

**February 11, 1977**  
**Letter, South African Ambassador to the United  
States, 'The House of Representatives  
Subcommittee on Africa'**

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**Summary:**

The South African Ambassador to the United States writes about the reorganization of Congressional committees in Washington. The Ambassador is concerned with the new Subcommittee on Africa that is to travel to South Africa soon. It contains a number of vocal opponents to the Pretoria regime and three black members, most prominently Charles Diggs.

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DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE  
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CHARLES SIGGS: (1) VISITS TO S.A.

(2) ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES

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Relative files:

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EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
AMBASSADE VAN SUID-AFRIKA  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

11 February 1977

DEPARTMENT VAN BUITENLANDSE SAKE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
14 - 2 - 1977  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs,  
PRETORIA  
CAPE TOWN  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

The reorganization of the various committees and subcommittees in the House of Representatives was recently concluded. The final committee assignments in the Senate will be announced shortly.

Our minute 8/2/2 of 11 February 1977 contains background on Clement J. Zablocki, the new chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

The Subcommittee on Africa has replaced the Subcommittee on International Resources, Food and Development. The Subcommittee in its new form reveals three changes. Its membership is as follows:

Charles Diggs (D-MI) Chairman 5D, 27  
Robert Nix (D-Pa)  
Cardiss Collins (D-Ill)  
Don Bonker (D-Wa)  
Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.)  
John Buchanan (R-Al)  
Charles Whalen (R-Ohio).

Congressmen Bonker, Buchanan, and Whalen, the new members of the subcommittee, previously served on subcommittees which did not relate to African affairs. Three of the members, Messrs Diggs, Nix, and Collins, are black.

The bias of the Democratic members of the subcommittee is liberal and with regard to South Africa, they are, with the possible exception of Congressman Bonker, implacable opponents of the South African government.

Congressman Whalen is regarded as a liberal Republican, while Congressman Buchanan, although possessing a conservative voting record, testified in favour of Andrew Young's nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., referring to him as the "David (who) took on the Goliath of an evil system...one of our leaders and mentors in challenging a system of white supremacy and segregation ...". One is accordingly inclined to the view that on racial matters at least Democratic members appear to project the same impression. and Republican

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At the first meeting of the subcommittee, held in February, the tentative program of the subcommittee was discussed. The hearing schedule is intended to concentrate on "three priority areas":

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1. The U.S. posture towards the last stage of decolonization in Southern Africa;
2. The broad range of U.S. economic relations with Africa, including official development assistance, trade and investment; and
3. Potential political conflicts in the region which may threaten international peace and security.

Hearings which relate specifically to South Africa

are:

- i. South African public relations and lobbying activities in the United States (a hearing of two days is proposed);
- ii. Human Rights in South Africa. Implications for U.S. Policy (scheduled for a hearing of three to four days in May);
- iii. U.S. Policy toward South Africa. A four-day hearing is proposed on the implementation of the Arms Embargo, Nuclear and Scientific Cooperation, and Economic Relations.

A copy of the committee's suggested program is attached, from which it clearly appears that South Africa and other Southern African issues are intended to be the main concern of the subcommittee.

*PbL*  
AMBASSADOR

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