Once again, the Clark Amendment which prohibits CIA activity in Angola has come under attack -- this time from the new Administration. President Reagan has included the request to repeal the amendment as a part of the Security Assistance Act of 1982. This action -- the Reagan administration's first major foreign policy decision towards Africa -- reflects a basic insensitivity to Southern Africa issues and sends an ominous signal to independent Africa.

This is the second time the Clark Amendment has come under attack in the last year. In June 1980, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) attempted to have it repealed. But the Senate and House committees on the foreign aid bill voted to retain the central element of the Clark Amendment -- Congressional control over all U.S. military or paramilitary aid to any Angolan group. We ask for your help again in this crucial political battle!

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES

The House will move more quickly than the Senate on the security assistance bill. The Africa Subcommittee, now chaired by Michigan Representative Howard Wolpe, will be the first body to make recommendations on the sections of the bill affecting Africa. The Subcommittee has tentatively scheduled hearings on Angola for April 2nd and then, by mid-April, it will make its recommendations on this and other Africa issues to the full House Foreign Affairs Committee. The full committee will then make its decision on what to recommend to the House. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will also be acting on the bill in April or May and sending its version to the full Senate, after which selected members of the House and Senate committees will meet in conference to negotiate over the differences.

Therefore, the first important struggle over the Clark Amendment will take place in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Following that, we can turn our attention to the full House and to the Senate.

IMPACT OF REPEAL

If the Clark Amendment is repealed, it is almost certain that the U.S. will again intervene in Angola, as it did during the 1975-76 Angolan civil war. President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig have both said that they favor giving military support to UNITA. Jonas Savimbi, the leader of UNITA, is expected to visit the United States soon; he will certainly lobby for renewed U.S. aid.

The Reagan administration is determined to make Angola the testing ground for countering Soviet influence in Southern Africa as El Salvador is in Central America. Congress is becoming increasingly uneasy about U.S. intervention in El Salvador. We must show that potential intervention in Angola is just as intolerable. U.S. military involvement in Angola would mean once again aligning our country with South Africa against the legitimate government of Angola which is...
recognized by all countries with the exception of China, Senegal and the U.S. This alliance with South Africa will bring loud criticism from independent Africa.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We must act NOW. Please send an early message to the Administration that Southern Africa is not to be a pawn in the East-West rivalry being played out by the Reagan administration. A vote on the Clark Amendment this spring will be the only opportunity for Congress to veto CIA covert operations in Angola and prevent a major U.S. foreign policy blunder in Africa. Here are some specific actions you can take:

For national organizations:
(1) Write to all members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging them to oppose repeal of the Clark Amendment on Angola. Contact the Washington Office on Africa if you can help to lobby with specific members of Congress.

(2) Alert your constituents immediately about the move to repeal the Clark Amendment. Urge them to write letters or meet with their Congressional representatives, particularly if they are members of the foreign affairs committees.

(3) Include an article on U.S. policy towards Angola and the threat of U.S. intervention in your next newsletter.

For local groups and individuals:
(1) Meet with your Congressional representatives about Angola, perhaps in a delegation of people from several community groups. Establish and maintain contact with staff aids in the local or Washington office. Send your contact press clippings and position statements on Angola, and ask him or her to keep you informed of your representative's position on Angola.

(2) Monitor local press coverage of this issue and respond immediately to newspaper stories and editorials and TV and radio reports, either supporting or opposing the positions taken. Send us a copy of the article and your response.

(3) Urge your local press and electronic media to do a story on possible U.S. intervention in Angola, perhaps in connection with a story on U.S. policy towards El Salvador. Encourage the writing of supportive editorials by meeting with representatives of the editorial board when the issue comes before Congress. Provide them with background materials and information on recent developments on the issue.

(4) Can you identify other people in your district or state -- professors, church people, civil rights leaders or others -- who might want to work to influence U.S. policy towards Southern Africa? Send us their names and addresses so we can be in touch with them directly.

Please let us know the results of the action you take! Send us information about your Congressional representative's response on the Clark Amendment.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Democrats: Zablocki (WI-4), Fountain (NC-2), Fascelli (FL-15), Rosenthal (NY-8), Hamilton (IN-9), Bingham (NY-22), Yatron (PA-6), Solarz* (NY-13), Bonker (WA-3), Studds* (MA-12), Ireland* (FL-8), Mica* (FL-11), Barnes* (MD-8), Wolpe* (HI-3), Crockett* (HI-13), Shamansky (OH-12), Gejdenson (CT-2), Dymally (CA-31), Eckart* (OH-22), Lantos (CA-11) Republicans: Broomfield (MI-19), Derwinski (IL-4), Findley (IL-20), Winn* (KS-3), Gilman (NY-26), Guyer (OH-4), Lagomarsino (CA-19), Goodling* (PA-19), Pritchard (WA-1), Fenwick (NJ-5), Dornan* (CA-27), Leach (IA-1), Erdahl (MN-1), Roth (WI-8), Snowe* (ME-2), LeBoutillier (NY-6). (*Africa Subcom.)