

Letter to Smith from constituent Cornell W. Acheson about South African granite issue, along with Smith's response, May 6, 1989 & June 20, 1989. Folder 1, Box 6, Sam Smith Constituent Correspondence, 4682-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.



Cornell W. Acheson
1716 Bellevue Way N.E.
Bellevue, Washington U.S.A. 98004

THE CHAIR
THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
1100 MUNICIPAL BUILDING
600 4TH AVE,
SEATTLE, 98104

6 MAY 1989

DEAR SIRS/MESDAMES:-

ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO
DISINVEST THE PENSION FUND FROM ITS SOUTH AFRICAN HOLDINGS IS
AN ACUTE DISSERVICE TO BLACKS IN THAT COUNTRY.

IF YOU INSIST ON TAKING A STAND REGARDING THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THAT COUNTRY PLEASE DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR
THOSE YOU PRETEND TO HELP, IE: THE BLACKS.

AS AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN I WORKED AND LIVED IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA SEVERAL DECADES. I HAVE SEEN THE CHANGES SINCE THE
MID-SIXTIES, SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE
BLACKS...UNTIL STIFLED BY AMERICAN SANCTIONS AND DISINVESTMENT
POLICIES.

AMERICAN COMPANIES THERE PAID HIGHER WAGES AND
PROVIDED GREATER HUMAN SERVICES TO WORKERS THAN LOCALLY OWNED
FIRMS, COMPETITIVELY RAISING BLACK INCOME ACROSS THE BOARD.
AMERICAN FIRMS THERE ALSO SPENT SOME \$220,000,000 IN TRAINING AND
SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THEIR BLACK WORKERS OVER THE PAST 9 YEARS.

DISINVESTMENT IS FORCING THOSE COMPANIES OUT.

SANCTIONS HAMSTRING THE ECONOMY THERE. THE
SOUTH AFRICAN INFRASTRUCTURE CAN SURVIVE BUT ONLY BY CUTTING BACK -
CUTTING THOUSANDS OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PROCESS.

AND DISINVESTMENT, BY ITSELF, HAS COST ANOTHER
29,000 BLACK JOBS. AT LEAST,

THIS IS HELPING THE BLACKS...?

SO MANY THERE ARE TRYING.

AND YOU CONSIDER PENALIZING THEM.

INCREDIBLE.....

STINCERELY YOURS,

C.W.ACHESON

CWA/s.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL - CITY OF SEATTLE

SAM SMITH
President
of the
City Council

June 20, 1989

Chairman, Labor
Policy Committee

Mr. Cornell W. Acheson
1716 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Energy Committee
Finance & Personnel
Committee
Finance & Human Services
Committee
Governmental
Relations Committee

Dear Mr. Acheson:

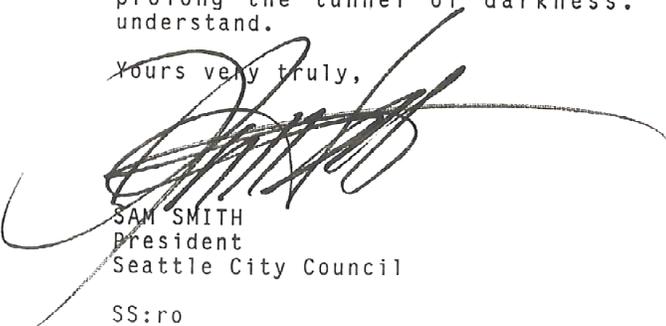
Thank you very much for your letter pertaining to the disinvestment in South Africa.

A person without freedom, even though he might be paid a living wage, is still not free. Those who are without freedom realize that there is no easy pathway therefore, in order to achieve freedom, a high price is extracted.

We remember the days of segregation, unequal opportunity and rabid discrimination in our own country, and we remember how painful it was to break those long standing traditions.

Those memories let me know that disinvestment is the tunnel of darkness that must be traveled in order for pure freedom to reach South Africa. If there was an easier pathway, I would gladly accept it, but all that has been mentioned seems to prolong the tunnel of darkness. I hope you understand.

Yours very truly,


SAM SMITH
President
Seattle City Council

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