

# New sanctions against South Africa proposed

by Leo F. Scanlon

In startling testimony delivered to a joint congressional hearing, a group of liberal Democrats announced their intention to wage economic warfare against the black population of South Africa. They didn't mince words: A radical sanctions policy designed to "punish the poor population" of South Africa is being proposed by the legislators, who cited the current administration policies directed at the people of Panama, as the model and spirit of their legislation.

The hearings were called to examine a family of bills designed to wipe out U.S. presence and influence in Africa. They have been proposed to replace the 1986 legislation which governs the current economic sanctions policy.

As a package, the legislation will not only impose severe penalties on the black population of South Africa, but will forbid the United States from having any presence, economic, military, or humanitarian, in South Africa, Namibia, and parts of Angola. It will also force the United States to impose third-party sanctions on any of its allies who do so.

The legislation is a prescription for Soviet political hegemony in Africa.

H.R. 1580 (Ron Dellums) is the lead bill, and summarizes the purposes of the specific pieces of legislation which comprise the package.

H.R. 1051 (Mervyn Dymally), will amend the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 to prohibit the importation of South African diamonds into the United States—meaning *any* diamond originating from a South African mine, no matter where it is finished, a specific violation of international trade and customs regulations. (Although presented to the hearings as part of the family of bills, this piece of legislation has already passed the House.)

H.R. 2443 (William H. Gray) will prohibit U.S. military and intelligence contact with South Africa, either directly or through a third country—i.e., it will be *illegal* for the United States government to know what is occurring in Namibia or South Africa. The legislation specifically orders the closing of the attaché office in Pretoria and prohibits intelligence gathering/sharing on developments in Namibia. The bill fur-

ther prohibits all military transit flights using airfields in South Africa or Namibia.

H.R. 3328 (Mickey Leland) will prohibit investment in United States capital markets by certain South African mining interests.

H.R. 3317 (Robert E. Wise) will require divestiture from the oil industry in South Africa and would mandate U.S. actions against any non-U.S.-based oil company which trades with South Africa.

During testimony to a joint hearing sponsored by the House subcommittees on Africa and Foreign Affairs, Congressman Wise admitted that this action would only marginally affect the internal economy of South Africa, and would require cumbersome and onerous enforcement efforts against allies who "violate" the provision. He cited the example of U.S. policy toward Libya—where Armand Hammer is allowed to operate with impunity—as a model for his piece of legislation!

Administration spokesmen opposing the legislation included James Kelley from the Treasury, and Mr. Robert Cornell from the Department of Commerce, both of whom testified to the futility of economic sanctions against the increasingly insulated "Lager" of the South Africa economy. Charles Freeman, representing the State Department, indicated that the current sanctions policy has had the effect of making the United States "irrelevant to the region," and indicated that the proposed bills would accelerate that process dramatically, and at the same time have a terrible impact on the black South African population. Freeman gave as only one example of this, the fact that "60% of the white Afrikaners are employed by the government, which has been able to keep its trade balance in surplus and thus deflect the effect of sanctions from the white population."

## Target: the population

It was Mickey Leland (D-Texas), in a purported rebuttal to this argument, who instead provided a blood-curdling confirmation. Leland told the committee, "The administration is currently applying sanctions to the nation of Panama. It is contradictory to say that sanctions work in one capacity and not in another. In fact, sanctions will affect the population, that is the only thing they can do. . . . Today, there are people in Panama who are hungry because of sanctions we have imposed; there are people who are starving because of these actions. We are bringing *the people* of Panama to their knees. We are punishing the people of Panama. That is what sanctions are for. That is why we use them."

Although Mr. Leland's speech was a horrifying expression of the intent of the authors of the legislation, the attitude of all of the bills' supporters was the same. They left no doubt that the most important factor in favor of this legislation, is the vicious and petty attitude displayed by the White House and State Department in the conduct of foreign policy. Both Mr. Wolpe and Mr. Solarz indulged in displays of insolence

and contempt for the representatives of the administration, who were allowed a mere five minutes each to respond to two hours of testimony presented by the sponsors of the legislation!

## Selling out UNITA

The import of the legislation for the military and strategic affairs of the region was identified when Ron Dellums (D-Cal.) stated that one hidden purpose of his was to bring an end to U.S. support for Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA resistance fighters, and to force the United States out of any negotiations to end the conflict in Angola, bringing any monitoring of any eventual solution under the control of an "international body" of observers. In practice, this ensures that the conflict will continue, under the control of the Soviet-run liberation movements.

Angola's ruling MPLA has demanded that the United States represent UNITA and the South Africans at the bargaining table, refusing to deal directly with either of the principal combatants. Similar to the arrangements being proposed in Afghanistan, this demand is particularly fraudulent in the Angola case, as UNITA has always primarily depended on European sources for military support. The effect of the proposed legislation is to signal to all parties that substantive negotiations will occur directly and indirectly with the Soviets, only.

The Defense Department spokesman, Mr. James Woods, indicated that the bills would make it impossible to monitor developments in Angola and Namibia. He went on to point out that other provisions of the Dellums legislation would prohibit long-range telemetry flights which are used to assess rocket burn data and confirm trajectory accuracy during satellite launches.

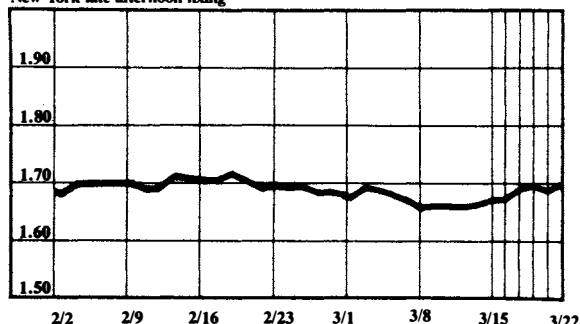
The closing of the attaché's office in Pretoria is a most severe action, he stressed, more serious than any we have taken against the Warsaw Pact, and there are also provisions of the bill which are guaranteed to wreck relations with our European and Asian allies. He referred to Section 7 of H.R. 1580, which includes an unprecedented provision for third-party sanctions. "This wording could generate serious frictions with some of our Asian and European friends, for starters," Woods reported, "Waiver of penalties for some states but not for others would compound the problems generated by this proposed legislation. We are concerned at the sweeping impact this kind of provision might have on our worldwide politico-military relations."

He pointed out that there are provisions of the legislation which eliminate the authority of the President to grant exceptions to embargoes of strategic raw materials, limiting the exceptions to items of "military use." The Defense Department spokesman pointed out that in the case of such items, the distinction between military and civilian activities does not exist, and the legislation could have severe effects on the U.S. economy.

# Currency Rates

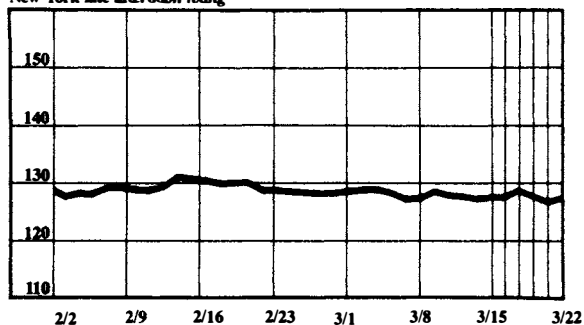
## The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



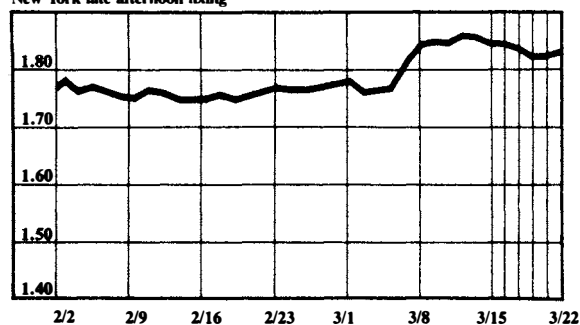
## The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



## The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



## The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

