

Committee on Foreign Affairs

August 2, 1972

The Honorable William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In regard to the assignment of Mr. James E. Baker to our Embassy in South Africa, I am writing for clarification on certain points:

- (1) Is it understood that Mr. Baker will accompany the Embassy to Cape Town during the parliamentary sessions?
- (2) The Political Counselor of the Embassy was recently reassigned to Washington, thus necessitating a new appointment in this sensitive position. I would like to know whether a black foreign service officer will be assigned in this position to a country where some 82% of the people are not white, and if not, why not?
- (3) Can it be assumed that the policy of racial discrimination has been ended with respect to all appointments to U.S. posts in South Africa? If so, are black foreign service officers and staff being actively considered for appointments to some of the thirty-six positions in Pretoria as well as the five, three and nine positions, respectively, at the U.S. Consulates at Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg?
- (4) I would like to have precise information on the composition of the Embassy, and of the other U.S. posts in South Africa, as to officers, staff and service employees; both Americans and locals:
 - the overall numbers of personnel in each category;
 - the racial breakdown for each category;
 - the job classification for each employee;

Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable William P. Rogers

August 2, 1972

Page Two

- the post of assignment for each employee;
 - the wages which are paid to each local white employee;
 - the wages which are paid to each local black employee; and
 - the wages which U.S. Government personnel pay to their African employees in their individual or personal capacities.
- (5) Has, or have, there been any African employee, or employees, of the Embassy in the past twenty-four months who is no longer with the Embassy? If so, I would appreciate receiving a statement on the particulars for each such employee or employees.
- (6) I am requesting that cause be shown as to why this government should not indicate in a written communication to the South African Government, at its highest level, its strong preference for the assignment of persons representative of the majority of that country, that is, of Africans to the South African Embassy here in the United States.
- (7) Finally, when will Mr. Baker be taking up his assignment to South Africa; and, if he must first undergo language studies, what African languages are required for an officer assigned to South Africa?

I would appreciate an early and comprehensive answer to each of the points raised above.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa

CCD:gbt