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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 1, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Thursday, June 23, Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger delivered what your Administration termed a "major policy statement" regarding U.S. relations with South Africa.

While generally regarded as an indictment of the South African government's apartheid system, we are concerned that the statement did not appear to present any new Administration initiatives to combat the continuing pervasive abuses of human rights perpetrated by the South African government against its Black population.

Your Administration has shown, through its policies in Poland, and without internal interference, that the withdrawal of "privileges" such as Most-Favored-Nation trading status, public and private support, and economic assistance can be an effective bargaining tool to induce another government's compliance with basic human rights concerns within their own country.

We remain committed to the removal of the apartheid system in South Africa, and believe that the same policy of disincentives that proved effective with Poland would most effectively bring about the desired end in South Africa. It is clear that the "carrots" now being offered South Africa under your "constructive engagement" policy have not had the desired effect of spurring that government in the direction of compliance with human rights principles. The violation of rights in South Africa should, we believe, be treated in the same manner as the violation of human rights elsewhere.

Mr. President, we urge you to stand as clearly for human rights in South Africa as you have in Poland, and to review U.S. policy towards South Africa to reflect more clearly the determination of our people to effect basic democratic changes by the South African government.

Sincerely,

Julian C. Dixon Mickey Leland