

December 6, 1984

Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I find the Administration's response to my October 11th letter to you concerning the situation of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, the two black South African political prisoners, to be evasive and totally unsatisfactory.

In my letter, I urged you to use your good offices and the influence of the United States to work for the release of the Mandelas who are widely recognized as principal leaders of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. This was the position of both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives as demonstrated by their unanimous approval of House Resolution 430 and Senate Resolution 386, the "Mandela Freedom Resolution."

Mr. President, the people of South Africa urgently need and Members of the United States Congress continue to demand that you boldly exercise your leadership on this important issue and that you speak loudly and clearly in support of the Mandelas' release from their brutal detention. We must have more than glib restatements of old positions and lip service in support of failed policies. It is essential that, through your leadership and example, the United States bring its considerable influence to bear on the South African authorities and facilitate the immediate release of these champions of democracy, justice and human rights.

As you are well aware, the attention of the American people is sharply focused on the Republic of South Africa and its abhorrent apartheid policies. A broad cross section of Americans are witnessing the increased violence, the urban unrest and the deterioration in order in that troubled country. As a consequence, we see here, in the United States, nationwide protests and demonstrations and, significantly, members of the Republican party in the House calling for an end to the violence and the apartheid system.

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Now, perhaps more than ever before, the United States can act effectively and quickly to positively influence the course of events in South Africa. I urge you again, Mr. President, to support the highest principles of our American democracy and publically call for the immediate release of Nelson and Winnie Mandela.

Sincerely,

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress

GWC:jtw