



13th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.:
1531 Longworth H.O.B.
(202) 225-2261

DETROIT:
8401 Woodward
(313) 874-4900
2866 E. Grand Blvd.
(313) 875-4225

Extension of Remarks

Congressional Record, March 8, 1982

"DISAPPROVAL OF NEW TRADE POLICY
WITH SOUTH AFRICA"

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to register my disapproval of the administration's recent decision to relax restrictions on trade with South Africa. The administration's revised export regulations, which took effect Monday, March 1, 1982, will now permit sales by American companies of non-military goods to the South African military and police. The new regulations have effectively dismantled a four year-old policy of the U.S. government that prohibited the sale of all U. S. manufactured items to the South African police and military. Those regulations were introduced so that this country could more effectively comply with the provisions of the 1977 United Nations arms embargo. If the administration has not in fact violated the letter of the UN embargo by promulgating these new trade regulations, it certainly has seriously undermined the spirit of the arms embargo.

Mr. Speaker, a relaxation of trade regulations with South Africa at this time will only further undercut the credibility of our nation's stated adhorrence of South African apartheid, and will embolden a power structure in Pretoria that over the past year has become increasingly brazen, repressive, and inhumane. This most recent change in our trade policy is a clear indication that the administration still desires to engage in an insipid dialogue of "constructive engagement" and to grant "carrots" and other concessions to a country that continually flaunts most accepted norms of behavior in its international and domestic relations.

Mr. Speaker, a recent review of events, including U.S. and South African diplomatic initiatives, was provided by a witness before a joint hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittees on Africa and International

MORE

Economic Policy and Trade. These events, which I will cite in part, clearly reveal a pattern of South African recalcitrance and U.S. acquiescence:

January 1981: After the inauguration of President Reagan, the new administration places U.S.-southern Africa policy under review. Shortly thereafter, President Reagan terms South Africa a friendly country and ally.

South African commandos invade Mozambique, killing 12 South African refugees.

March 1981: Five senior South African military officers enter the United States under false pretenses and meet with National Security Council and Defense Department personnel. One meets with UN Ambassador Kirkpatrick, violating a longstanding U.S. policy against such contacts.

May 1981: President Reagan formally meets with the first dignitary from a sub-Saharan African country, South Africa's Foreign Minister, Pik Botha.

South Africa detains 200 black labor union officials.

July 1981: The State Department issues visas to the South African national rugby team.

An African National Congress official is assassinated in Salisbury, Zimbabwe. The South African government is strongly implicated in the act. The Associated Press later reports that the U.S. government had prior knowledge of South African government plans to engage in similar activities of terror and subversion.

August 1981: South African troops invade Angola.

The United States vetoes a UN resolution condemning South Africa's invasion, claiming that the invasion should have been weighed against the Cuban presence in Angola. Nonetheless, not one report exists of Cuban troop incursions into Namibia or South Africa.

Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, declares in a speech in Honolulu that the U.S. will not "choose between black and white" in South Africa.

A black squatters camp outside Cape Town is demolished by the police; numerous persons are arrested and returned to their "homelands."

December 1981: South Africa releases 39 of 44 mercenaries who hijacked a plane from the Seychelles to South Africa. Only after an international outcry are the hijackers rearrested.

February 1982: Imprisoned trade union reformer, Neil Aggett, is found hanged in his cell. Though South African officials ruled it a suicide, many others continue to question the circumstances of his death. A week after Mr. Aggett's death, five union leaders are hospitalized, two for "psychiatric" treatment. Among those hospitalized is Mr. Aggett's wife.

The day the administration announces its new trade policy with South Africa, it also announces that Donald DeKieffer, general counsel in the White House trade representative's office, will be travelling to South Africa on official business. Before joining the administration, Mr. DeKieffer was a paid lobbyist for the South African government.

These events describe a South Africa that has embarked on an intensified campaign of terror, repression, and international blackmail, and bespeak a U.S. administration that has chosen to succumb to and collude with Pretoria's machinations. The administration's new trade policy is but a reflection of the preceding description.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing socially, economically, or politically redeeming in the administration's recent foreign policy gambit. The policy seriously compromises the ideals for which this country has stood. It exacerbates tensions in our foreign relations with the whole of the African continent, lessens this country's chances to resolve successfully the conflict in Namibia, and seriously jeopardizes the United States' long term interests in that region of the world.

I would urge my colleagues not to be party to this most unwise and insensitive policy, and to join with me and other members of Congress in disapproving these new trade regulations.