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COMMITTEE

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

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

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May 17, 1985

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to seek your support for the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985 when it is considered by the House next week. HR 1460, which was reported on a bi-partisan basis by the Foreign Affairs Committee, is similar to legislation passed overwhelmingly by the House during the 98th Congress.

HR 1460 would:

Ban new investment in South Africa, while leaving existing investments untouched. Reinvestment of profits would be permitted.

Ban all loans to the South African public sector, as a means of ending US financing of the official machinery of apartheid;

Ban the sale of computers to the South African public sector, in view of the heavy reliance of the South African military and police on American computers in implementing the infamous pass laws and other facets of apartheid;

Ban the importation of krugerrands, thereby ending another form of American financing of apartheid.

This is not a disinvestment bill. HR 1460 would not dismantle the American corporate presence in South Africa, but would simply place a moratorium on new investments until the dismantlement of apartheid begins. Existing jobs would clearly not be affected by this legislation.

Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate and Bishop of Johannesburg, a man firmly committed to non-violence and seen by many as the Martin Luther King of South Africa, has repeatedly stated that economic restrictions are "black South Africa's last chance" and that the argument that blacks would suffer most from greater economic pressure is "moral humbug."

Opponents of any economic restrictions on South Africa claim that HR 1460 would result in the United States simply "walking away from the problem" in South Africa. The fact that HR 1460 leaves all existing investments and our current corporate presence untouched refutes that claim.

Iran, Libya, Kampuchea, East Germany, Vietnam, Syria and some twelve other countries now face various forms of US economic sanctions because we oppose their internal and external policies. Additionally, the administration recently announced plans to impose economic sanctions on Nicaragua. This negates the argument that HR 1460 "picks on South Africa."

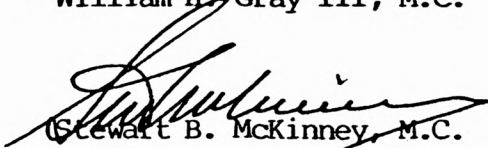
Finally, over the past year and a half, over four hundred black South Africans have been killed, many while in police custody; a massive crackdown by the South African government resulted in thousands of arrests in one month; the leaders of South Africa's largest black labor movement were thrown in jail without charge or trial. Within the past week a black labor leader died of head injuries after having been in police custody. Yet another student leader has, within the past few days, met the same fate.

With each day of American inaction, conditions in South Africa get worse. I urge you to vote for this moderate Congressional response to the brutality of apartheid when HR 1460 is considered on the floor.

Sincerely,



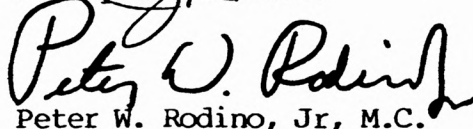
William H. Gray III, M.C.



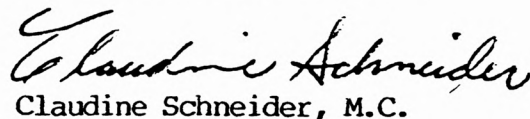
Stewart B. McKinney, M.C.



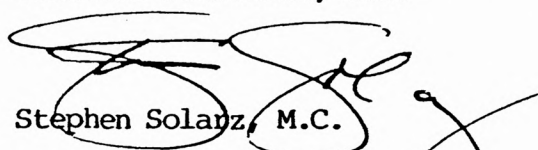
Mickey Leland, M.C.



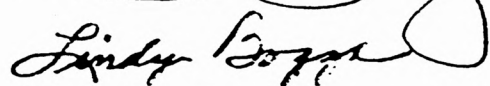
Peter W. Rodino, Jr., M.C.



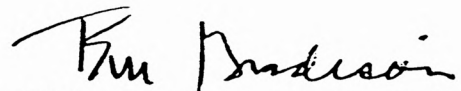
Claudine Schneider, M.C.



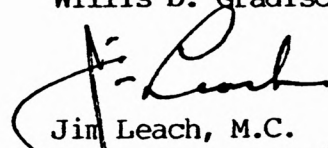
Stephen Solarz, M.C.



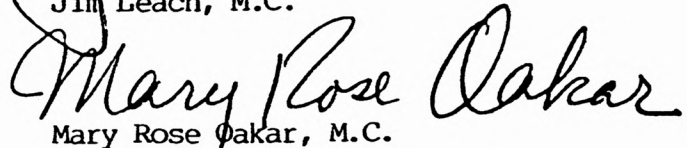
Lindy Boggs, M.C.



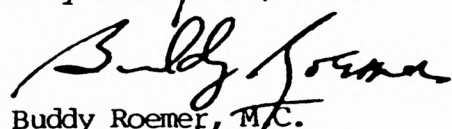
Willis D. Gradison Jr., M.C.



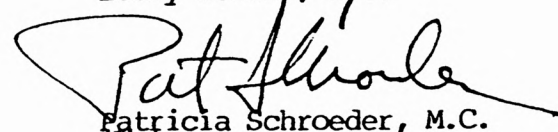
Jim Leach, M.C.



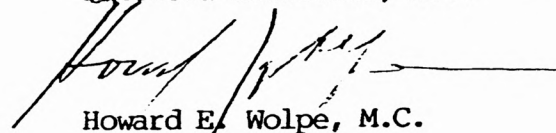
Mary Rose Oakar, M.C.



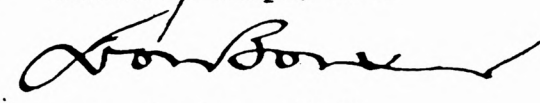
Buddy Roemer, M.C.



Patricia Schroeder, M.C.



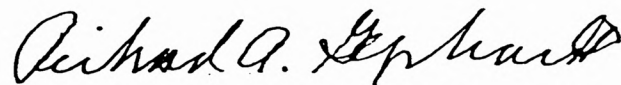
Howard E. Wolpe, M.C.



Don Bonker, M.C.



Dante B. Fascell, M.C.



Richard A. Gephardt