

Senate: Mitchell
Attorney: Cone
Stenographer: Corley
Date: May 5, 1986
No.: 4210R

passed
unanimously
5-6-86

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO INDICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY'S BLACK MAJORITY.

Whereas, since September 1984, a mounting unrest against racial oppression in the Republic of South Africa has led to the violent death of more than one thousand individuals, most of them black, the detention without charge of thousands more, and a declared state of emergency in several areas of that country; and

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

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

Whereas, the Government of the United States has sought to use its influence and leverage to promote peace and peaceful change through diplomatic appeals and the imposition of limited economic sanctions; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States adopted the "Mandela Freedom Resolution", calling for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the black South African leader who has been imprisoned for twenty-three years, and his wife, Winnie Mandela, who has been a "banned" person in South Africa for the past twenty-one years; and

Whereas, the President of the United States has called for the South African Government to end its practice of detention without trial and lengthy imprisonment of black leaders in addition to calling for the establishment of a government based on the consent of the governed; and

Whereas, the Secretary of State of the United States has urged the release of Nelson Mandela and indicated the need for the South African Government to meet with leaders of the black majority, including Mandela and the outlawed African National Congress; and

Whereas, the African National Congress, which was banned in 1960, is today the oldest and most prominent of the organizations of resistance against the apartheid system of South Africa and is highly regarded by that country's black majority; and

Whereas, representatives of the South African business community, clergy, and university student organizations have met or attempted to meet with officials of the African National Congress to establish lines of communications for future discussions on the problems of their country; and

Whereas, Nelson Mandela, who has been in South African prisons since 1962 and who is still considered the leader of the banned African National Congress, is regarded by many black South Africans as one of the most respected

symbols of resistance against apartheid; and

Whereas, it is evident that an end to South Africa's racial turmoil is impossible if the Government of that country does not begin a meaningful dialogue with the leaders of the black majority; and

Whereas, the continued turmoil and unrest in the Republic of South Africa threaten the peace, security, and stability of other nations of Southern Africa and have led to cross-border violence in the region; and

Whereas, the urgent moment has arrived for the Government of South Africa to initiate bold steps to end apartheid and the current unrest and to achieve peace and peaceful change. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That it is the sense of the General Assembly that the President should use his good offices to urge the Government of the Republic of South Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful political negotiations with that country's black majority:

1. by immediately granting unconditional freedom to Nelson Mandela;
2. by recognizing the African National Congress as a legitimate representative for the country's black majority; and
3. by establishing the framework for the political talks which hopefully could lead to a negotiated settlement with the black majority.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South African Ambassador in Washington, D. C.