



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

CONFIDENTIAL

F. South Africa

Diggs 306 F1-02-02

July 11, 1969

Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter refers to your request of May 29, 1969 for information on our relations with South Africa, and also to our unclassified reply.

In addition to our NASA tracking station in South Africa, the Air Force, through civilian American contractors, operates a tracking station as the terminus of the Atlantic or Eastern Test Range for military missiles and space vehicles. We understand that the Department of Defense is advising you concerning this installation.

Another relationship may come within the scope of your request for information on our joint activities with South Africa. The Bureau of Customs has an arrangement with the quasi-governmental South African Deciduous Fruit Board for exclusion from the United States of South African deciduous fruit produced with the use of convict labor. Fruit produced without convict labor may be imported if otherwise admissible. This arrangement does not affect imports of citrus fruit, in which convict labor is not used. The amounts of fruit involved are relatively negligible. Under negotiation since 1965, the arrangement with the Deciduous Fruit Board has operated since late 1967. In 1968 South Africa advised us that it expects to terminate the use of convict labor in agriculture, perhaps by 1971. We believe this decision stems at least partly from our pressure and therefore consider this an instance of discreet diplomacy causing a reform, admittedly minor, of the South African system.

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2

If I can provide further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William B. Macomber, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

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