



NEWS

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. CONGRESSMAN

13th District
Michigan

1531 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2261

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, August 1, 1985

contact: Ted Jones
(202) 225-2261

CROCKETT HAILS AGREEMENT ON ANTI-APARTHEID ACT

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. (D-Michigan) today hailed the House-Senate agreement on the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985, which would impose economic sanctions on South Africa, including an immediate ban on bank loans and the sale of South African krugerrands in the United States.

Congressman Crockett was one of the House conferees selected to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills on the sanctions. He declared that the conference report was a highly significant development and a positive step by the United States against the racist policies of South Africa, and praised the House for its swift passage of the Conference Report this afternoon:

"This legislative action places the United States on the right side of this moral and political issue and gives notice both to South Africa and to the international community that we have assumed an active role in the struggle to end apartheid....The Administration's policy of constructive engagement is no longer operative, and the United States is no longer a silent partner to the atrocities being committed against the Black majority of South Africa."

Mr. Crockett, who is the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, also called on the Reagan Administration to speak out in an effort to maximize the chances for peaceful change in South Africa. In a statement on the House floor today, Congressman Crockett said,

"If the United States is to be a catalyst for peace in the South Africa situation, then President Reagan must publicly urge South Africa's white leaders to release Nelson Mandela from prison without conditions and to participate with him and other Black leaders in talks aimed at ending apartheid."

Congressman Crockett described Mr. Mandela, who has been in prisons since 1962, as the key to any meaningful negotiations and observed that the Mandela Freedom Resolution, which he had introduced and which had been passed by the 98th Congress, called on the President to make every effort to secure Mandela's release.

In addition to the ban on new bank loans and krugerrands (gold coins), the conference agreement on the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985 bans the export of computers and computer parts and nuclear technology to South Africa. It also requires the President to recommend within 12 months at least one of several specified sanctions if he has found that South Africa has not made sufficient progress toward ending apartheid.