AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 EAST HURON STREET · CHICAGO. ILLINOIS 60611 ' 13121 944-6780

ABRIDGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

WHEREAS, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states as a basic premise that "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged
the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall
enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been
proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people"1 and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has adopted as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declaring "threats to the freedom of
expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all"; and

WHEREAS, South Africa's State of Emergency and total crackdown on news reporting make imperative our concern for all in that imprisoned country, especially the thousands
held in incommunicado detention, while remembering that the record of banning of
people and books, of unequal library funding and education, and of aggression and
slaughter in South Africa is infamous and of long duration; and

WHEREAS, The record of human rights violations in South Africa has led ALA to adopt a resolution calling for divestment, which is to the credit of its membership, the time
has come for American librarians to put further pressure on Pretoria and to support
the efforts of South African librarians to resist these oppressive policies; NOW, THEREFORE,BEIT

RESOLVED, That the

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98-497 stipulating that the appointment of the Archivist of the United States be made on the basis of professional qualifications and in opposing the appointment of John Agresto, and further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator William Roth, chair, U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and that a press release be issued by ALA on this issue.

INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR AGE (CD#57:MD#2) - Exhibit 15. Without discussion, it was

VOTED, That

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Africa that reflect the full diversity of viewpoints and experience in that country, particularly to consider securing materials from such alternative and authoritative sources as the African