

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER
CONFIDENTIAL

FACT SHEET: SOUTH AFRICA

I. SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

RELEASED IN FULL

- o State of emergency repression has quelled violent protest at the expense of further restricting political freedoms.
- o With much of its leadership imprisoned or restricted, the black opposition is struggling.
- o The ruling National Party, with liberal support, held on to major urban areas in the municipal elections, but support for government reform programs has waned.
- o The white electorate has moved increasingly to the right, and the white supremacist Conservative Party made impressive gains in Afrikaans-speaking rural areas, working-class suburbs, and Pretoria, indicating growing white support for its pro-apartheid stance.
- o Beset by internal problems, President Botha has turned to an increasingly active program of regional diplomacy.

II. US POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

- o We continue to oppose further economic sanctions against South Africa and will not support multilateral moves in this direction.
- o The President's 1988 report to the Congress on sanctions reaffirmed that punitive economic sanctions have not had a positive effect in promoting political and social reform.
- o While the Senate did not complete action on the 1988 sanctions bill, it is anticipated this issue will arise again in Congress early in the new administration.
- o We will strive to maintain channels of communication with all elements in South Africa that support peaceful evolution to a democratic post-apartheid society.
- o Through our aid programs, we are expanding our support activities that offer enhanced educational and economic opportunity, and concomitant political leverage to blacks. We encourage other countries to do likewise.
- o We will work to further reduce regional tensions and to encourage a more responsible SAG posture vis-a-vis its neighbors.
- o We will remain in close touch with key allies as the situation in South Africa evolves.

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 Working visit of U.K
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