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NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Congressional Black Caucus

FROM: Lezli Baskerville *(JCB)*

DATE: September 10, 1986

RE: Tour of Frontline States

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As was agreed at the August 6, 1986 Congressional Black Caucus meeting, I represented the CBC on the Rainbow Coalition's "Sojourn for Truth" through six frontline states, Nigeria and Congo. My mission, as stipulated by you, was to convey to the heads of the frontline nations, the desire of the Caucus to assist with implementing the program of the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

The tour was most instructive and productive. We met with the heads of state of the eight countries we visited (Nigeria, Congo, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe), as well as religious, labor and education leaders; ANC members, and other liberation, democratic, and government leaders. We toured drought stricken areas, refugee camps, and civilian areas ravaged by South African military incursions. I met at length with SADCC representatives in four of the countries we toured and learned about SADCC priorities and immediate needs.

I am attaching for your review, copies of communiques we worked out with six frontline heads of state, which summarize the salient points of our discussions.

Congressman Fauntroy will today provide for you a detailed briefing on our findings, in preparation for a presentation Reverend Jackson will make at the next

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CBC meeting. As today's discussion and the attached materials will make clear, we must move swiftly to develop a CBC alternative to the USA/Southern Africa policy. The policy must be one which is humane and comprehensive. It is recommended that the policy should:

- (a) evidence respect of the people of Southern Africa and their leaders;
- (b) provide economic aid to the Frontline States on the basis of need and numbers;
- (c) afford favored nation trade status to these states;
- (d) be designed for long-term development of the Frontline States; and
- (e) include a provision for defending these states against South Africa's aggression and destabilization campaign throughout the region.

I thank you for affording me the opportunity to represent the Caucus on this most important mission, and I look forward to further serving you as we begin to fashion a constructive alternative to current US/Southern Africa policies.