The American Committee on Africa today released the text of a statement on U.S. intervention in Angola. The statement was presented to a consultation on Angola convened by the Committee. The consultation agreed to form an ad hoc coalition on U.S. policy in Angola.

The text of the statement follows:

Under the guise of a continuing crusade against communism, the U.S. government is involved in the largest covert operation since Southeast Asia. Administration spokesmen play word games about the level of intervention but each day brings further evidence of the expenditure of money—$50 million through the CIA and more hidden in other budgets.

We have seen this happen before. We must not let our Government involve us in a new Vietnam in Africa.

The U.S. Angola intervention is a logical step in the implementation of a long-established policy which has consistently viewed U.S. interests as linked to the preservation of "stable" colonial and white minority rule in Southern Africa.

Now the U.S. has formed an alliance with racist South Africa in an attempt to install a "safe" government by financing, supplying and assisting UNITA and FNLA. It justifies this action by denouncing MPLA as a Soviet-backed movement.

Supplying tanks, arms, ammunition, spotter planes and American reconnaissance pilots to one side in Angola, the U.S. attacks the MPLA for receiving aid from Cuba.

Attacking the USSR as "a new colonizing imperial nation" the U.S. has proclaimed itself the defender of the freedom of the Angolan people.

We protest this Administration pretence that its concern is the freedom of the Angolan people. In 14 years of armed struggle against Portugal's colonialism the Angolan people called for and received help from African, Asian, Scandinavian and socialist countries including the USSR; the U.S. government gave its money and military assistance to the repressive Salazar and Caetano regimes.

We repudiate the U.S. claim that the MPLA is a Soviet puppet. Men and women who fought for their freedom for 14 years will not easily accept some new foreign domination. The MPLA government, now recognized by 33 nations including 16 African states, has pledged its support for a policy of non-alignment internationally.

We reject the U.S. myth that its own activities are only a response to the extension of Soviet influence. It is now clear that President Ford authorized major escalation of covert assistance to FNLA and UNITA through Zaire at the beginning of 1975, to counter the significant spread of MPLA support, and that the increased USSR arms flow was provoked by that escalation and the subsequent South African invasions.

We condemn the U.S. concealment of the South African invasion of Angola through Namibia. Fighting for the future of its racist apartheid system and for continued illegal control of Namibia, the South African state has committed 4000 to 6000 regular, heavily armed troops, has organized a motorized mercenary column and has placed all reserves on emergency standby. These columns are being supplied in part by a US airlift from Zaire.

We protest the U.S. alliance with the most reactionary force in Africa.

We support the right of the Angolan people to determine their own future without any outside intervention.

We urge strong congressional action to cut off all funds for the Angola intervention, including any that go through Zaire, or any other country.

We demand Senate and Congressional investigation of the current CIA involvement in Angola, and a full report on these activities to the American people.

We call on the U.S. government to prevent the illegal recruiting of Americans as mercenaries for the war in Angola.

We demand the end of all U.S. intervention in Angola.