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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGINGGEO. W. CROCKETT, JR.
13TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 3, 1984

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2261
- CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE
CENTER:
8401 WOODWARD AVENUE
(GREAT LAKES BUILDING)
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202
(313) 874-4900

Dear Colleague:

I ask that you join with me as a co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 336, a Resolution expressing the commendation of the Congress for those American artists and athletes who decline to perform in South Africa because of that country's policy of racial discrimination known as apartheid.

South Africa is the only country in the world which legally enshrines racial discrimination. You are no doubt aware of the system of restrictive and discriminatory laws which adversely affect the civil and political rights of Black South Africans who constitute the majority of South Africa's population. Our free American media has kept us reasonably well informed of South Africa's brutal "homelands" policy which resettles tens of thousands of Black South Africans in remote and impoverished areas of their country. In one of these nominally independent "homelands", Bophuthatswana, South African financial interests have established an elaborate gambling resort, Sun City, and have actively sought to attract internationally-known athletes and artists to perform there, and, thus, enable this "homeland" to gain a semblance of international legitimacy. Nevertheless, no other nation, except South Africa, has recognized these "homelands."

The effort to organize U.S. artists and athletes against apartheid was initiated in 1983 and involves more than 30 national and international organizations, representing more than 20 million people. Among the chief sponsors of this action are Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Arthur Ashe, Harry Belafonte, Tony Bennett, Judy Collins, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Jane Fonda, Joel Grey, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier, Tony Randall, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Your support of this Resolution will advance the cause of democracy and freedom in South Africa by clearly demonstrating to the international community that the United States Congress cares as much for human rights and self-determination in South Africa as we do in other parts of the world. We must, I believe, do whatever we can to support the legitimate aspirations of the Black majority in South Africa and to stand firmly in support of our courageous American athletes and artists who have resolved to protest the brutal and inhumane system of apartheid in South Africa.

I urge your support of this effort. If you wish to become a co-sponsor of this Resolution, please contact Alan Bowser of my staff at x52261.

Sincerely,


 Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
 Member of Congress

GWC:ab:pc