

Sisulu

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS FOLLOWING MEETING WITH ALBERTINA SISULU

It has been my pleasure to welcome to the White House today Mrs. Albertina Sisulu of Soweto South Africa. "Mama Sisulu," as she is known by her legion of admirers in South Africa, is Co-President of the United Democratic Front, a large coalition of multi-racial organizations opposed to apartheid. The UDF is among those organizations banned by the South African government and Mrs. Sisulu has been subject to imprisonment, house arrest and to government restrictions on her activities. However, she remains a strong advocate of non-violence and a non-racial South Africa.

At age 70, Mrs. Sisulu continues an active life in the service of others. Each day she travels more than an hour to reach her job as a nurse in a clinic which cares for the neediest residents of Soweto. Mrs. Sisulu has lived a life of sacrifice for the betterment of all South Africans. She personifies the struggle for human rights and human dignity and her presence here is an inspiration to us all.

As I told Mrs. Sisulu in our meeting, the United States also believes fundamentally in human rights and human dignity. We believe strongly that apartheid is wrong and that it must end. We want to see the creation of a non-racial and democratic South Africa as a result of negotiations among legitimate representatives of all of South Africa's people. We support the beginning of a process leading to a peaceful transition to

democracy.

To achieve our goal, we intend to pursue a policy of expanding our assistance to black South Africans to help them to become empowered, both economically and politically, so they can play their rightful role in determining the future of their country. We will work with the Congress to increase present programs and develop new ones to assist black South Africans in the critical areas of human rights, education, employment, housing, and community development. Such programs should not be misunderstood as our acquiescing in apartheid, but should be viewed as a determined effort to bring it to an end.

We will also work closely with our allies, particularly the British, Japanese, West Germans, and Portuguese, to develop mutually supporting policies and cooperative programs to resolve the political impasse created by apartheid and to assist in the advancement of black South Africans. These nations have important historical, cultural, and economic ties with South Africa and their wisdom and influence must be brought to bear on the problems of South Africa and the region.

In this regard, we will continue to work for the resolution of regional conflicts and to reduce tension between South Africa and neighboring states. The New York accords which provide for independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola were a major achievement of American diplomacy. We fully

support the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia and the complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 435.

We welcome the decision taken at last week's historic summit in Zaire by the opposing forces in Angola. Finally, we favor the effort by the government of Mozambique to seek a dialogue with RENAMO and will do what we can to ensure its success.

In all of our efforts in southern Africa, we pledge to work with the Congress and to seek a bipartisan consensus so that the United States will speak with one voice on these critical issues. The United States has the most extensive sanctions in place against South Africa of any industrialized country. We do not intend to seek new sanctions, but will work through the means I have just described to promote change in South Africa.

Again, it has been an honor to be with Mrs. Sisulu here today. Her struggle and that of her husband Walter, who remains in prison, and her children remind us of price of freedom and the hope which her example inspires in each of us.

Thank you.