

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

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

PLEASE REPLY TO:
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July 9, 1985

Mr. W. Michael Blumenthal
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Burroughs Corporation
One Burroughs Place
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

Thank you for your recent correspondence detailing your opposition to the anti-apartheid legislation now being considered by the Congress. I know that you are aware that H.R. 1460, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985, was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives on June 5, 1985, and that the Senate is expected to consider similar legislation soon.

As I understand your position, you believe that anti-apartheid legislation would be counter-productive in that it would have very little impact on the South African Government in changing its system, and that it would stymie the efforts of those American companies which are helping the Black South Africans through their adoption and/or adherence of the Sullivan Principles.

I agree that our anti-apartheid legislation alone will not force South Africa to end its repressive policy of racial segregation. But I also believe that this legislation will make clear to the Pretoria regime that the United States will no longer be a silent supporter of apartheid through its policy of constructive engagement. It will also demonstrate to the Black South African community that the United States stands firm for the rights and liberties of all men and women, wherever they may be.

You address the issues of the Sullivan principles and the U.S. companies doing business in South Africa. I stand with those who applaud the companies that have adopted the Sullivan principles. These guidelines for employment practices were, and remain, a clear and effective barometer of corporate responsibility towards human rights concerns. Yet, I know you will agree with me that those principles are not enough. The situation for South African Blacks and Coloureds has not improved outside those companies adhering to the Sullivan principles. It is now time for the United States to take larger, more significant steps as a nation.

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The struggle we face in South Africa is not only for better American corporate conduct in the workplace, or for special incentives and employment opportunities for the Black South Africans. Rather, it is the struggle for his enfranchisement in the country of his birth; the restoration of his land, and the dismantlement of a system that denies him full participation in a society that rightly belongs to all South Africans, on a one-person, one-vote basis.

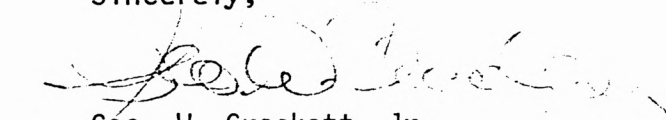
I do not seek to demean the contributions that Burroughs has made and continues to make towards the well-being of many South Africans, of all races. There is no doubt that progress has taken place in portions of the workplace. But there is also no doubt that continued American investment in South Africa has been more beneficial to the whites than others in their society, and has had little more than a trickle-down value to the Black majority of 23 million. It has also economically buttressed the inhuman and untenable apartheid regime far longer than it should have.

I believe that it is essential that the United States seek to minimize the emerging violence in South Africa and attempt to maximize the chances for peaceful change there. It is my fervent hope that the white minority government will work towards a peaceful resolution that will include all segments of its populace in the search for accommodation and reconciliation.

In the interim, however, I believe we must make clear our intention to disassociate the United States from economic and political support of the forces of the status quo.

I appreciate having your views on this matter, and hope you will write me again.

Sincerely,



Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress

GWC:tj/jtw