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FROM: CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPEN LETTER TO IBM CORPORATION RE: SOUTH AFRICA

APRIL 28, 1975, Washington, D.C. --

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D-Michigan), joined by 18 of his colleagues in the House of Representatives, sent the following open letter to IBM Corporation regarding a recent shareholders' resolution on IBM selling, leasing or servicing computers and computer parts to the South African Government.

Congressman Diggs was joined in this effort by the following Congresspersons: Yvonne B. Burke, Robert F. Drinan, Ralph H. Metcalfe, Charles B. Rangel, John Conyers, Jr., Donald M. Fraser, Walter E. Fauntroy, Harold E. Ford, Leo J. Ryan, Ronald V. Dellums, Stephen J. Solarz, Augustus F. Hawkins, Parren J. Mitchell, Michael Harrington, Cardiss Collins, Frederick W. Richmond, George E. Brown and Robert N.C. Nix.

The text of the letter follows:

April 25, 1975

Mr. Frank T. Cary
Chairman, Board of Directors
International Business Machines
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, New York

Dear Mr. Cary:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, are deeply concerned about the role of International Business Machines (IBM) in helping to maintain and, indeed, perfect, South Africa's repressive system of apartheid. We are aware of the recent shareholders' resolution, co-filed by a number of church organizations holding over 54,000 shares of IBM stock, which requests that IBM cease selling, leasing or servicing computers and computer parts to the South African Government.

In recognition of the significance of computers (specifically IBM computers which represent nearly 50 percent of the South African computer market) to the South African regime, we would like to express our support for this resolution.

For the White minority South African regime, which represents less than 20 percent of the total population, to control the majority is not an easy task, but with the assistance of computers the apartheid system has been maintained and even expanded. Computers, and in particular IBM, place a concentrated source of knowledge, technology and control in the hands of the minority government.

The system of apartheid in South Africa violates the basic human rights of that country's 18 million Africans, 2 million Coloured, and approximately 1 million Asians who are under the rule of the four million Whites. Furthermore, the South African regime has continually ignored world protest against its racist policies. In a recent speech Prime Minister Vorster stated, "But in White South Africa it is the Whites who will rule and there will be no Black majority rule." Thus, there is no hope for voluntary or peaceful negotiations leading to an equitable sharing of political power under the present system. This imbalance of power in the hands of the South African Government is maintained through an elaborate system of control and exploitation which is invaluablely aided by the computer. Under this system the Whites have delegated 87 percent of the land to themselves and the remaining 13 percent is divided into bantustans or homelands to which the Blacks have been assigned. There is little employment opportunity in the homelands and

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