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GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR.
13TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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

October 1, 1985

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There is growing concern that the state of emergency imposed by South African President Botha in 36 magisterial districts on July 20th is being used to obscure abuses of human rights that have little relationship to the restoration of public order in that troubled country.

As well you know, thousands of South Africans, including hundreds of children, have been seized and detained without charge under the decree which extended the already far-reaching statutory power of the police and state. The Pretoria government has also declared that all news and reporting in the affected areas can be controlled and access to certain areas restricted.

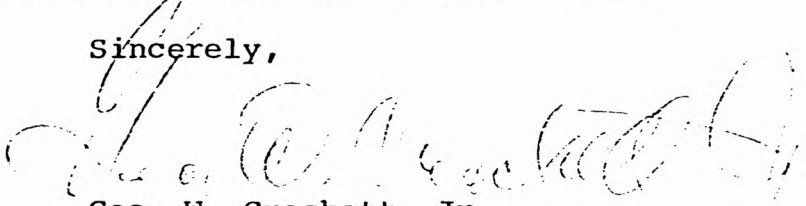
The fact that detentions under the regulations may be incommunicado, permitting no access to legal counsel or family, serves to eliminate all communications by those seized to their loved ones and friends. For example, the American Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, based in Philadelphia is trying to ascertain the whereabouts of four individuals who were arrested in South Africa for allegedly advocating an end to military conscription. The four, identified as Anita Kronberg, Richard Steele, Sue Britton and Michael Evans, are members of an End Conscription Committee.

I would be appreciative if you could use your good offices to ascertain the whereabouts and physical condition of these individuals.

I would also be grateful if you could outline for me the steps the United States has taken to get the South African government to end this repressive and violent state of emergency.

Thank you for your prompt consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,


Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress

GWC:tj:pc