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NEWS

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FROM:

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## SOUTH AFRICA SANCTIONS

PRESIDENT BUSH MAKES "RIGHT" DECISION:  
"SANCTIONS NO LONGER MAKE ANY SENSE";  
BLACKS BEAR BRUNT OF SANCTIONS IMPACT

SEVERAL HOURS AGO, PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ENDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE THE RIGHT DECISION -- RIGHT LEGALLY; RIGHT MORALLY; RIGHT IN CONCRETE, PRACTICAL TERMS.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DEBATE IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THE GOALS OF OUR SOUTH AFRICA POLICY -- ENDING APARTHEID, ONCE AND FOR ALL; ESTABLISHING A TRUE DEMOCRACY; EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. THE ONLY DEBATE WE HAVE HAD IS HOW BEST TO ACCOMPLISH THOSE GOALS.

### FAIR LOOK - SANCTIONS MUST GO

IN MY VIEW, HISTORIANS WILL ARGUE FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT WHETHER SANCTIONS WERE REALLY A KEY FACTOR IN SPARKING THE KIND OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE PAST MONTHS IN SOUTH AFRICA; WHETHER ON BALANCE THEY WERE A POSITIVE OR A NEGATIVE FORCE; WHETHER OVER TIME THEY HAVE HARMED BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, MORE THAN THEY HAVE HELPED THEM.

BUT I THINK A FAIR LOOK AT THE SITUATION TODAY YIELDS A CLEARCUT CONCLUSION THAT, WHATEVER THEIR PAST EFFECTIVENESS OR RESULTS, SANCTIONS NO LONGER MAKE ANY SENSE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY UNDERTAKEN A FIRM COMMITMENT TO FUNDAMENTAL REFORM. THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT COMMITMENT, OVER TIME, IN WORD AND -- FAR MORE IMPORTANT -- IN ONE CONCRETE ACT AFTER ANOTHER: ENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY; THE RELEASE OF MANDELA AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS; THE DISMANTLING OF THE APARTHEID LAWS; THE LEGALIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES; THE BEGINNING OF SINCERE AND SERIOUS TALKS WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE A.N.C., WITH THE SPECIFIC GOAL OF ESTABLISHING A NEW AND DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

### CONGRESSIONAL SANCTIONS FULFILLED

EVERY CONDITION LAID DOWN IN OUR LAW FOR THE END OF SANCTIONS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

AND IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT BLACKS CONTINUE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT OF THE SANCTIONS; AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THAT -- WHATEVER THEIR NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE -- THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BLACK AND WHITE, WILL NEVER ACHIEVE A STABLE AND VIBRANT DEMOCRACY UNLESS DEMOCRATIZATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH REACHES ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. THAT REQUIRES AN END TO THE SANCTIONS.

THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD ALREADY REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT SANCTIONS HAD OUTLIVED THEIR UTILITY. BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS, THE RHETORIC OF MANY OF THEM TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, HAD LONG ENGAGED IN EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

THEY HAD ALL CONCLUDED THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO ENGAGE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, NOT DISENGAGE. AND THEY WERE ALL RIGHT.

### PARTISANSHIP NOT NEEDED

I AM PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS ACCOMPANIED HIS DECISION TO END SANCTIONS WITH A DOUBLING OF AID AIMED AT BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS. IT UNDERSCORES WHAT OUR POLICY DOES, AND OUGHT TO, AIM AT -- HELPING SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS PEOPLE FIND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY THAT NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE.

I HOPE THE CONGRESS WILL NOT TRY TO UN-DO THE SENSIBLE THING THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS DONE -- AND I DOUBLY HOPE THAT WE CAN ALL AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO TURN THIS PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND MORAL ISSUE INTO A PARTISAN POLITICAL ISSUE.

SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS PEOPLE ARE, AT LONG LAST, ON THE RIGHT ROAD. LET'S TEAR DOWN THE ROAD BLOCKS WE HAVE ERECTED, AND INSTEAD BEGIN TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY.

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