

## To our friends in the Soviet and American governments:



*"Just what we need."*

The New Year is a time of joy and celebration for people around the world. But for the people of Angola, emerging from 493 years of colonial rule, it is a time marked by deep divisions, suffering and civil war.

In the context of that civil war, we cannot help but remark on the ways in which the U.S. and the Soviet Union resemble each other. We help our Angolan "friends" become each other's victims. We allow the tragedy of their civil strife to become a matter for competing "national interests" between our two governments. While other nations—South Africa, Cuba, and China—are contributing to the tragedy, we hold the bulk of power and influence.

During this holiday season, we commonly speak of peace and goodwill. Americans boast to the world of their "religious heritage." In the Soviet Union, there is a similar turning toward deeper values and commitments, a turning toward the disciplines of peace and the values of life.

Yet our military habits and power addictions ignore these winter moods. The flow of weapons to Angola continues, each side blaming the other, and Angolans continue to die.

We call on both governments to pause and reconsider the traditions in both societies which stress reverence for life, and the possibilities of finding nonviolent ways of responding to human need.

Both our nations have made meaningful steps toward a peaceful future. Let Angola share in that process. Let the Angolan people, without further foreign intervention, determine their own fate. We urge a withdrawal of **all** foreign troops, military materiel and "advisors," and an end to **all** arms shipments. We ask that you use your immense powers to urge a political settlement of the differences dividing Angola, respecting its newly won independence.

We are ordinary people. We would rather be at our work and homes today, preparing to welcome the New Year. But we cannot celebrate without coming to your two New York missions and reminding you that the weapons you provide mean suffering and death—not peace and unity—in Southwest Africa.

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**The Catholic Worker**, 36 E. First St., New York, N.Y. 10003

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**The Fellowship of Reconciliation**, Box 271, Nyack, NY. 10960

**The War Resisters League**, 339 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10012