

VII. UNITED STATES RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AFRICA

A. United States Personnel in South Africa

The United States has full diplomatic relations with South Africa. It maintains its embassy in Pretoria with an ambassador, deputy chief of mission, political officer, economic officer, administrative officer, regional security officer, public affairs officer, and a defense attaché. There are Consuls-General in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. In addition, Cape Town has a political/economic officer, an economic, commercial and administrative officer, a consul, and a branch public affairs officer. In Johannesburg, there is a political/economic officer, a commercial officer, labour officer, minerals officer, consul and a branch public affairs officer.

B. United States Policy Toward the Bantustans

The United States Government has had a policy, since the Transkei was made “independent” by South Africa, of refusing to recognize the bantustans. In line with this policy, former Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger, said last year; “We reject unequivocally attempts to denationalize the black South African majority and relegate them to citizenship in the separate tribal homelands.”¹³² In late 1982, there were reports that a political officer at the United States Embassy in South Africa, Keith McCormick, was visiting several independent bantustans in order to collect information, and that this constituted a change in United States policy in that before this time United States Government personnel had been forbidden to travel to the bantustans.¹³³

The State Department in Washington, however, denied any change in policy. A spokesman said that the United States Government remained unequivocal in its rejection of the bantustans, but that United States personnel had always visited them from time to time to collect information.

Given Eagleburger’s statement in 1983, it does seem clear that the Reagan Administration is continuing to reject the bantustan strategy. This does not mean, however, that Reagan Administration’s officials have taken any action on the brutal repression that has taken place in recent years in the bantustans. In 1983, when there were reports that at least 100 people died in the Ciskei, American officials operating under the principles of “constructive engagement” refused to criticize the South African Government for the actions of its surrogate in Ciskei.

¹³² Eagleburger, Lawrence, Speech before the National Conference of Editorial Writers, 23 June 1983.

¹³³ *Rand Daily Mail*, Johannesburg, 11 October 1982.

Although the Reagan Administration does not recognize the bantustans, the four so-called “independent” bantustans maintain representatives in the United States.

There appears to be some tendency amongst United States corporations to undertake business in or with the so-called “independent” bantustans. Thus a recent report indicated that Dimbaza Foundries in the Ciskei had become one of the top exporters of manganese steel castings to the United States.¹³⁴

¹³⁴ *South African Industrial Week*, 20 March 1984.