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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 8, 1986

Hon. Ed Zschau
429 Cannon HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Ed:

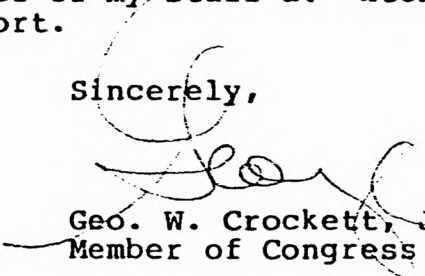
Through your invaluable assistance as a cosponsor, we were able to get the 98th Congress to pass in 1984 "The Mandela Freedom Resolution," calling on the President to use his good offices to secure the release and freedom of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. While we did not achieve our major goal by this bipartisan effort, we did alert the world to our concern and our government to its duty in this matter.

Now, more than ever, there is an urgent need to encourage the Government of South Africa to take bold steps to end apartheid and the current unrest and to work for peace and peaceful change for all South Africans.

On Wednesday, February 5, 1986, I introduced H.Res. 373, a copy of which is attached, calling on the Government of South Africa to begin meaningful political negotiations with that country's Black majority. Once again, I invite you to join me as a cosponsor of this resolution, which I feel presents an opportunity for the House of Representatives to make a significant statement at this crucial moment. Also enclosed is a recent article from the New York Times, which cites the Administration's support for the release of Nelson Mandela.

Please contact Ted Jones of my staff at extension 52261 if you would like to join me in this effort.

Sincerely,


Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress

GWC/tj
Enclosures

F40-14 04
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Reprinted from an article in The New York Times

October 4, 1985

SHULTZ SUGGESTS SOUTH AFRICA FREE NELSON MANDELA

Apartheid Foe's Release Could
Signal Willingness to Seek
Compromise, He Says

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

Secretary of State George P. Shultz said yesterday that the South African Government could "signal" its willingness to search for a political compromise with the black majority by freeing Nelson Mandela, the prominent black political prisoner, and agreeing to negotiations with him and the outlawed African National Congress.

"That would be a huge event for the South African Government to do," Mr. Shultz said, "and that would be traumatic for them."

Mr. Shultz, speaking in an interview at The New York Times, elaborated on his comments Wednesday night that apartheid was "doomed" and that the South African Government should move promptly to negotiate with the black majority before it was toppled by a "violent revolution."

Apartheid 'Can't Last'

"Apartheid is through," he said yesterday. "It is not only wrong in our view, but at least in my judgment it is over. It can't last."

"I think that there comes a time," he

said, "when people stop arguing about whether something is a good idea or not and accept the fact that that's irrelevant. It doesn't matter whether you think apartheid is a good idea or not, it's going to disappear."

"Now the question is how do you manage the transition," he said. "That's the problem psychologically we would like the South Africans to address because if they address it even now, there is a real chance of doing so, through a process of discussion and negotiation. If it isn't addressed, we can have a cycle of continued violence and at least one can readily imagine this blowing up into a really violent upheaval."

Mr. Shultz, who made his comments to reporters, editors and executives of The Times, including the paper's publisher, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, was asked what the South African authorities could do to indicate their willingness to have a peaceful transition. Mr. Shultz replied that there were many possibilities.

He suggested that "it could be in the form of releasing people from prison and saying that they are willing to deal with them, as in the case of Mandela."

"We have said that Mandela should be released and that they should deal with the African National Congress," he said. Mr. Mandela, who has been imprisoned since 1962, was president of the A.N.C., a black nationalist group that has been barred from South Africa.

Mr. Shultz had previously called for Mr. Mandela's release in Congressional testimony on Sept. 18 and other officials have suggested that the South Africans free him as a conciliatory gesture.

Conditional Release Rejected

President P. W. Botha of South Africa last year offered to release Mr. Mandela if he would renounce violence, but he refused the offer and has insisted on an unconditional release.

To urge the Government of South Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful political negotiations with that country's black majority.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 1986

Mr. CROCKETT (for himself, Mr. SAVAGE, Mr. GRAY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DYMALLY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HAYES, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. FAUNTROY, Mr. DIXON, Mr. HAWKINS, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LELAND, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. COLLINS, Mr. WHEAT, Mr. WOLPE, Mr. PEPPER, Mr. FISH, Mr. STOKES, Mr. FORD of Tennessee, and Mr. RANGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To urge the Government of South Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful political negotiations with that country's black majority.

Whereas since September 1984, a mounting unrest against racial oppression in the Republic of South Africa has led to the violent death of more than 1,000 individuals, most of them black, the detention without charge of thousands more, and a declared state of emergency in several areas of that country;

Whereas a peaceful resolution to this violence and conflict in the Republic of South Africa is unlikely unless the Government of that country moves to end its abhorrent system of apartheid which denies the country's black majority the right to vote, the right to own land, and the right to freedom of movement;

Whereas the Government of the United States, the United Nations, and virtually every country in the world has condemned the practice of apartheid by the Government of South Africa and its enactment of the repressive measures that have led to the current violence;

Whereas the Government of the United States has sought to use its influence and leverage to promote peace and peaceful change through diplomatic appeals and the imposition of limited economic sanctions;

Whereas the 98th Congress adopted the "Mandela Freedom Resolution", calling for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the black South African leader who has been imprisoned for 23 years, and his wife, Winnie Mandela, who has been a "banned" person in South Africa for the past 21 years;

Whereas the President has called for the South African Government to end its practice of detention without trial and lengthy imprisonment of black leaders, in addition to calling for the establishment of a government based on the consent of the governed;

Whereas the Secretary of State has urged the release of Nelson Mandela and indicated the need for the South African Government to meet with leaders of the black majority, including Mandela and the outlawed African National Congress;

Whereas the African National Congress, which was banned in 1960, is today the oldest and most prominent of the organizations of resistance against the apartheid system of South Africa and is highly regarded by that country's black majority;

Whereas representatives of the South African business community, clergy, and university student organizations have met or attempted to meet with officials of the African National Congress to establish lines of communications for future discussions on the problems of their country;

Whereas Nelson Mandela, who has been in South African prisons since 1962 and who is still considered the leader of the banned African National Congress, is regarded by many black South Africans as one of the most respected symbols of resistance against apartheid;

Whereas it is evident that an end to South Africa's racial turmoil is impossible if the Government of that country does not begin a meaningful dialogue with the leaders of the black majority;

Whereas the continued turmoil and unrest in the Republic of South Africa threaten the peace, security, and stability of the other nations of Southern Africa and has led to cross-border violence in the region; and

Whereas the urgent moment has arrived for the Government of South Africa to initiate bold steps to end apartheid and the current unrest and to achieve peace and peaceful change: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Repre-
2 sentatives that the President should use his good offices to
3 urge the Government of the Republic of South Africa to indi-
4 cate its willingness to engage in meaningful political negotia-
5 tions with that country's black majority—

1 (1) by immediately granting unconditional freedom
2 to Nelson Mandela;

3 (2) by recognizing the African National Congress
4 as a legitimate representative for the country's black
5 majority; and

6 (3) by establishing the framework for the political
7 talks which hopefully could lead to a negotiated settle-
8 ment with the black majority.

dhru - gwc - 56-149-141