

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEBRUARY 2 8 1983

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Dear Mr. Crockett:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of February 11 concerning Southern African refugee education programs funded by the State Department's Bureau for Refugee Programs (RP).

The two grants awarded for scholarship assistance to refugees from Southern Africa cited in your letter are funded out of the Refugee Bureau's budget for Special Projects. As you know projects funded from this account cover more than educational programs. Specifically the Special Projects account has permitted the Bureau for Refugee Programs to provide bilateral assistance for projects not funded by one of the international organizations. Although there has been a reduction in the amounts requested and proposed for Fiscal Years 1983 and 1984, the decrease does not reflect any decision by the Department of State to terminate its grant agreements with the Phelps-Stokes Fund or the African American Institute. Because the UNHCR has succeeded in improving its total country planning and thereby expanding its programs, there is a reduced need for bilateral assistance. This FY 1983 budget and projections for FY 1984 are based on that fact.

On the matter of a declining enrollment please be advised that the proposal submitted by the Phelps-Stokes Fund for an additional intake of 50 students is being carefully reviewed. We have requested more detailed information and will continue to give serious consideration to their proposal.

The Honorable

George W. Crockett, Jr.,

House of Representatives.

You surmise correctly that there is no linkage between the scholarship programs currently funded by State RP and the AID-administered scholarship program for disadvantaged South Africans. Furthermore, the Department of State remains committed to the Southern African refugee education programs and other projects which are part of the development of Southern Africa.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations