

FM WASHINGTON

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 1630

OF 192225Z JUNE 86

INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN, LUSAKA, UKHIS NEW YORK, BONN, PARIS
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MT

WASHINGTON TELNO 1611: US/SOUTH AFRICA

1 THE KENNEDY/GRAY SANCTIONS BILL CAME TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE ON 18 JUNE, WITH EVERY EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD PASS EASILY. IN THE EVENT, THE MUCH TOUGHER DELLUMS BILL (WOODLEY'S TELELETTER OF 10 APRIL TO HUMFREY, SAFD) WAS SUBSTITUTED FOR IT, AND APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE. THIS BILL WOULD REQUIRE TOTAL US DISINVESTMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN 180 DAYS OF ENACTMENT, AND WOULD INTRODUCE A FULL TRADE EMBARGO (IMPORTS OF STRATEGIC MINERALS FOR THE US DEFENCE INDUSTRY EXCEPTED). IT WAS ALWAYS SEEN, EVEN BY MOST DEMOCRATS, AS AN EXTREME MEASURE. DELLUMS HIMSELF SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABACK BY ITS PASSAGE IN THE HOUSE.

2 THIS OUTCOME IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HEIGHTENED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA AND DISENCHANTMENT WITH ADMINISTRATION POLICY. IT ALSO BEARS WITNESS TO THE POTENTIAL DOMESTIC RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ISSUE IN AN ELECTION YEAR: NEITHER DEMOCRATS NOR REPUBLICANS WANTED A ROLL-CALL VOTE YESTERDAY BECAUSE NO-ONE WANTED TO BE RECORDED AS HAVING VOTED AGAINST A SANCTIONS MEASURE. AS A RESULT, THE HOUSE ADOPTED, WITHOUT A FORMAL VOTE, A BILL WHICH MANY DEMOCRATS THOUGHT WENT TOO FAR, AND WHICH MOST REPUBLICANS ONLY SUPPORTED BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THE MORE EXTREME BILL HAD LESS CHANCE OF EVER BECOMING LAW.

3. THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF THE SENATE FOLLOWING SUIT WHEN ANTI-APARTHEID LEGISLATION EVENTUALLY COMES TO THE FLOOR THERE, BUT THIS HOUSE DECISION MUST NEVERTHELESS INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THE SENATE - AND THE ADMINISTRATION - TO ACT. SHULTZ AND OTHERS CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO PUNITIVE ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND SOME REPUBLICANS ARE CLAIMING TODAY THAT THE EXTREME HOUSE POSITION HAS EFFECTIVELY KILLED OFF SANCTIONS LEGISLATION FOR THE PRESENT, BUT THE CHANCES OF AN ADMINISTRATION CONCESSION HAVE PROBABLY IN FACT INCREASED.

4. IN AN APPARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE ODDS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY, THE WHITE HOUSE LETTER LOBBYING AGAINST THE KENNEDY/GRAY BILL (PARA 5 OF TUR) WAS IN THE END SIGNED ONLY BY POMDEXTER.

THIS TELETYPE
WAS NOT
AMENDED

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NEWS D
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