

GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR.
13TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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March 11, 1985

Honorable Robert S. Walker
U.S. House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walker:

After receiving your "Dear Colleague" of February 21st regarding Chief Buthelezi's statement on disinvestment in the Wall Street Journal, I thought it would be useful to bring to your attention certain points that are very critical to the disinvestment debate and the role of Chief Buthelezi.

First, it is important to recognize that the Gatsha Buthelezi, while the hereditary Chief of the Zulu language group, is not the "leader of six million South African Zulus," not to mention the entire black South African population of 23 million. Thus, when Buthelezi speaks in opposition to disinvestment, he cannot claim to be representing the majority of black South Africans or even the majority of Zulus. In fact, Buthelezi is widely perceived by black South Africans as representing and/or supporting the white minority government when he speaks in opposition to disinvestment as a means of pressuring South Africa to abolish apartheid and achieve majority rule.

Second, while discussing disinvestment we must always remember that it is against the law in South Africa to advocate disinvestment. It is considered "economic sabotage" and is punishable by sentences of five years in prison to death.

Third, we should also bear in mind that the approximately 350 American corporations operating in South Africa employ somewhere between 70-100,000 black workers, or less than one percent of the black South African work force. While these companies may have grudgingly begun to create programs designed to improve the "quality of life" for this miniscule segment of the black majority, Corporate officials have publicly admitted that there is little, if anything, they can do to change the political and social fabric of South Africa. On the other hand, their contribution toward upholding the economic and material infrastructure of apartheid (through capital infusions and technology) is considerable.

Dear Colleague -
Thought this might be
of interest to you -
Lodge

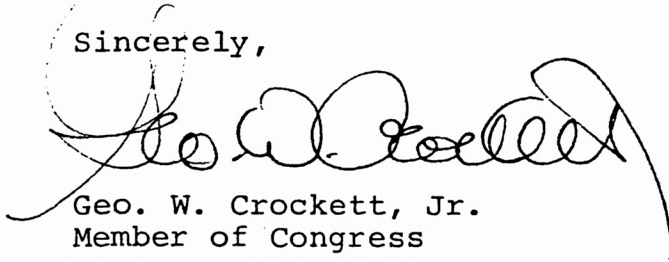
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Finally, the recent testimony by Dr. Clifton Wharton, Jr., before the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa, is germane to this subject. Dr. Wharton is Chancellor of the State University of New York; a director of the Ford Motor Company, and the chairman of the board of The Rockefeller Foundation. He asserted that there was no evidence that "the U.S. presence and practices are making any substantial, permanent progress in breaking down the legally sanctioned and brutally enforced South African policies of apartheid."

In calling for the complete divestment of American business interests, Dr. Wharton said he had "a nagging feeling that the South African concessions that permit U.S. firms to conduct their progressive employment policies are merely a ploy to neutralize or confuse American public opinion, while keeping intact the sizeable economic assets that the firms represent." I agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress

GWC:tj:pc