

GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR

Mr. Chairman: I support the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 not because I believe it will force South Africa to end its repressive policy of racial segregation, but because the time is now and urgent that the United States signal its divorce from the silent support it has given apartheid through its policy of constructive engagement.

While H.R. 4868 is not all that I would hope it could be, it, at least, represents a last-ditch effort on our part to tell the Pretoria Government that it is imperative that it begin meaningful negotiations with Black South African leaders for a fully representative political system and an end to racial and ethnic discrimination.

No one wants to predict catastrophe for South Africa. But the nationwide state of emergency proclaimed last week by the Botha Government and the recent South African raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe provide growing evidence that unless change in South Africa is fundamental, far-reaching and even revolutionary in its proportions, the risks of disaster will continue to increase dangerously.

The crucial question for us in all this is the role America will play. Will the United States be credited with having helped the Black South African to achieve freedom in his own country? Or will we be seen, as so often has been the case, as having strengthened the status quo by doing nothing positive to foster change?

The Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 is our ~~hope~~ affirmation that the necessary steps will be taken by all the people of South Africa to avoid further

violence and bloodshed and to find a peaceful resolution to the existing racial conflict, and that the US will be counted

among these approaches, justice for all SA's

Remarks of Hon. Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

on Debate on H.R. 4868, the Anti-Apartheid Act
June 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman: I support the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 -- not because I believe it will force South Africa to end its repressive policies of racial segregation, but because time is running out for the United States to signal its divorce from the silent support it has given to apartheid through its policy of constructive engagement.

While H.R. 4868 is not all that I would hope it could be, it at least represents a last-ditch effort on our part to tell the Pretoria Government that it must begin meaningful negotiations with Black South African leaders for a fully representative political system and an end to racial and ethnic discrimination now.

No one wants to predict catastrophe for South Africa. But the nationwide state of emergency proclaimed last week by the Botha Government and the recent South African raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe provide growing evidence that unless change in South Africa is fundamental, far-reaching and even revolutionary in its proportions, the risks of disaster will continue to increase dangerously.

The crucial question for us in all this is the role America will play. Will the United States be credited with having helped the Black South African to achieve freedom in his own country? Or will we be seen, as so often has been the case, as having strengthened the status quo by doing nothing positive to foster change?

Mr. Crockett

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The Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 is our affirmation that the necessary steps will be taken by all the people of South Africa to avoid further violence and bloodshed and to find a peaceful resolution to the existing racial conflict, and that the United States will be counted among those supporting justice for all South Africans.