July 17, 1981.

Memorandum: On Actions to Retain the Clark Amendment

From: Jennifer Davis

It now appears that the Senate will vote before the end of July on repeal of the Clark Amendment as part of its consideration of the Foreign Aid Bill. The vote in the House will probably follow in early September.

The Clark Amendment specifically prohibits direct or indirect covert military assistance to any party in Angola without Congressional authorization. We are urging retention of the Clark Amendment.

On May 13, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 12-2 to repeal the Clark Amendment, but set three conditions which must be met prior to providing such military assistance, including certification that there has been an effective ceasefire and preparation for internationally supervised elections in Namibia.

The administration opposes this position and is continuing to lobby for a complete repeal of the Clark Amendment.

On May 12, the House Foreign Affairs Committee refused to alter the Clark Amendment by a vote of 19-5.

It is vital that we generate strong opposition to the repeal. The matter is particularly urgent in the context of current administration hostility to Angola and to the SWAPO led Namibian liberation struggle, which has been given consistent assistance by the Luanda government, despite the high cost in South African military retaliation. US military experts have already made contact with UNITA, the Pretoria supported rebel group operating in Angola. Repeal of the Amendment could open the floodgates to direct military intervention in support of reactionary forces in southern Africa.

We ask that you write, call or send telegrams to your Senators, Congressional Representatives and to Senator Charles Percy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, urging retention of the Clark Amendment. A letter should stress that repeal of the Amendment would be contrary to US interests in Africa. It would align the US with the oppressive apartheid regime in South Africa which has adopted a policy of constant military aggression against Angola because of the shelter that country provides to SWAPO and to thousands of Namibian refugees. It would jeopardize
the UN efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Namibia. It would isolate the US from its NATO allies, all of whom have good relations with Angola. It would undermine the relations with independent Africa. These nations adopted a very clear stance at the June summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity, issuing a declaration calling on the US not to intervene in Angola.

Please write immediately to your Senators and Representatives urging them to vote in support of retention of the Clark Amendment. We have available a detailed analysis of "swing" Representatives in most states - write to us for the list and zero in on the crucial votes from your state.

Please act soon. We would appreciate copies of all messages sent.

HOW TO CONTACT CONGRESS: By mail/telegram/mailgram: Congressman__________, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515: Senator__________, US Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510. By Phone (both House and Senate): 202-224-3121