

Congressional Black Caucus

H2-344 House Annex #2
Washington, D.C. 20515

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April 18, 1985


The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker
H204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I bring to your attention the attached letter to the Subcommittee on Office Systems, calling for an immediate inquiry into procedures for divestiture by the House of Representatives in its conduct of business with companies engaged in enterprise in South Africa.

I am certain you understand the gravity of this issue and the Caucus has asked that I request a meeting of the Democratic Leadership with our members at the earliest possible opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


MICKEY LELAND
Chairman

RONALD V. DELLUMS
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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CARLOTTIA SCOTT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ROBERT BRAUER
SPECIAL COUNSEL



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 29, 1985

ANY REPLY TO THIS LETTER
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
OFFICE CHECKED:

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DONALD R. HOPKINS
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Congressional Black Caucus Colleague:

Per our ongoing discussion and at the direction of the Chair, the CBC Task Force on Divestment/Disinvestment has been formed. Members of the Task Force include Mrs. Collins and Messrs. Crockett, Towns, Wheat and myself.

In our assessment of the extent to which the House of Representatives cooperates with companies doing business in South Africa in the area of office equipment, we have determined that several major companies which appear on the attached lists of companies doing business in South Africa have been approved by the House. A few of these companies include Burroughs, Bell and Howell, IBM, 3M, Motorola and Xerox.

It is the consensus of the body that the CBC should initially identify one, possibly two, companies as targets for CBC action.

As you will note when comparing your lists of approved equipment to the list of companies doing business in South Africa, it appears that IBM and Xerox should initially be the focus of our consideration. It also appears, by review of the approved list of office equipment, that these major companies have a monopoly in the categories of electric typewriters, photocopy equipment, facsimile equipment and word processors/computer equipment.

Many of our members are willing to immediately begin the process of removing equipment from their offices because the contracts are soon to expire. For those of us who may still have contracts in effect, the Task Force has requested a determination from the Committee on House Administration as to how equipment can be discontinued and the process by which this can be accomplished. As soon as the information is forwarded, we will advise.

It is our hope that each member actively participates in this effort. We look forward to your continued cooperation as well as recommendations, suggestions and constructive criticisms.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Dellums".

Ron Dellums
on behalf of the
CBC Task Force on Divestment/Disinvestment