

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 8, 1986

TJ/gwc

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

Dear George:

I wanted you to know that I have just joined in introducing the Dellums Anti-Apartheid Divestment Bill in the United States Senate, and I intend to press for a Senate vote on this vital legislation as soon as possible.

As you know, this is the bill which was originally authored by Congressman Ron Dellums of California and which was adopted so dramatically by the House of Representatives on June 18. Now it is time for the Senate to act.

The lead sponsors of the Dellums bill in the Senate are Alan Cranston, Lowell Weicker, Bill Bradley, Carl Levin, Arlen Specter, and myself. Our bill contains four key provisions:

- Prohibition on U.S. investments in South Africa.
- Prohibition on U.S. trade with South Africa.
- Prohibition on landing rights of South African aircraft in the United States.
- Prohibition on importation of South African krugerrands into the United States.

Last year, when the Senate voted for the first time on anti-apartheid legislation, we fell just a few votes short of passing a worthwhile bill to put the United States on record against apartheid and on the right side of a free South Africa. Now, in view of the continuing tragedy unfolding in South Africa, the need for U.S. official action is far greater.

Sadly, the Reagan Administration insists on continuing its meaningless policy of "constructive engagement" with the Government of South Africa. Hundreds of innocent Black South Africans are being killed by government security forces because they are protesting against the inhuman cruelty of apartheid and the denial of fundamental civil and human rights.

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Not long ago, in a different era in this country, when Black Americans were denied their basic civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was told to be patient -- that a time would come when Blacks would eventually obtain their rights. And Dr. King would reply that delay is unacceptable, and that "NOW IS THE TIME."

We hear echoes of that excuse today, as the Reagan Administration tells us to be patient and to wait for change in South Africa. Like Dr. King, I reply, "Now is the time." Now is the time for full U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa. Now is the time to demonstrate unmistakably to the people of South Africa and the world that the United States is on the right side of history and human rights. Now is the time for divestment and the Dellums Bill.

I hope that you will help me in this effort. We plan to bring our legislation before the Senate as soon as possible -- perhaps as early as mid-July.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our new Senate divestment bill, my statement introducing it, and my statement on the tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

If you have any questions concerning this bill or the issue, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Frazier of my staff at 202-224-3027.

Yours for a Free South Africa and for immediate, successful Senate action on the Dellums Bill.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

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Enclosure