

NEWS



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CROCKETT APPLAUDS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION ON H. RES. 373; CALLS FOR SWIFT PASSAGE BY HOUSE

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. (D-Michigan), the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, today applauded passage of H. Res. 373 by that subcommittee.

H. Res. 373, which was introduced by Congressman Crockett and which now has 95 co-sponsors, calls on President Reagan to urge the Government of South Africa to release jailed Black leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, and to recognize the African National Congress and other representative Black organizations for the purposes of negotiation to avoid further violence and bring about a peaceful political settlement in South Africa.

The vote in Subcommittee was 4 to 2 to favorably report the resolution to the full Foreign Affairs Committee. Congressman Crockett expressed his hope that the Committee will act quickly to send the measure to the full House for passage.

In a prepared statement before the Subcommittee, Congressman Crockett said:

"There are two basic efforts that must be made by South Africa if it is to avert a civil war. One, it must move quickly to end the race and color discrimination known as apartheid; and, two, it must create a government representative of its diverse population of 890,000 Indians; 2.8 million Coloureds; 4.5 million whites and 24 million Blacks. The stringent anti-apartheid act passed by the House last week seeks to address the first of these concerns; our proposal here today addresses the second."

Congressman Crockett cited numerous individuals and groups who have expressed support for the provisions contained in H. Res. 373, including the Eminent Persons Group of the British Commonwealth; Alex Boraine, a former member of the South African Parliament; Chief Buthelezi, leader of the 6 million-strong Zulu nation in South Africa, and Secretary of State George Shultz.