

Congressional Black Caucus

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November 2, 1977

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TO: Congressional Black Caucus Members
FROM: Parren J. Mitchell *AM*
RE: Analysis of South Africa Resolution Vote

Attached for your information is a vote analysis of H. Con. Res. 388, the Collins Resolution on South Africa, which indicates that, with few exceptions, Members from the heavily Black congressional districts voted for the Resolution.

Given the overwhelming majority for the Resolution (347-54), the significance of these votes is open to question. Nonetheless, these were in many cases the first positive vote on a major African issue. The Washington Office on Africa's analysis of four key Africa votes this year (non-recognition of the Transkei, which lost 245-156 on suspension, the Rhodesian Chrome vote, which won 250-146, the Southern Africa Special Assistance Authorization, which was retained in the bill by a 204-208 vote, and Aid to Mozambique and Angola, which was defeated 188-219) showed few Members from heavily Black districts voting with the Caucus. For instance, there was not a single positive vote from Mississippi on any of those four issues, and not a single positive vote from Louisiana other than from Representatives Boggs and Long, nor from Alabama other than Representative Buchanan.

The Caucus network was activated for the Resolution with phone calls to key persons in southern congressional districts, and a coordinated Member and staff lobbying effort by both Caucus and non-Caucus offices was instituted. These actions, along with strong support from the Speaker, support from the minority leadership and Administration endorsement of the Resolution produced a larger-than-expected vote for passage.