

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR
CHARLES D. WALTON
144 Verndale Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02905



Vice Chairman
Committee on Health,
Education and Welfare

Committee on Finance

Joint Committee on
Accounts and Claims

Room 21 State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Senate Chamber

June 10, 1986

Honorable George W. Crocketts, Jr.
1531 Longworth - HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crocketts:

A few weeks back you had sent communication to my desk requesting that the Rhode Island General Assembly put forward a resolution to memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to bring the White Rule South African Government together with leaders such as Nelson Mandella the acknowledged leader of the African National Congress, Bishop Desmond Tutu and the other legitimate forces for democratic change in the Republic of South Africa.

At this time, I am pleased to inform you that the Rhode Island Senate, upon my request, has unanimously passed by voice vote a resolution memorializing our government to urge the forces in South Africa to come together and reject apartheid and move toward true governmental reform which would include sharing with black, white and the so-called coloureds.

Finally, I stand together with you and the other members of Congress who have seen fit to take decisive action to alleviate the dangerous conditions established under apartheid. We stand in support of your efforts to further the course of peace on the African continent.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES D. WALTON
Deputy Majority Leader

CDW/smd
Enclosure

CC: Lt. Gov. Richard A. Licht
Sen. Maj. Leader John C. Revens, Jr.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 1986

SENATE RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BLACK MAJORITY

Introduced By: Senators Walton, Revens, Marciano Sabatini, Miller, et al
Date Introduced: May 14, 1986
Referred To: Read and Passed

1 WHEREAS, Since September 1984, a mounting unrest against racial
2 oppression in the Republic of South Africa has led to the violent
3 death of more than 1,000 individuals, most of them black, the deten-
4 tion without charge of thousands more, and a declared state of emer-
5 gency in several areas of that country; and

6 WHEREAS, A peaceful resolution to this violence and conflict in
7 the Republic of South Africa is unlikely unless the Government of that
8 country moves to end its abhorrent system of apartheid which denies
9 the country's black majority the right to vote, the right to own land,
10 and the right to freedom of movement; and

11 WHEREAS, The Government of the United States, the United Nations,
12 and virtually every country in the world has condemned the practice of
13 apartheid by the Government of South Africa and its enactment of the
14 repressive measures that have led to the current violence; and

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12 and virtually every country in the world has condemned the practice of
13 apartheid by the Government of South Africa and its enactment of the
14 repressive measures that have led to the current violence; and

1 WHEREAS, The Government of the United States has sought to use
2 its influence and leverage to promote peace and peaceful change
3 through diplomatic appeals and the imposition of limited economic
4 sanctions; and

5 WHEREAS, The 98th Congress adopted the "Mandela Freedom Resolu-
6 tion", calling for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the
7 Black South African leader who has been imprisoned for 23 years, and
8 his wife, Winnie Mandela, who has been a "banned" person in South
9 Africa for the past 21 years; and

10 WHEREAS, The President has called for the South African Govern-
11 ment to end its practice of detention without trial and lengthy
12 imprisonment of black leaders, in addition to calling for the estab-
13 lishment of a government based on the consent of the governed; and

14 WHEREAS, The Secretary of State has urged the release of Nelson
15 Mandela and indicated the need for the South African Government to
16 meet with leaders of the black majority, including Mandela and the
17 outlawed African National Congress; and

18 WHEREAS, The African National Congress, which was banned in 1960,
19 is today the oldest and most prominent of the organizations of resist-
20 ance against the apartheid system of South Africa and is highly
21 regarded by that country's black majority; and

22 WHEREAS, Representatives of the South African business community,
23 clergy, and university student organizations have met or attempted to
24 meet with officials of the African National Congress to establish
25 lines of communication for future discussions on the problems of their
26 country; and

27 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela, who has been in South African prisons
28 since 1962 and who is still considered the leader of the banned
29 African National Congress, is regarded by many black South Africans as
30 one of the most respected symbols of resistance against apartheid; and

31 WHEREAS, It is evident that an end to South Africa's racial tur-
32 moil is impossible if the Government of that country does not begin a
33 meaningful dialogue with the leaders of the black majority; and

1 WHEREAS, The continued turmoil and unrest in the Republic of
2 South Africa threaten the peace, security, and stability of the other
3 nations of Southern Africa and has led to cross-border violence in the
4 region; and

5 WHEREAS, The urgent moment has arrived for the Government of
6 South Africa to initiate bold steps to end apartheid and the current
7 unrest and to achieve peace and peaceful change; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That this senate of the state of Rhode Island and
9 Providence Plantations hereby memorializes the President of the United
10 States to use his good offices to urge the Government of the Republic
11 of South Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful
12 political negotiations with that country's black majority --

13 (1) by immediately granting unconditional freedom to Nelson
14 Mandela;

15 (2) by recognizing the African National Congress as a legitimate
16 representative for the country's black majority; and

17 (3) by establishing the framework for the political talks which
18 hopefully could lead to a negotiated settlement with the black major-
19 ity; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state be and she hereby is
21 authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this
22 resolution to the president of the United States and the Rhode Island
23 delegation in the Congress of the United States.

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