of due process and competent and professional medical diagnosis.

We have been told that patients are responsible for maintenance; have been used to build some of these institutions, are subject to non-professional administering of anesthesia and relaxing drugs, the use of shock treatment, and most disturbingly that 8,000 Black South Africans have been hired as slave labor to outside firms on contract to Smith-Mitchell & Company.

DRAFT

Honorable Henry A. Kissinger

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Such accusations, if borne out, would constitute violation and/or fall under the purview of the "Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery" enacted on September 25, 1926, the "Supplementary Slavery Convention of 1957", and the Preamble and Articles 13, 55, 56 and 68 of the United Nations Charter.

The operations of these mental institutions also appear to be in violation of the basic principles of human rights and freedoms as delineated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with specific reference to Article 4, "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

It is our considered judgment that these charges are clearly a matter of international concern as evidenced by the aforementioned citations to which our government, the United States of America is a party.

Like you, we believe that the internal structure of the Union of South Africa is "incompatible with any concept of human dignity." Like you, we believe that "the United States must be true to its own beliefs."

It is within this context that we urge you to investigate these alleged psychiatric abuses in the Union of South Africa. If proven accurate we urge you to honor your pledge "to bring about peaceful change, equity of opportunity, and basic human rights in South Africa" by utilizing the moral, political, and economic power of the United States of America.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Yvonne B. Burke  
Chairman  
Congressional Black Caucus