
UNITED STATES ELECTIONS



Since this statement was released, Mike Dukakis, the Democratic Party candidate for the USA elections in November has said if elected he will push for South Africa to be isolated as a "terrorist state".

MIKE DUKAKIS: "TOWARD PEACE AND JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

Apartheid is wrong. In the context of the late 20th Century, it is the equivalent of slavery. Yet the South African government's token "reforms" have left the apartheid system firmly entrenched, as it continues to deny the vast majority of its citizens the most fundamental political, economic and human rights.

South Africa also persists in its determined efforts to destabilize the governments and economies of many of its African neighbours. Despite international condemnation, it continues its illegal occupation of Namibia, defying world calls for free democratic elections to determine the future of that state.

To Namibia's north, the United States remains the only member of the United Nations - except for South Africa - not to recognize the Angolan government, while Angolan rebels, supported by the U.S. and South Africa, threaten American-owned oil refineries guarded by Cuban soldiers! And while the Reagan Administration insists that the Cubans leave Angola as a condition of South Africa leaving Namibia, our military aid to the UNITA rebels in Angola only prolongs the Cuban presence and the Namibian stalemate.

Throughout my public life, I've opposed apartheid and supported the cause of human rights and self-determination in Southern Africa. I'm proud that Massachusetts was one of the very first states in the nation to terminate its pension fund investments in

South Africa.

I believe that America can play a meaningful role in promoting the cause of peace and human rights in Southern Africa. But we must make our opposition to apartheid crystal clear. And we must take firm measures to demonstrate the depth of our concerns for the future of the entire region.

As President, I will:

- Promote democracy and human rights in South Africa by strongly asserting U.S. support for rapid and peaceful change, and by using tougher economic and diplomatic pressure in support of such change. We must stop sending mixed signals to the South African government and the oppressed majority, and start affirming - by word and deed - our total disapproval of the continuation of apartheid in that country.
- Encourage the development of non-racial leadership committed to a peaceful transition to political and social equality in South Africa. Leaders like Archbishop Tutu and Allan Boesak deserve our support in their struggle for human rights for peoples of all races in South Africa.
- Toughen U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa and seek multilateral agreement with our allies for a more comprehensive trade embargo against that country, in the absence of agreement by the South African government to enter into prompt and meaningful negotiations for the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a non-racial South Africa.
- Support the holding of internationally-sponsored, all-party negotiations for the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a constitutional, non-racial democracy committed to respect for the political and economic rights of ALL South Africans - talks that include the African National Congress.
- Call for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other political prisoners, and for the unbanning of the African National Congress.
- Strongly support international efforts to pressure South Africa to withdraw from Namibia, and to bring about free elections in that state.
- Stop U.S. aid to the UNITA rebels in Angola, recognize the Angolan government, and work towards creating conditions that will lead to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola

and improved relations between Angola and the West.

- Assist South Africa's neighbours, such as Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, to attain greater economic independence from South Africa, and to become less vulnerable to South Africa's military and economic pressure, and support the efforts of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) to improve the lives of the 65 million Africans who live in its member states.

Change is coming in South Africa. The question is whether it will be peaceful and controlled or bloody and cataclysmic. We must not stand idly by while South Africa drifts towards chaos and bloodshed. We must do all we can to bring change to South Africa that is rapid and peaceful, and that provides for all peoples of that country and its neighbours those fundamental human rights and protections that America seeks for all the peoples of the world.
