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Accepted
for
mailing

September 18, 1986

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Representative George W. Crockett, Jr.
1531 Longworth Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crockett:

South Africa is currently in turmoil because of the legitimate struggle of blacks for a voice in the future of their country. The white minority government's response has propelled the country down the cynical path of violence and counter-violence. Economic sanctions against South Africa have been proposed as one of several strategies for facilitating the prospects of non-violent change.

Presently the U.S. Congress, several state legislatures and various private and public agents are discussing the merits of economic sanctions against South Africa as a means to apply pressure for an end to apartheid. Fierce debates have been fueled by the gathering movement for economic sanctions against South Africa. At center in these debates is the question of whether Black South Africans support economic sanctions as one means toward achieving change in South Africa's political system.

As the debate over economic sanctions against South Africa has raged, proponents and opponents have been hampered by the lack of reliable, firsthand information on the opinions of the Black South Africans who such actions will effect and who such actions are ultimately intended to benefit. My work as a Fulbright Lecturer with the University of Zimbabwe and my research interests in Southern Africa has taken me to South Africa on four occasions since 1984. During a visit to South Africa in July, I came across the book Divestment, the Struggle and the Future: What Black South Africans Really Think by Mark Orkin in a Johannesburg bookstore. Since the book provides an authentic, even handed rendering of the attitudes of Black South Africans toward economic sanctions I thought you might find a copy useful in your deliberations over this troubled land. This book should provide a helpful reference as you wrestle with the complexities of the South African situation.

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require clarifications. Assuming that my future plans for return trips to South Africa are frustrated by the denial of a visa, I will be sure to send you any additional materials of interest that I come across.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Allen

Walter R. Allen,
Associate Professor of Sociology
the Center for Afroamerican and
African Studies

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