

# Lincoln University

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PENNSYLVANIA  
19352

AFRICAN LANGUAGE AND AREA CENTER

February 14, 1967

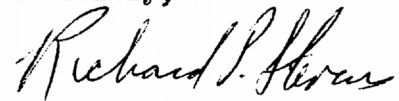
Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

*noted  
3/2/67*

Dear Congressman Diggs:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Robert McNamara concerning the stop of the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt at Capetown, South Africa. I am distressed that such a procedure could be followed by the Department of Defense and I sincerely hope you will both inquire into the situation and protest the same.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Stevens,  
Acting Director

RPS:vs

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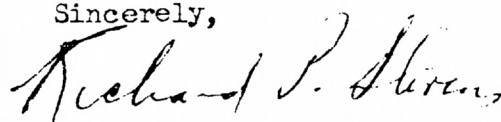
Mr. Robert S. McNamara  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McNamara:

I, like many Americans have been profoundly shocked by the most unfortunate decision of the United States Government to permit the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt to put in at the South African port of Capetown for fuel and provisions.

Since the government of the United States is perfectly aware of South Africa's racial discriminatory policies, it would surely be known that the crewmen could not receive proper treatment on a non-discriminatory basis. Still the Defense Department permitted this ship to dock, purportedly to save about a quarter of a million dollars. Can we not have some consistency? Either you are officially against Apartheid and act accordingly or else you acquiesce in it. We have acquiesced by permitting this grand ship, a world-wide sign of American power and prestige, to touch at South Africa. In the eyes of the world's non-white population it can only be interpreted as a tacit sign of American support for South Africa. Under the circumstances it scarcely makes any difference that the crewmen go ashore. Does it mean that in the event of some future rebellion in South Africa, which might not be too far in the distant future, we will then find ourselves supporting the "Legal Government" to stave off what might be considered a threat to American interests in Africa? An apology by the Department of Defense is in order to the Negro population of the United States.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Stevens,  
Acting Director

RPS:vs  
c.c. Secretary of State,  
Dean Rusk