

# South Africa Free Elections Fund

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Chair Dr. Anthony J.F. O'Reilly  
Co-Chair The Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.  
President John L. Sims  
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December 10, 1993

Mr. Wade Green  
Philanthropic Advisor  
Rockefeller Financial Services  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

Dear Mr. Green:

As you may know, I have been in touch with several Rockefeller family members regarding the South Africa Free Elections Fund (SAFE). This one-time, historic campaign to support voter education in preparation for South Africa's first universal suffrage elections is indeed a critical effort, building on the leadership of America's corporations, foundations and individual philanthropists.

SAFE was established last summer as a *strictly non-partisan effort*, with encouragement from Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela. My colleagues on the board include Dr. Anthony O'Reilly, chair; Judge Leon Higginbotham, co-chair; Ted Sorensen, counsel; Cyrus Vance; John Whitehead; Andrew Young; Jewell Jackson McCabe and many others. (A current board list is attached.) Our purpose is simple: to raise \$10 million in the next three to four months from a prominent group of Americans to support non-partisan voter education and preparation efforts. Of the 24 million South Africans eligible to vote next April, 18 million have never voted before, and over half of those have minimal literacy skills. The challenge is clear: with wide spread, non-partisan voter education efforts, South Africans will have the opportunity to learn not only about the importance of their new franchise, but, more importantly, about the process by which they can exercise it.

South Africans are looking to Americans for exceptional leadership in this historic transition. Our democratic tradition, combined with our vast resources and expertise in strategic mass media and communications, make us critical allies in finally achieving a democratic South Africa. We are working closely with our South African partners in the Ecumenical Assistance Trust -- headed by the highly respected Rev. Dr. Beyers Naudé -- to carry out this mission.

I write to request that Alida Rockefeller Messinger join our Committee of 50 donor group as a Cabinet Member at the \$250,000 level. I am sending her a personal note under separate cover, but also wanted to inform you about SAFE. I also understand that Deborah Stern, SAFE fund raising staff, is arranging a meeting in January with the Rockefeller philanthropic advisors to provide an update and briefing on SAFE; I hope you will be able to come to that meeting.

After years of fighting apartheid, this effort is American leadership's once-off chance to help ensure South Africa's safe transition to democracy. We can all be sure that our efforts and contributions are greatly welcomed and will be remembered by the South African people for years to come.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller  
SAFE Board Member  
Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

cc: Alida Rockefeller Messinger