

# NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

## South Africa Welcomes Statement of Principles By U.S. Companies

Cape Town, March 8 -- South Africa's Minister of Interior and Information, Dr. C. P. Mulder, commenting in the nation's Parliament on a list of working conditions some American companies planned to implement on behalf of Black employees, promised that such initiatives "would be welcome by both the government authorities and business firms in South Africa."

The statement of six operating principles, signed by eleven major U.S. companies, was presented to South African Ambassador, Roelof F. Botha, on February 28 in Washington, D. C. These were developed over a period of 18 months of private discussions with the top executives of the companies, and is similar to a report issued in May 1976 by the ITT Public Affairs Committee on its return from South Africa on a fact-finding visit.

Dr. Mulder said in Parliament in Cape Town:

"Several American firms with local affiliates issued a statement of principles for their operations in South Africa. This six point statement contains guidelines concerning equal and fair employment for Black workers in South Africa, their training and education, housing, recreation and health facilities.

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"In expressing a desire to contribute to the well-being of the Black worker in South Africa, these American companies are to be commended. In fact, the authorities welcome their declared intent to give further impetus to existing development programs already in operation in South Africa, as a result of which the Black man finds himself outstripping his counterparts on the African continent and many other areas of the world in all fields of human endeavour.

"It is of course assumed that the same guidelines will be applicable to other parts of the continent and the world where these and other American firms have business interests."

The six principles called for:

- \* Nonsegregation of the races in all eating, comfort and work facilities.
- \* Equal and fair employment practices for all employees.
- \* Equal pay for all employees doing equal or comparable work for the same period of time.
- \* Initiation and development of training programs that will prepare, in substantial numbers, Blacks and other non-whites for supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs.
- \* An increase in the number of Blacks and other non-whites in management and supervisory positions.
- \* Improvement in the quality of employees' lives outside the work environment in such areas as housing, transportation, schooling, recreation and health facilities.

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Representatives of General Motors and IBM presented the statement to the South African Embassy. The other companies, reported as early supporters of the employment principles, were the American Cyanamid Company, the Burroughs Corporation, the Caltex Petroleum Corporation, International Telephone & Telegraph, the Ford Motor Company, the International Harvester Company, the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, the Mobil Oil Company, the Otis Elevator Corporation and the Union Carbide Corporation.

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