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DIGGS SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Chairman, Subcommittee on International Resources, Food and Energy, announced that the Subcommittee will hold the first in a series of hearings on South Africa tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25, at 2:00 pm, in Room 2255, Rayburn Building. Chairman Diggs states that a major emphasis in this first day of hearings would be the issue of U.S. export of nuclear materials and technology to South Africa. "This is critical in light of reports that the State Department may have already decided to approve the sale by General Electric Company of two nuclear reactors and special nuclear material (enriched uranium) to South Africa," stated Congressman Diggs.

On this matter, the Congressman sent a telegram to Secretary of State Kissinger today strongly urging him to exert all maximum efforts to assure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does not approve the applications of the General Electric Company, Inc. for licenses to authorize the export of two nuclear reactors and nuclear materials to South Africa, and that the Export-Import Bank does not issue a final commitment for the guarantee of a loan of about \$256 million to finance the G.E. sales. Chairman Diggs emphasized that "such support for the minority regime in South Africa would belie recent Administration statements of support for majority rule in southern Africa and would reduce the beneficial results of your (Secretary Kissinger's) recent trip to Africa."

The May 25 hearing is the first in a series entitled "Resource Development in South Africa and U.S. Policy," and will include testimony from representatives of the Department of State, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Export-Import Bank, as well as a private witness, Dr. John Marcum, Provost, Merrill College. Follow-up hearings will be held on June 1 when the Subcommittee hopes to hear additional testimony from General Electric and the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) on nuclear transfers to South Africa, and on June 3 and 8. All hearings are scheduled at 2:00 pm, Room 2255, Rayburn House Office Building.

The text of Chairman Diggs' May 24 telegram to Secretary Kissinger follows:

"Strongly urge you to exert all maximum efforts to assure that: (1) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does not approve the applications of the General Electric Company, Inc. for licenses to authorize the export of two nuclear reactors and special nuclear material (enriched uranium) to South Africa; and (2) the Export-Import Bank does not issue a final commitment for the guarantee of a loan of about \$256 million to finance General Electric's sale of nuclear power plants (two units) to South Africa.

Such support for the minority regime in South Africa would belie recent Administration statements of support for majority rule in southern Africa and would reduce the beneficial results of your recent trip to Africa."

"It is critical that the Department of State act immediately to see to it that the applications to NRC and Eximbank are denied, for key foreign policy interests are involved. Africa's growing importance to the U.S., both politically, in terms of the vital U.S. interest in winning support for U.S. positions in international forums and in strengthening international organizations, and economically, in terms of the growing U.S. trade with majority-ruled Africa, U.S. investments, and the increasing U.S. dependence on Africa's raw materials, demands that the Department act forthrightly. U.S. interests in majority-ruled, independent Africa, which, particularly in the aftermath of the Angolan debacle, sees the U.S. as aligned on the same side as the minority South African regime, and in South Africa itself where majority-rule is inevitable, would be seriously jeopardized.

Furthermore, there are pressing reasons for the U.S. to halt such nuclear transfers with South Africa. The U.S., as a matter of policy, should not actively assist countries which have the technical capability and the political/military incentive, to build a nuclear bomb. South Africa's growing nuclear capability and the implications for contributing to tensions in Africa are particularly alarming, and the U.S. should not and must not be connected, in any way, with this effort. With the independence of Angola and Mozambique, and the increasing pressures on Rhodesia, Namibia, and on South Africa itself, the use of nuclear blackmail by South Africa to intimidate majority-ruled states perceived to be hostile becomes a real possibility. And, in the absence of South Africa's even signing the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the U.S. should not supply South Africa or any other non-signatory state with nuclear material and technology which could only accelerate the development from a "nuclear threshold power" into a genuine nuclear power with the will and the means to use its capability to bring into being a full-scale international crisis."