



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1967

Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

noted
3/16/67

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Dear Congressman Diggs:

I am writing in reply to your letter dated February 14, 1967, enclosing a press article referring to some plans for segregated entertainment "initially approved by the U.S. Embassy" in connection with the stop at Cape Town, South Africa of the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

You will be interested to know that the American Ambassador and his staff, with the cooperation of Cape Town residents, had arranged many activities of an integrated character for officers and other members of the crew of the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. These included bus tours of the Cape Peninsula, hiking and cable car trips to the top of the scenic Table Mountain, and private dinners. In addition, the Embassy had received a large number of spontaneous offers of hospitality from organizations and private individuals who wished to entertain American servicemen. The invitations came from all quarters of the people of Cape Town and ranged from dinners in private homes to large parties and dances. As could be expected, some of this entertainment, in keeping with local practice, would have been conducted along ethnic lines. Participation therein would of course have been entirely voluntary.

In any event, as you know, orders from the Department of Defense that shore leave should be authorized only in connection with organized integrated activities caused the Commanding Officer to decide, with the concurrence of our Ambassador, that it would be impracticable to grant any liberty without risking inequities among the crew.

I trust that this information will be helpful. Please call on me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas MacArthur II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Douglas MacArthur II
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations