

Crockett Box 56

F11-12 ~~107~~



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1985

Dear George:

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on an issue that has touched some of the most sensitive nerves in our body politic but which I feel strongly need not and must not divide us. That issue is South Africa. All of us agree that a system that deprives 73 percent of that country's population of basic political and human rights on the basis of race is an affront to our national values. We all know that such a system is also a threat to the long-term stability of a region that is important to our national interests. The question before us is how we best exercise the influence we have to work for a more just and stable order -- without adding fuel to the fire and providing opportunities for greater Soviet influence.

To this end, I am issuing an Executive Order which is consistent with these objectives and provides us with a platform from which we can move forward together. The Executive Order incorporates many of the ideas that have come out of the Congress to disassociate ourselves from the system of apartheid. It also adopts the positive provisions of the legislation now before the Senate which will allow the United States to step up its help for the victims of that system. The Executive Order will allow us to execute these proposals in a responsible and effective manner. It is designed to signal the strong feelings all Americans share about apartheid, but it is clearly aimed against the machinery of apartheid, not the victims of that system.

If we all join together behind a common program, we can have so much more influence for good. Let us go forward with a clear vision and an open heart, working for justice, brotherhood and peace.

Sincerely,

The Honorable George W. Crockett, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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