September 30, 1976

Greetings, participants in the Angola Support Conference and other friends of Angola:

It has been too long since you’ve had further follow-up from the May 28-30 meeting. At the July 17th Interim Steering Committee meeting in NYC (see attached minutes) I was appointed temporary coordinator. Hence, I accept responsibility and apologize for the delay. To say that we in Chicago have been busy with other work around Southern Africa is not sufficient excuse but is the reason.

We must now re-activate ourselves because support for Angola must continue - indeed must intensify.

There are clear indications that South African troops are once again in Southern Angola carrying out actions both against Angola and against SWAPO (London Times, July 13, 1976; Observer, July 18, 1976). Additionally anti-PRA troops are attempting to re-gather on the Angola-Zaire border.

President Samora Machel, at the August 16th Sri Lanka Non-aligned Conference, succinctly stated why we must intensify our work in behalf of Angola:

"In Angola, the MPLA's victory over the South African forces of aggression and their lackeys supported by imperialism, deserves special consideration and constitutes a victory for the cause of independence and ending exploitation. The People's Republic of Angola is a sovereign and independent country, a member of the community of Nations with all the rights and the duties. That is why we strongly condemn the North American veto against the admission of the People's Republic of Angola into the United Nations Organization..."
Thus, the National Interim Steering Committee is recommending to Conference participants and friends that:

One focus for our work now should be to support Angola's renewed application for UN membership. We can do this through letters, telegrams and calls to the US mission to the UN, State Department and by confronting electoral candidates at every opportunity.

The Interim Steering Committee will be meeting in NYC at the end of October to create a permanent Angolan Support Structure. New resources and information for our support work have been developed over the summer. These resources include:

- A filmstrip, slide and tape show by B. Barnes and friends of the MPLA Solidarity Committee.
- A Medical Aid to Angola Committee has been formed and is fund-raising in the NYC area. MAAC, % Kimmelman, 10 Downing St., New York, NY 10014.

New publications include:

- Road to Liberation: MPLA Documents on the Struggle of the PRA (LSM Press).
- Issue #5 of the Review of African Political Economy, in its 'briefings' section, has a comprehensive listing of documents and articles which give much critical history of the Angolan people's struggle.

Representing the Interim Steering Committee, I can say once again, 'apologies' and will be keeping in much better touch in the future.

A luta continua,

Prexy Nesbitt
Temporary National Coordinator
Angola Support Conference
REPORT

MINUTES OF THE INTERIM ANGOLA SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 17, 1976.
UN CHURCH CENTER, METHODIST OFFICE, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

PARTICIPANTS: Prexy Nesbitt, US Out of Angola; Patricia Murray, NCBL; James Bristol, AFSC; George Hauser, ACOA; Ted Lockwood, WOA; Barbara Barnes, MPLA Solidarity Committee; Carolyn Johnson, Black Military Resistance League; Paul Pumphrey, AAMUSA; Jerry Silverman for Rosa Seawright, Philadelphia Coalition; Sheila Wheeler for Ole Gherstad, LSM.

CHAIRPERSON: Prexy Nesbitt

NEWS-UPDATE: MERCENARY TRIAL IN ANGOLA

Given that the execution of Gearhart is likely to bring adverse publicity to the MPLA in the United States, the need to put the mercenary trial in Angola into the context of the US government's role in not enforcing the laws against the recruitment of mercenaries was stressed. Important questions are: "How was Gearhart able to get there in the first place?"

"Where does the responsibility for that lie?"

Continuing fighting in Angola--Larry Henderson, a former UCC missionary in Angola reports after a recent trip there that UNITA is still active in the Central Plateau area, attacking railroads etc. There is no long term threat to the PRA by these attacks, but reconstruction efforts are hindered because military personnel and equipment are tied up in that area. Chipenda and Roberto are reportedly in Kindhasa.

TWO REPORTS TO BE SENT TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS:

- Larry Henderson's report to the WCC on the situation in Angola.
- The NCBL report on their participation in an international commission which investigated the role of mercenaries in Angola and observed the recent mercenary trial.
- Information also to be sent out on the availability of these reports in quantity.

CRITICISM OF THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE:

People in Chicago did not have much opportunity to take advantage of the Angolans' presence in their city. There was too little public exposure of the delegation both for conference participants and Chicagoans.

FINANCIAL REPORT as of (June 22, 1976)

Income: $4,231
Expenses: $4,076 (This does not include debts to ACOA for $173, Patricia Murray for $200, or Prexy Nesbitt for $315.)

Prexy reported that contributions have been made to erase the conference debts and he projected the Committee to now be in solid financial shape.

The Interim Committee decided that all conference costs should be borne by the Havana group and efforts would be made to contact individuals who had not contributed what they might.

REPORT ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Chicago--A committee has been formed to raise $1,000 in medical aid...
before November 11th.
New York areas—A medical aid committee has been formed and One Hundred Black Men of New Jersey have begun collecting pharmaeuticals.

PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF WORK FROM CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Prexy's suggestion of focusing on two goals:
- recognition of the PRA by the United Nations and by the US.
- raising $11,000 by November 11th culminating in at least two national events on that date to celebrate and educate on Angola's first anniversary as an independent country.

General Discussion—Major Points
To develop coordinating mechanisms for projects which are most effectively carried out on a national level, recognizing, however, that in many areas individual groups will continue to function on their own and should be encouraged to do so. A primary goal is to unite and coordinate our efforts in order to maximize our efficiency.

Pat's Proposal: Three areas of activity and a national executive committee.
1. Dispelling Myths—includes projects such as films, slide tape presentations, a US tour by Angolans, TV and radio appearances by Angolans and North Americans who have recently been to Angola.
2. Assistance—the $11,000 campaign for medical aid, collecting medical supplies, raising money for agricultural assistance, and an Angola Brigade of Volunteer Workers.
3. Political Assistance—admission to the UN, recognition by the US, and legislation strengthening US law forbidding the recruitment of mercenaries in the United States.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING STRUCTURE
A National Executive Committee to be composed of individuals who are in charge of a specific project. Their task would be to coordinate in their area of responsibility and to participate in general policy making with other members of the National Executive Committee.

A National Co-ordinator would facilitate communication amongst the project co-ordinators and see that responsibilities were carried out. This job would be an administrative assignment rather than a policy making one.

No decision was made on a national structure for the Angola Support Conference.

DECISIONS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE
1. To meet again as the Interim Committee in the early fall. The date is presently being determined.
2. A mailing to go out to all participants of the Chicago conference which would include:
   - information on each of the projects and a request that the groups inform the national coordinating office of projects they would like to participate in.
   - a report on the Interim Committee meeting.
   - Bill Minter's memo on the importance of continuing work in support of Mozambique and information on the seed project.
   - letter from the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture on agricultural implements they need.
   - a request for a contribution to the Angola Support Conference Committee to finance mailings and any national co-ordinating efforts.
3. An inquiry to be made to those who did not attend the Interim
Committee meeting to find out whether they intend to participate in future meetings.

4. Prexy Nesbitt to continue to serve as temporary national co-ordinator until the fall meeting.

5. The endorsement of two primary goals for special efforts over the next few months:

---$11,000 fund raising effort called the "Eleven-Eleven Campaign" to be co-ordinated by Prexy Nesbitt of US Out of Angola and by Johnetta Cole of the Venceremos Brigade.

SOME NOTES ON THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY WORK WITH MOZAMBIQUE IN THE UNITED STATES - Bill Minter, July 1976

The slogan 'A Luta Continua' is familiar to those who have followed and supported the liberation struggles in southern Africa. For Mozambique, in particular that means several things concretely: 1) the struggle to transform the structure of the economy and society left as a heritage of colonialism, to build structures of popular participation and advances towards a self-reliant economy; 2) the integral connection between Mozambique and the rest of southern Africa, particularly Zimbabwe and South Africa; the inevitable involvement in the struggles there simply by geography and example, but also by the commitment of FRELIMO; and 3) as a consequence of the first two, the hostility towards Mozambique of the white-ruled regimes and the western countries that back them and oppose African revolution. Ex-Fide agents and other reactionary elements in Portugal, as well as Smith, Vorster and their western allies, have by no means reconciled themselves to seeing the Mozambican revolution succeed, even though their efforts against it may have to be low-key at most times (similar comments would apply to Angola, of course). As well as military threats against Mozambique, and attacks by Rhodesia, there is a systematic propaganda and "disinformation" campaign being run against Mozambique, heaviest in the South African and Portuguese press, but reflected in the Western European and North American press as well. There are attempts at economic sabotage and pressure. If Mozambique can be "destabilized" or at a minimum lots of people convinced that the results of revolution there are "chaotic, extremist, dictatorial, etc."., then support for the liberation struggle in southern Africa as a whole is undermined.

Therefore, the necessity of continued work in solidarity with Mozambique, as one part of the general work in this country of support for Southern African liberation. Among the possible kinds of things that need to be done are:

1) Continued information work - study of the process now going on in Mozambique, attempts to overcome the practical difficulties of language and communication to continue to get information and to give people here a picture of what is happening, so that they are not dependent on the occasional rumor or slur appearing in the regular press. Clearly the film being prepared "o Povo Organizado" will be a very important part of this work, and one hopes it will be widely circulated.

2) Investigation of the possibility of material support. Mozambique's bank of solidarity, largely money raised within Mozambique, just dispersed almost $500,000 part for the Zimbabwean struggle, and part for reconstruction of a town 50 miles inside Mozambique destroyed by a Rhodesian attack.
While the details would, of course, have to be explored by with Mozambique, I am sure that money sent to help with such needs would be welcome.

3) Investigation of the possibility of a limited number of North Americans going to spend some time (2 or 3 years) working in Mozambique, with the understanding that they were committed in participating in continuing struggle and solidarity work once they returned to this country. Mozambique clearly will get along with or without such personnel, but there is a need for trained personnel who are willing to work within the context of the Mozambican revolution, and for the long run ties between the struggle here and in southern Africa, and understanding between the American people and the Mozambican people, this could be a useful contribution.

These notes are no finished plan, complete and well-worked out, but simply some reflections intended to bring to people's attention the needs, after a period in which attention has been understandably focused primarily on Angola, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

SEED POTATOES FOR ANGOLA
July 1976

Several months ago the Angola Comite in the Netherlands received a request to help supply seed-potatoes to be used in the next planting season in Angola, by cooperatives that were organized in the province of Malange. The request was for 200 tons of seed potatoes. The Angola Comite began working on the project in May of this year, calculating that the total costs for the project at approximately $300 per ton of seed potatoes, and including transport, would be somewhat more than $60,000. While launching a campaign within the Netherlands, particularly through people involved in agricultural schools, they realize that they are unlikely to raise the whole amount there. Hearing of the Chicago meeting they wondered if groups there would want to collaborate with this effort.

At the request of the MPLA Solidarity Committee, some information concerning this project was sent from the Netherlands, background on cooperatives in Malange and the request having been received for seed potatoes. Some of that information arrived before the Chicago meeting, but evidently was not organized enough to be presented systematically to the meeting. Other details, such as that in the first paragraph above, arrived in the mail the day after the meeting.

Some of the background material is now with Bill Minter (Africa News, PO Box 3851, Durham, NC 27702) who was in the Netherlands at that time and made the contact with the Angola Comite on behalf of MPLA Solidarity Committee, after receiving a letter asking for more details on possible agricultural projects in Angola. Some of the material is still with MPLA Solidarity Committee in New York. If it was useful to prepare a more extensive background piece and send it out to the groups which had been at Chicago, it would be possible to do so (some of the material does have to be translated from Portuguese or Dutch, but that can be arranged).

Since the Angola Comite, Da Costastract 88, Amsterdam, Netherlands,
is already working on this project, has experience with material aid, and telex contact with Luanda, and since shipping from Europe is undoubtedly more efficient and less expensive than from the US, groups interested could undoubtedly send money directly to them, as well as contacting them if more information were needed about deadlines, the background of the project, etc.

LETTER TO MPLA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, NEW YORK
FROM STATE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

Equipment:

light:
- Sprayers (knapsack and to be fitted to a tractor)
- Rotative weeding machines
- Combines for bread cereals and rice (rail motor)
- Diggers for draining ditches with shock-absorbing disks
- Diggers for draining ditches with three cutting blades
- Mechanical grain-cleaners
- Fertilizer distributor to be fitted to a tractor
- Rotary hoes
- Offset grilles of 14/16 disks of 18/20"
- Offset grilles of 18/20 disks of 20/22"
- Trailer graders
- Drills for 6", 9", and 18" ditches
- Grain and fertilizer drills to be fitted to a tractor
- Wheel tractors with hydraulic puller on three points;
  from 40 to 45 H.P.
  from 50 to 55 H.P.

heavy:
- Ploughs of 4/5 fixed, towed disks
- Heavy grilles (Athens D 20/26 type TAW)
- Motor graders
- Crawler tractors (types D 6 and D 7)
- Wheel tractors (International type 660 D and Richard Continental CRS with platform)
- Rippers for crawler tractors

Revolutionary Greetings,
Office of the State Secretary of Agriculture, in Luanda