UNITED STATES THREATENS TO VETO ANGOLAN APPLICATION TO U.N.

Security Council action on the application of the People's Republic of Angola for membership in the United Nations has been delayed because of the likelihood that the U.S. would veto membership if the matter came to a vote on May 11th as originally scheduled. Under U.N. procedures, the Security Council must favorably recommend membership to the General Assembly, which then votes on admission. Angola formally applied for membership in a letter from President Agostinho Neto to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim April 22nd.

The United States government has not recognized the People's Republic of Angola. However, the issue of U.S. recognition of the Angolan government need not be tied to Angola's membership in the U.N. There is precedent for the United States voting to favorably recommend a state for U.N. membership even though it has not yet recognized that state itself. Many who have been following U.S. policy expected the U.S. to abstain on the issue, thus allowing the application to proceed unimpeded.

It now appears, however, that domestic political considerations are preventing even this. As the Secretary of State is just returning from his first trip to Africa, to editorial accolades for a new policy supporting African aspirations, we find the administration crassly insulting a nation which has already been admitted as the 47th member state of the Organization of African Unity. It is also becoming increasingly apparent that the administration has no intention of putting itself on the line in support of the key promise made to Africa by Kissinger -- support for the repeal of legislation allowing the importation of chrome from Rhodesia in violation of U.N. sanctions. Without administration support, legislation to repeal the Byrd Amendment is unlikely to be introduced before the political conventions, and perhaps not even before the election.

from a release put out by the American Committee on Africa

REPORT FROM ANGOLA
by Mike Shuster

LUANDA, Angola -- Almost 100,000 Angolan workers from all sectors of Angolan life -- from agriculture to health, mining to air transport -- gathered together May 1 to celebrate the first May Day in the newly independent People's Republic of Angola.

Under a burning hot West African sun, column after column of Angolans marched past a reviewing stand where Agostinho Neto,
President of Angola, Lucio Lara, Secretary General of the MPLA, and over one hundred Angolan and foreign dignitaries looked on. Neto is also the president of the MPLA, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the movement which led a thirteen year long guerilla war against Portuguese colonialism.

Angolan children led the May Day parade. After them came the contingent from the Organization of Angolan Women, followed by hundreds of groups of workers. Few wore uniforms of any sort. Most simply came as they work, some in torn clothes, and many without shoes.

But they did not lack enthusiasm. Many workers brought their tools; agricultural workers with their machetes, picks and shovels; metal workers with their torches and welder's masks. Timber workers came with huge chain saws, and oil workers, members of their local Workers Control Committees, marched under banners carrying the symbols of Shell, Texaco, and the Angolan state oil companies. All stopped before the president to chant, cheer, and sing.

Hundreds of posters and banners, practically all handmade, some with beautiful paintings of Angolan leaders or picturing the kind of work the various contingents were engaged in, filled the Avenida das Massacras, and the Praça do Primeiro do Maió where the rally was held. Near the end of the parade, heavy equipment and machinery -- fork lift trucks, heavy cranes, caterpillars and earth moving machines -- all covered with workers and children, rolled by. Suddenly the engine of one of the huge machines began to belch smoke and ground to a halt just as it arrived in front of the reviewing stand. One young mechanic jumped off its front end, and attacked the machine's engine feverishly. After first working with one wrench, then another crowbar, then crawling underneath the machine, he finally called to the driver to start up again. Less than five minutes had elapsed. The engine kicked over with no smoke or fire. As the machine moved off, the mechanic jumped on its front and raised his fist and wrench in the air in triumph. The crowd roared back its approval.

The parade continued all morning, contingents singing and chanting, "A luta continua," "A vitória e certa," "Viva o MPLA," and "Viva o poder popular." After several speeches by government leaders and guests, including representatives from Cuba and Vietnam, Neto rose to address the crowd. He was given no introduction; when it was time for him to speak, he simply walked to the microphone, and the crowd seemed to stir with anticipation and approval.

Where some of the speakers were energetic and oratorical, and others were hesitant and at times uncomfortable, Neto was neither. He seemed to be simply a man speaking to the people. He said quietly and affectionately that he knew it was hot, and that for the benefit of everyone's health, particularly the health of the guests, he only wanted to say a few words. First he announced a new series of nationalizations of property previously owned by Portuguese settlers. Taken over by the state were major holdings in beer and other bottled beverages, and textiles. One company in particular, known as the "CUCA Group" had extensive interests in many areas of the Angolan economy
including plastics, fishing, and printing. It was responsible for
the printing of a now defunct colonialist weekly, "Noticia," which
energetically opposed MPLA.

But nationalizations so far have only extended to the holdings
of former Portuguese settlers who fled the country during the war.
The settlers who abandoned the country are being given ample oppor-
tunity to return and participate in the reconstruction of the country,
but when they show no interest in returning, or continue to engage
in actions hostile to MPLA -- like price speculation -- their holdings
are likely to be nationalized. There has been no indication that
the nationalizations would affect the holdings of other foreign
interests here. Representatives of many foreign companies, including
Gulf Oil, are slowly returning to get their operations going again.

Neto reiterated a theme in his May Day speech which has domina-
ted his speeches and the proclamations of other movement leaders in
past weeks. Noting that Angola faced serious problems in the rebuild-
ing of the country, he said that the working people must fight against
the sabotage of the economy. "It's absolutely necessary," Neto said,
"to guarantee now that the workers control the administration and the
production of our enterprises. We will not permit determined reac-
tionaries, inside or outside Angola, to sabotage our production pro-
cess."

Angola's economy is facing serious difficulties in the aftermath
of the war that saw the planned destruction of much of the country's
important machinery and equipment, and the flight of most of the coun-
try's Portuguese skilled technicians and professionals -- a flight
that, according to one observer who has lived in southern Africa for
the past two years, was consciously encouraged by the Portuguese and
the South Africans in order to cripple the country's economy, and at
the same time remove European witnesses to the South African invasion.
According to one Western economist here, the economy is only produc-
ing at 20% of its operating capacity nationwide.

Posters proclaiming "To produce in order to resist," and "Par-
ticipate, work, construct -- the struggle continues in the field
of production," cover the walls of Luanda's buildings. "We must
accumulate wealth," Neto told the May Day crowd, "so that we can
have hospitals, schools, and so that we can have reserves to allow
us to buy equipment that we don't yet produce in our country."

Speculation -- the selling of products at far above the govern-
ment established prices -- has contributed to the massive increase
in inflation here. Products are very scarce, most shops as well as
restaurants, markets, and other services are closed. What can be
bought is sold at outrageously high prices. Food is scarce. Although
much food is produced, most of it comes from the south. The distri-
bution system has broken down because almost 150 bridges were destroyed
during the war, and the Portuguese took most of the country's trucks
when they fled to Portugal or South Africa.

But MPLA leaders are cautiously optimistic. "Starting now we
are going to restructure our economy," Neto declared, "we are going
to restructure our administration, our political organization, in a
way to make sure that the workers control the economy and control
the organisms of decision-making in our country. It is clear that
all this will take time. We must not be impatient."

(Mike Shuster, who is in Luanda, is writing for Liberation News Ser-
vice and other publications as well as the Angola News Summary.)

IMPORTANT: The Angola Support Conference will take place in Chicago
on May 20-30. It will be held in Chicago.

The primary purpose of this conference is to broaden and sharpen
the political and material support by the people of the United States
for the new society being built in the People's Republic of Angola
(PRA). A secondary purpose of the conference is to analyze and inform
ourselves about the remainder of Southern Africa, especially those
areas directly related to Angola, e.g., Namibia. This conference
is intended to be a working conference to examine, discuss and plan
how we can assist the people of Angola in the most concrete manner
possible.

Any groups which have not already received an invitation and
would like to send representatives are urged to call 312-762-3432 to
make the necessary arrangements. We urge groups to participate in
this important conference! Representatives from Angola are planning
to attend the conference.
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA ANNOUNCES GUIDELINES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In February, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Coordination announced a series of guidelines for Angola's rural development. The thrust of rural development will be promoting agricultural cooperatives, which are viewed as the principal institution for improving production and distribution in the rural areas, and for bringing people's democracy to the rural peasantry, which makes up the great majority of Angola's population.

A special Commission for Aid and Dinamization of Cooperatives (CADCO) has been created to facilitate and support the development of cooperatives. MFLA stresses that CADCO's function is not to impose the formation of cooperatives on the popular masses, but only to aid such efforts. Instead, the construction of cooperatives will essentially depend on the will of the people. In encouraging the people to join together in consumer and producer cooperatives, MFLA points out that the State can more easily furnish modern machinery to associations of peasants than to individuals.

Although cooperatives will vary according to the concrete conditions of each region, they are expected to obey certain general principles: an open door policy with freedom to join; absolute equality and democracy among members; and subordination of the cooperatives to the orientation of the MFLA and the State.

Cooperative development, already in practice in some places, is expected to take place in two stages. In the first stage, peasants will continue to produce on individual plots with the cooperatives supplying tools, consumer goods, and marketing facilities. As soon as objective conditions permit, these cooperatives will establish plots for collective production. The changeover to collective production, which constitutes the second phase of rural development, is to be implemented when the peasants have developed an understanding of the benefits of this form of production and a sufficient degree of political consciousness. As CADCO has stated, "brusque changes in the peasants' way of life" are to be avoided. This can already be achieved in some areas. Producing cooperatives will also be set up right away on what were formerly private estates, which cannot easily be split up into individual plots.

MERCENARIES TO BE TRIED IN ANGOLA

An Angolan tribunal will try 13 mercenaries, including at least two North Americans, in early June. An international commission of prominent individuals from 40 countries will observe the trial and investigate and report on the use of mercenaries in Southern Africa. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) is in support of this Commission and many African countries will have representation on the international commission.
ANGOLAN BISHOP SPEAKS WITH UNITED METHODIST

April 27 - May 8, 1976, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church met in Portland, Oregon. Following are excerpts from Bishop Emilio de Carvalho's address to the Methodist Federation for Social Action:

"The struggle for liberation is the duty of all the oppressed people in the world. All the oppressed people in the world must struggle for their liberation — and by liberation I do not only mean political independence. This we have it since November 11th but our struggle still goes on because we feel that independence is not enough. We must achieve complete and true liberation on the economic, social and on cultural levels. As I said, Angola was a colony of Portugal for 500 years. We have already fought the first struggle for our liberation and we now engage in the second struggle for our liberation from neo-colonialism...

There is a universal principle that the majorities must govern themselves. This is a general principle, but the problem is who will govern? Who are the majorities? This general principle has not been accepted in Southern Africa because people say that the majorities must govern themselves, they must be with those people who really are struggling for the complete liberation of their peoples. The sense, the meaning of liberation, in the context of Southern Africa, is that it is not enough to be independent. As I said, those nations who became independent they must not only govern themselves politically, but they must control the economy of the country, they must really run the business of their country. All the nations must help them to govern themselves."

He also addressed the General Conference and said that he and Mrs. Carvalho waited three days in Portugal in order to obtain special visa to enter this country because the United States government does not recognize the People's Republic of Angola.
In commemorating this 15th Anniversary of the heroic and glorious victory at Girón, our people have an additional reason for pride, expressed in their most beautiful internationalist sentiments and which trascends the boundaries of this continent: the historical victory of the people of Angola (Prolonged applause), to whom we offered the generous and unrestricted solidarity of our Revolution.

At Girón, African blood was shed, that of the selfless descendants of a people who were slaves before they became workers, and who were exploited workers before they became masters of their homeland. And in Africa, alongside that of the heroic fighters of Angola, Cuban blood also flowed, that of the sons of Martí, Maceo and Agramonte, that of the internationalist heirs of Gómez and Che Guevara (Prolonged applause). Those who once enslaved man and sent him to America perhaps never imagined that one of those peoples who received the slaves would one day send their fighters to struggle for freedom in Africa.

The victory in Angola was the twin sister of the victory at Girón (Applause). For the Yankee imperialists, Angola represents an African Girón (Applause). At one time we said that imperialism had suffered its great defeats in the month of April: Girón, Viet Nam, Cambodia, etc. This time the defeat came in March. On the 27th of that month, when the last South African soldiers crossed the Namibian border, after a retreat of more than 700 kilometers, one of the most brilliant pages in the liberation of black Africa was written.

The war in Angola was really Kissinger’s war. Against the advice of some of his closest collaborators, he insisted on carrying out covert operations to liquidate the MPLA through the counterrevolutionary FNLA and UNITA groups, with the support of white mercenaries, Zaire and South Africa. It is said that the CIA itself warned him that such clandestine operations could not be kept secret. Aside from the fact that the FNLA was supported by the CIA from the time it was founded, a fact now publicly acknowledged, the United States invested several million dollars from the Spring of 1975 on, to supply arms and instructors to the counterrevolutionary and separatist Angolan groups. Instigated by the United States, regular troops and reserves were ready to fight alongside their Angolan brothers (Applause). In honor to our people we must say that hundreds of thousands of fighters from our regular troops and reserves were ready to fight alongside our Angolan brothers (Applause).

Our losses were minimal. In spite of the fact that the war was fought on four fronts and our fighters fought alongside the heroic MPLA soldiers in the liberation of almost a million square kilometers (Applause) that had been occupied by the interventionists and their henchmen, fewer Cuban soldiers were killed in action in more than four months of fighting in Angola, than in the three days of fighting at Girón (Applause).
Cuba made its decision completely on its own responsibility. The USSR — which had always helped the peoples of the Portuguese colonies in the struggle for their independence and provided besieged Angola with basic aid in military equipment and collaborated with our efforts when imperialism had cut off practically all our air routes to Africa — never requested that a single Cuban be sent to that country. The USSR is extraordinarily respectful and careful in its relations with Cuba. A decision of that nature could only be made by our own Party (Applause).

Ford and Kissinger lie to the people of the United States and to world public opinion when they try to place responsibility for Cuba’s solidarity actions in Angola on the Soviet Union.

Ford and Kissinger lie when they seek to blame the Congress of the United States for the defeat of the interventionists in Angola, because Congress failed to authorize new funds for the FNLA and UNITA counterrevolutionary groups. Congress made those decisions on December 16, 18 and 19. By that time the CIA had already supplied large amounts in arms, Zaïrean troops had been repulsed in Luanda, Cabinda had been saved, the South Africans were contained and demoralized on the banks of the Queve River and no shipment of arms from the CIA would have changed the already inexorable course of events. Today they would be in the hands of the revolutionary forces like many of those it supplied earlier.

Ford and Kissinger lie to the people of the United States, and especially to the black population of that country, when they hide the fact that the fascist and racist troops of South Africa criminally invaded Angolan territory long before Cuba sent any regular unit of soldiers there. There are some other lies on the part of Ford and Kissinger in relation to Angola which need not be analyzed now. Ford and Kissinger know perfectly well that everything I say is true.

We advise Mr. Ford to study a bit of true history and draw the correct conclusions from its lessons.

With the imperialist defeat in Angola, Mr. Kissinger scarcely has time enough to run from place to place whipping up fear of the Cuban Revolution. A few days ago he traveled through a half-dozen Latin-American countries and now he has announced a new trip to several countries of Africa, a continent he never deigned to look at. He probably scarcely has time enough to run from place to place whipping up fear of the Cuban Revolution. A few days ago he traveled through a half-dozen Latin-American countries and now he has announced a new trip to several countries of Africa, a continent he never deigned to look at before his African Girón.

No Latin-American country, whatever its social system, will have anything to fear from the Armed Forces of Cuba. It is our most profound conviction that each people must be free to build their own destiny; that each people and only the people of each country must and will make their own revolution. The Government of Cuba has never thought of taking revolution to any nation of this hemisphere with the arms of its military units. Such an idea would be absurd and ridiculous. Nor is it Cuba that stole the major part of its territory from Mexico, nor landed 40,000 Marines to crush the revolution in Santo Domingo, nor occupies an inch of Panamanian territory, nor oppresses a Latin country in Puerto Rico, nor plans assassinations of foreign leaders, nor exploits the wealth and natural resources of any people in this hemisphere.

No country of black Africa has anything to fear from Cuban military personnel. We are a Latin-African people — enemies of colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid, which Yankee imperialism aids and protects.

They say that Kissinger wants to meet with the representatives of the liberation movements of the African continent. Anything is now possible in black Africa after the Girón of Angola (Applause). But what kind of hypocritical, cynical and pharisaical words can Kissinger speak to the African liberation movements, to the representatives of the oppressed peoples of Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa, he who represents the empire that unscrupulously supported Portuguese colonialism and today aids, protects, and supports with economic and political means the South African and Rhodesian racists, in brazen violation of United Nations agreements and resolutions? The Yankee imperialists have hundreds of thousands of soldiers abroad; they have military bases on all the continents and in all the seas. In Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Turkey, Western Europe, Panama and many other places, their military installations can be counted by the dozens and the hundreds. In Cuba itself they occupy by force a piece of our territory.

What moral and legal right do they have to protest that Cuba provides instructors and assistance for the technical preparation of the armies of African countries and in other parts of the underdeveloped world that request them?

What right do they have to criticize the solidarity aid we give to a criminally attacked sister people of Africa like Angola?

The imperialists are pained that Cuba, the attacked and blockaded country they tried to destroy 15 years ago by a mercenary invasion, is today a solid and indestructible bulwark of the world revolutionary movement whose example of bravery, dignity and determination is an incentive in the peoples’ struggle for their liberation (Applause).

On the other hand, our revolutionary action does not disregard the world correlation of forces or the interests of international peace. We are not enemies of détente or of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, based on strict respect for the norms of international law. We would even be willing to maintain normal relations with the United States on the basis of mutual respect and sovereign equality, without renouncing any of our principles and without giving up struggling internationally so that the norms of peaceful coexistence and respect for the rights of each nation are applied to all the peoples of the world without exception.