

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

April 8, 1985

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep and ongoing concern about the worsening situation in South Africa. A series of recent incidents demonstrates a highly disturbing pattern of increased violence and repression by the South African government.

In February, security police arrested officers and leaders of the United Democratic Front and charged them with high treason.

On March 21, the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, police shot and killed at least 19 persons and wounded at least 50 others who were attempting to attend the funeral of another victim of apartheid in Langa township.

On March 26, the police arrested 200 persons marching to parliament to protest the killings by police in Langa township several days earlier. Among those arrested were leading anti-apartheid churchmen Dr. Allan Boesak and Rev. Beyers Naude, who were taken into custody as they knelt and sang with supporters.

More than 250 blacks have been killed and nearly 1000 injured at the hands of the South African police and military since August 1984. About 3000 have been detained since last August, many of them children. More than 200 are still being held.

Mr. President, you have stated that your administration has a moral responsibility to speak out and "to emphasize our concerns and our grief over the human and spiritual costs of apartheid in South Africa, to call upon the government...to reach out to its black majority by ending the forced removal of blacks from their communities and the detention without trial and lengthy imprisonment of black leaders."

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Secretary of State Shultz has also consistently issued firm statements condemning the apartheid policies and the repressive actions of the South African government.

In light of the South African government's failure to take constructive steps to dismantle its apartheid institutions and of the resulting deteriorating human rights situation and government perpetrated violence against peaceful protestors in that country, we were disappointed in the tone of the comments you made at your press conference of March 22 which seemed to imply sympathy for the South African government's position. Accordingly, we would respectfully request clarification of your perspective, and in this regard urge support for H.R. 1460/S.635, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985. We would urge as well that no diplomatic stone be left unturned in expressing the outrage of the American people about the internal policies of the government of South Africa.

Sincerely,


TED WEISS


HOWARD WOLPE


HOWARD BERMAN

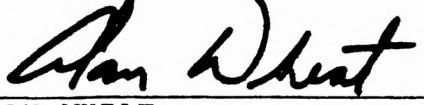

JIM LEACH

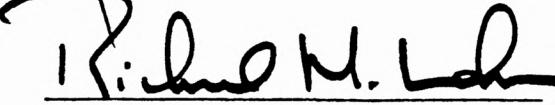

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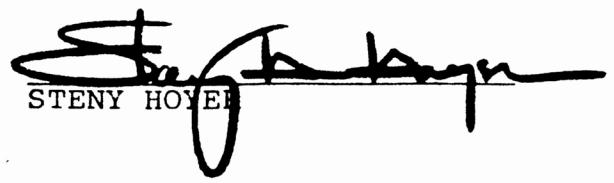
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