

February 11, 1977

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

Citation:

"Letter, South African Ambassador to the United States, 'The House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa'", February 11, 1977, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archives, Charles Diggs, Visits to SA, Anti-SA Activities, 1,33,3,4, Vol 3. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk, Monash South Africa.
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116115>

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.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1985

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No.:

1/33/3/4

Vol. 3

ONDERWERP • SUBJECT

U.S.A.

CHARLES SIGGS: (1) VISITS TO S.A.

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

11 February 1977



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:

<u>Charles Diggs (D-MI)</u>	Chairman	5 D, 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.

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

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
1 AMBASSADOR