WANTED FOR MURDER!

JONAS SAVIMBI OF UNITA
United States & South Africa’s Brutal Mercenary
Traitor of Africa’s Liberation Movement

DEMONSTRATION/Tuesday, October 10
11:30AM/Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 68th Street [Near Park Avenue]

The Coalition For Peace In Angola

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO US AID TO UNITA

Savimbi is a Terrorist
For the past 14 years, Savimbi’s Unita forces have waged an unceasing campaign of terror against the people of Angola. His men have mined footpaths leading to peasant fields, destroyed vital food crops and leveled villages and towns in an effort to overwhelm the government with homeless and starving refugees. They have ambushed relief vehicles and ambulances, kidnapped clergy and foreign development technicians and boasted of shooting down civilian airplanes.

Furthermore, Savimbi and his South African sponsors have repeatedly attacked American oil facilities at Cabinda and have tried to kill or kidnap Americans employed at the complex. This Bush administration is helping Savimbi to kill those Americans by “covertly” supplying the sophisticated weapons and money he’ll need for the job.

Savimbi is a United States and South African Mercenary.
Since the collapse of Portuguese colonialism, the United States of America and South Africa have used Savimbi in their effort to force Angola to abandon support for majority rule in Namibia and South Africa. South African officials have acknowledged as much by describing Savimbi as vital to Pretoria’s survival and by confirming that Savimbi’s troops fought with the apartheid army against SWAPO guerrillas fighting for the independence of Namibia. Yet despite thousands of dead and over $10 billion in war losses, Savimbi’s UNITA hasn’t been able to defeat the popular forces of the Angolan people.
Jonas Malheiro Savimbi is an opportunist, a man without political principles or scruples. In his quest for personal power, Savimbi joined the CIA-financed FNLA in the 1960s, then tried unsuccessfully to join the MPLA and finally founded the tribally-based Unita in 1966, with himself at the head. Over the years Savimbi has identified himself as an “African socialist,” “a Marxist,” “a Christian,” “a capitalist,” “an academic,” and an adherent of “Socialist Negritude,” but his only real loyalty is to himself.

Portuguese army records released in the late 1970s confirm that this “freedom fighter” collaborated with the Portuguese colonial army against his own people. And in 1975, he participated in the invasion of Angola by CIA-financed mercenaries, Zairean troops, and South African army forces trying to seize the Angolan capital. It was this act of aggression that forced the recognized MPLA government to seek assistance from Cuba and other countries. And in the face of continuing aggression by South Africa and the United States, Cuban troops were forced to remain until the signing of the December 1988 accords in New York signed by Cuba, Angola and South Africa which, among other provisions, called for the phased withdrawal of Cuban forces.

Savimbi’s alliance with Pretoria has made him an enemy of the Angolan, Namibian and South African people and a pariah on the African continent. The Organization of African Unity has denounced him as “an agent of Apartheid” and U.S. aid to Unitas as a “hostile act.” In spite of these sentiments, no less than 18 OAU heads of states negotiated a peace agreement between Savimbi’s UNITA and the Angolan government in April of this year. Savimbi publicly accepted the terms - even shook hands with Angola’s president, Dos Santos. Within two weeks following this public acceptance, Savimbi again betrayed the OAU by attacking several Angolan installations and civilian centers, and denied having made an agreement. And only days following the agreement, the Bush administration announced its intention to step up military aid to Savimbi.

Given Savimbi’s history of treachery and terrorism against his own people, it is not surprising that he draws his American support from people such as Jesse Helms, Pat Robertson and other who have opposed every piece of Civil Rights legislation, every poor people’s campaign and every anti-colonial liberation struggle in the Third World. Aid to Unitas, in fact, is not a manifestation of any so-called “Reagan doctrine,” but rather a latter day version of the Dred Scott doctrine - that Black people, i.e., Africans, have no rights that racists are bound to respect.

Who We Are

We are a group of concerned New Yorkers, representing the African-American, Latin and Asian communities, as well as church, labor, students, human rights, and solidarity organizations and the legal profession who have come together to protest Savimbi’s presence in the United States and denounce the Bush administration’s war against the sovereign government and people of Angola.

Aid to Savimbi is aid to South Africa and its bloody war on its own people, and its aggression against neighboring states. The American people will not stand for it. Protests against the U.S.-South Africa military alliance have already occurred in Washington, Boston and other cities, and will continue until Congress reinstates the ban on covert American support to the Angolan contra group — UNITA.

We Demand:

No United States-South Africa Intervention in Angola
The United States is already providing arms to Savimbi and is interfering in Angola’s internal affairs by demanding Savimbi’s inclusion in the Angolan government

Recognize the Angolan Government
Only two countries refuse to recognize the legal Angolan government — the United States and South Africa.

Independence for Namibia

Sanctions Against South Africa, Not Angola and Nicaragua
The Reagan and Bush administrations have cynically called for sanctions against Angola while rejecting similar action against apartheid. We call for the immediate imposition of comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against Pretoria until it withdraws from Namibia and dismantles apartheid.

Support for the Freedom Fighters and the Frontline States
The oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia, supported by their independent neighbors, are struggling to throw off the chains of colonial and racist rule. Their fight is our fight. We support them in their efforts to create democratic, nonracial, nonexploitive societies.