SIX REASONS TO OPPOSE AID TO UNITA
(Prepared by The Washington Office on Africa)

ONE Aid to UNITA is aid to South Africa. Aid to UNITA puts the U.S. in a de facto military alliance with South Africa. South Africa provides approximately 90% of UNITA's foreign aid and commits hundreds of men to its defense. For example, in 1985 South African planes bombed Angolan government troops advancing on UNITA forces in southern Angola. In sum, South African troops have raided Angola over 11 times since 1976, often fighting side-by-side with UNITA forces.

TWO Support for UNITA damages US relations with other African nations. U.S. credibility as an impartial broker in the region is destroyed by aiding UNITA, to which no Black nation has given significant support since it made common cause with South Africa. In July, 1985, the 21st Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) declared that it would interpret any US intervention on behalf of rebel forces in Angola as a "hostile act" toward the OAU. Nearly every major anti-apartheid leader in South Africa and Namibia opposes U.S. aid to UNITA.

THREE Aid to UNITA will not bring about the withdrawal of Cuban troops. Cuban troops first came to Angola to help repel the 1975 South African invasion. Their continued presence is the result of South Africa's repeated cross-border raids into and military occupation of Angola. Angola has repeatedly stated its desire to negotiate the removal of Cuban troops. However, South Africa has repeatedly sabotaged these regional peace efforts. The best way to encourage a withdrawal of Cuban troops, who themselves show no interest in venturing beyond Angola's borders, would be to demand that South Africa discontinue its invasions of Angola, support of UNITA and illegal occupation of Namibia.

FOUR UNITA violates human rights. UNITA has a history of bombing public places, kidnapping foreign technicians, killing innocent civilians and mining village farmlands. According to a recent Washington Post report, all available accounts attribute the February 1986 massacre of 120 Angolans at Camabatela village to UNITA forces. UNITA's widespread aggression has disrupted food production and distribution and caused one of the continent's worst famines. UNITA threatens to blow up Gulf Oil's multi-million dollar installation in Angola, thereby posing a serious threat to American lives.

FIVE Jonas Savimbi is an unreliable ally. Savimbi is a political chameleon, changing his alliances to suit his interests. He has been by turns stridently anti-imperialist, pro-capitalist and Maoist. In 1985, UNITA itself split because of dissatisfaction with Savimbi's leadership. The dissidents accused Savimbi of "waging a war against those who do not obey him unconditionally," and called him another Idi Amin.

SIX UNITA cannot win. Savimbi's human rights abuses have cost him popular support. In addition, analyses recently prepared by the CIA and the State Department concluded that UNITA cannot achieve a military victory, or negotiate a power sharing agreement with the Angolan government, even with increased U.S. aid.