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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 20, 1967

Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Diggs:

I have received your letter of September 15, 1967, referring to South Africa's denial of a visa to you some time ago and inquiring whether restrictions still prevail against Afro-Americans.

The South African Government has never indicated to us that it intends as a matter of policy to exclude Afro-Americans. You may recall that at about the time you were denied a South African visa the South African Embassy left an aide memoire indicating that they were unwilling to extend visa facilities to any member of the House Subcommittee on Africa at a time when the Sub-Committee was conducting inquiries into matters which they regarded as South African domestic policy.

The Department has received reports and seen items in the South African press indicating that American Negroes, including professional entertainers, have traveled in South Africa in recent months.

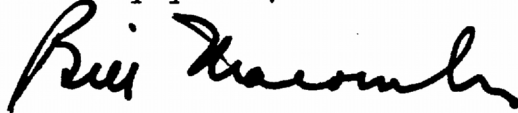
At the same time I must point out that the South African Government exercises wide discretion in the matter of granting visas and has recently chosen to deny visas to such prominent Americans as Ralph McGill and Clark Kerr.

If you are planning a trip to South Africa, we would be most happy to assist you in completing your visa application and in making representation to the South African

Embassy concerning the issuance of this visa.

If I can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Macomber".

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