

# Congressional Black Caucus

42-344 House Annex #2  
Washington, D.C. 20515

202 — 226-7790

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April 18, 1985

The Honorable Charles Rose  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Office Systems  
722 House Annex #1  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I request that the Subcommittee on Office Systems pursue divestment from companies doing business in South Africa.

It is our understanding that your Subcommittee is the appropriate body in which to initiate this action because of the number of companies from which a substantial amount of office equipment is leased or purchased.

As a first consideration, we request a formal inquiry be made of the necessary steps and action that should be undertaken regarding this divestiture process within the House of Representatives.

It is our hope that such an inquiry will prompt the Committee's implementation of specific measures including the following:

1. Immediate action to cease House cooperation with those companies doing business with South Africa.
2. Incorporation into Subcommittee procedures of approval for procurement of office equipment, the stipulation that companies provide a statement of assurance to the House that no business is being conducted in South Africa, notwithstanding those that may be Sullivan signatories.

We are fully cognizant of the magnitude of the implications of such action. However, it is imperative that the House address this issue of critical concern. It is regrettable that many states and municipalities have aggressively addressed this matter, while the U.S. House of Representatives has been silent.

It is our hope that the Subcommittee will advise the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus of its findings and recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mickey Leland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

MICKEY LELAND  
Chairman