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Congress of the United States
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SUBCOMMITTEE:
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POLICY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS
ABUSE AND CONTROL

January 22, 1987

The Honorable George W. Crockett, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
1531 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear George:

As you may recall, in July of last year, I asked the Caucus to take the leadership in developing a program for the second phase of our drive to Free South Africa: the development of the independent black states surrounding South Africa, known as the Frontline states.

Chairman Mickey Leland appointed me chair of the task force to develop such a program, and we sent Attorney Lezli Baskerville, Director of our National Black Leadership Roundtable, on a tour of the Frontline Nations organized by Jesse Jackson last August to make some initial inquiries on our behalf.

The 17th African-American Institute Conference in Botswana, January 12-16 of this year afforded us an opportunity to confer for six straight days with high level officials from twenty-four African nations on this subject and to reach a consensus on what ought to be our thrust in the 100th Congress. The enclosed report lays out a Seven Point Plan of Action for the 100th Congress which we hammered out, together with the recommended strategies for its implementation. I commend it to you for our consideration and our adoption as our program for Southern Africa in the 100th Congress.

I'll elaborate upon it at the next scheduled meeting of the CBC.

Sincerely yours,



Walter E. Fauntroy
Member of Congress

Enclosure

REPORT OF
THE HONORABLE WALTER E. FAUNTROY (D-D.C.)
TO
THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CADUCUS,
THE NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE,
AND
THE FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT
ON
THE 17TH AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
GABORONE, BOTSWANA
JANUARY 12-16, 1987

The 17th African-American Conference in Botswana in early January of this year brought together high level officials of twenty-four African nations, leaders of the black nationalist movement from both inside and outside South Africa, and a host of American representatives of the U.S. Congress, the Reagan administration, business, church, labor, charitable and media organizations. The week-long conference produced, in my view, a comprehensive range of strategies for our action in the United States that warrants our careful consideration and participation in implementing.

This report is designed to detail for you the specific strategies that emerged together with the rationale and suggested steps we should take to implement them.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

At the press conference opening the Conference on Sunday, January 11, 1987, I said that this was the right conference at the right time and in the right place.

THE RIGHT CONFERENCE

It was the right conference because Africa is confronting very grave crises, both economic and political. The economic crisis is continent-wide; the political crisis is heavily concentrated in Southern Africa. The gravity of the crisis is evidenced by the holding last year of a special U.N. Session devoted to Africa's economic crisis with emphasis on the food problem, the debt problem and long term development strategy.

THE RIGHT TIME

It is the right time because our U.S. administration says that, having helped on the famine, it is now ready to help with longer term development as evidenced by Treasury Secretary James Baker's proposal for multilateral bank concessional loan increases and Secretary George Shultz's statements in recent weeks calling for programs that increase self reliance and discourage dependency among African countries, promote stability and a climate favorable to investment in Black Africa, and increase IMF and World Bank flows of concessional loans to Africa.

THE RIGHT PLACE

It was the right place for our conference not only because Botswana is a model democracy and has a most successful economic development program, but also because it is the headquarters for SADCC, the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference, a prototype organization for Africa's long term development.

Among those attending the week-long deliberations were Representatives Howard Wolpe, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Mickey Leland, Chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, Mayor Andrew J. Young, State Representative David P. Richardson, Jr., President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and I in my capacities as Chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee on International Development Institutions and Finance, President of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, and co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Free South Africa Movement. We together with the rest of the diverse American contingent at the conference had five days of thoughtful, candid, provocative and constructive dialogue on everything from mobilizing America's public and private resources for African development, to SADCC, an excellent vehicle for coordinating and concentrating those resources, to the subject dearest to our hearts: Where we go from here in the quest for a Free South Africa and a Free Namibia.

The 100th Congress Plan of Action which emerged is based on three sets of circumstances:

- Increasingly brutal and repressive actions being taken by the South African racist regime behind the veil of their press black-out,
- The readiness of the frontline nations to launch serious, long term development projects through SADCC, the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference, and
- Conditions in the United States that make possible increased support for development initiatives in the SADCC states and other forms of assistance that can hasten the dismantling of Apartheid in the region.

This third condition is based on the thesis that, while the American people are weary of our failed foreign policies in many regions of the world, they feel good about the role we have played in the last two years with respect to famine relief and the imposition of sanctions against South Africa over the objections of the President. Millions of Americans took a direct hand in meeting the emergency needs of a drought stricken Africa, saving literally millions of lives.

Secretary of State George Shultz sensed the mood of the American people last year when he said at the U.N. General Assembly's Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa:

"With an extraordinary outpouring of support, people from across the globe rallied to Africa's side and saved millions of lives. Today, we ... (must) address a more fundamental and enduring task: the requirements of long-term development for Africa."

I believe, therefore, that the American people are now ready to assist Africa in feeding herself by providing long-term financial aid sufficient to enable the SADCC region to develop its infrastructure so as to render it economically independent of South Africa, and to enable it to protect its sovereignty.

With this background in mind, let me now present the recommendations for our action in the United States during the 100th Congress which I gleaned from the conference discussions and which I made to the conference at its closing session. I'm pleased to report that there seemed to be a clear consensus for this combination of strategies. I have divided the 100th Congress Action Plan into two parts: WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT.

W H A T T O D O

1. Introduce and work for passage of a Legislative Package of U.S. Aid to SADCC and the frontline nations that includes:
 - \$500 million over a five year period for SADCC Transportation and Communications Projects.
 - Logistical support for Mozambique to provide security to those projects.
2. End U.S. aid to UNITA and begin diplomatic relations with Angola.
3. Win the freedom of Namibia from South African domination and control.
4. Implement existing sanctions on South Africa and add sanctions where appropriate; pressuring the international community to do the same.
5. Rally the American business sector to participate in the "Investment in production" projects of SADCC, 1987.
6. Deliver on commitments made by Treasury Secretary Baker to increase contributions to the multilateral banks for concessional loans to Africa generally, and SADCC countries in particular.

7. End intelligence cooperation between the U.S. government and South Africa, and minimize our diplomatic relations.

H O W T O D O I T

1. Launch the SADCC Initiatives upon our return as our nation-wide follow-up to the sanctions voted in the 99th Congress.
2. Encourage press coverage of the Beira Corridor effort to build a life line for 150 million blacks in the frontline states threatened by South African counter sanctions.

This media response to the news black-out in South Africa will do the following:

- Expose South Africa's efforts to choke-off the life line.
 - Publicize and highlight UNITA, RENAMO, and SADF strikes at the lifeline.
 - Dramatize the \$10 billion cost of South African destabilization efforts in the SADCC states.
 - Lay the ground work for ending aid to UNITA and passing our SADCC package.
3. Produce a documentary film on the struggle of the SADCC nations against South African hegemony like that done by Robert Van Lierop on the struggle in Mozambique some years ago called "A Luta Continua."
 4. Promote a divestment strategy that emphasizes reinvestment by American firms in the SADCC countries.

C O N C L U S I O N

I call upon all African-Americans, our national organizations and our allies of every race, creed and national origin in our country to constitute ourselves as a "mission team" over the next two years to implement these strategies and to achieve these goals.

When the curtain rings down on the 100th Congress, may it be said that we as Americans not only "talked that talk" about long term development assistance for Africa but that we "walked the walk;" that we not only "planned our work" but we "worked our plan."

Congressman
Walter E. Fauntroy
of The District of Columbia



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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAUNTROY OUTLINES PLAN OF ACTION ON AFRICA FOR 100TH CONGRESS

Upon his return from the 17th African-American Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana, January 12-16, 1987, Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) outlined a seven point plan of action for addressing the economic and political crisis in Southern Africa. The plan represents a consensus reached by high level officials from twenty-four African nations and representatives of the U.S. Congress, the Reagan administration, business, church, labor, charitable and media organizations attending the Conference.

Calling the meeting in Botswana, "The right conference, at the right time, in the right place," Congressman Fauntroy detailed the set of circumstances which make the plan viable for the 100th Congress. He stated, "Three conditions exist which make implementation of the plan possible: increased brutality and repression combined with a press black-out inside South Africa, the development readiness of frontline nations, and political conditions within the United States."

The Congressman's seven point plan proposes a \$500 million aid package to the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC), an end to U.S. aid to UNITA, freedom for Namibia, and other items. The complete plan embodied in the entire report is enclosed.

Congressman Fauntroy serves as the Chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee on International Development Institutions and Finance, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on the Front Line States, President of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, and Co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Free South Africa Movement.