

PRESS RELEASE

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APPEAL TO CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE

In the 101st Congress first session (HR 1899) in the House of Representatives on April 13, 1989, Mr. Ronald V Dellums introduced a bill to eliminate US military assistance to Zaire, to allow economic assistance only if it benefits the majority and its purpose is humanitarian and sets a standard of human and political rights which US foreign policy should promote.

We wish to appeal to your consciences by outlining the actual and physical conditions pertaining to zaire to-day.

1. Representative Dellums has outlined problems mainly of underdevelopment in Zaire caused by Mobutu and his ruling Caucus supported by successive US Administrations which:

2. The ruling caucus in Zaire is the same both in government and in the Party. This is evidenced by the fact that when the Belgian Press blamed Mobutu and his caucus for diverting aid funds into their own accounts, the Zairean ruling Party immediately condemned the Belgium Government and its press instead of supporting it for what is almost so unversally known. The diversion of funds by this caucus to build and purchase immense villas and chateavs all over Europe is depriving the poor Zaireans of health facilities and communication roads for the transportation of produce between starving villages. The road system in the country was last maintained by the colonial Government about 29 - 30 years ago and to-day they are all lying derelict and impassable. In short communication of any kind is

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non-existent in Zaire. The ruling Party in Zaireans ^{has} completely lost touch with the masses and has therefore in reality lost every right to guide ~~the~~ ^{and} lead them into a prosperous future which every nation is entitled to expect. The Chief witness to this is the departure of the two IMF Officials who quit Zaire after finding that the financial situation was unmanageable due to the outflow of National earnings into personal accounts outside the country and rampant corruption among the caucus.

3. The ruling caucus in Zaire comprises ^{of} only 5% of the population. They are the ruling clique which makes law that govern the 95% of the under-privileged and pillaged masses. The US Administration is the main supporter of the regime. Unfortunately as is known this is not the first time or place that the US Administration has and is supporting repressive regimes Worldwide eg. Vietman, Nicaragua and Zaire. It can be remembered that it was swept by the wind in Phillipines after having kept sustaining Marcos. The Administration was aware that Marcos was diverting enormous American aid into his personal investments in the United States and after the masses the Phillipines decided enough was enough and pushed him out. Washington, in order to clean its face exerted pressure for him to answer charges of diversion of the funds. Anyone would have thought that the US Administration had learnt its lesson. But the fundamental, if ironic, question arises: if the Administration is fully aware that all the loans and aid to Zaire goes into Mobutus personal account in Europe and none goes into the Country's development why should the masses be called upon to repay what they never get?. The US government could not let such things take place amidst the strongest democracies of the World. Why does it not help Zaire achieve the same status. In this century for Zaire

to be left to rely solely on herbalists for treatment due to lack of clinics and lack of communications of any kind while funds are being repatriated is intolerable to say the least.

Our love for freedom and democracy dictates some of us to hide in the jungles for fear of our lives and we write these appeals to Honourable Members of Congress and the Senate to enable you to understand the plight of the Zaire people outlining facts pertaining to our country. What is sour to the US must surely be sour to the Zaire people too. However we take solace and feel comforted by the fact that we have enlightened representatives of the suffering Zairean masses in the US Congress like Congressman Dellum than members of our own so-called Parliament in Kinshasa who merely represent the interests of the ruling caucus and are able to lobby Capital Hill.

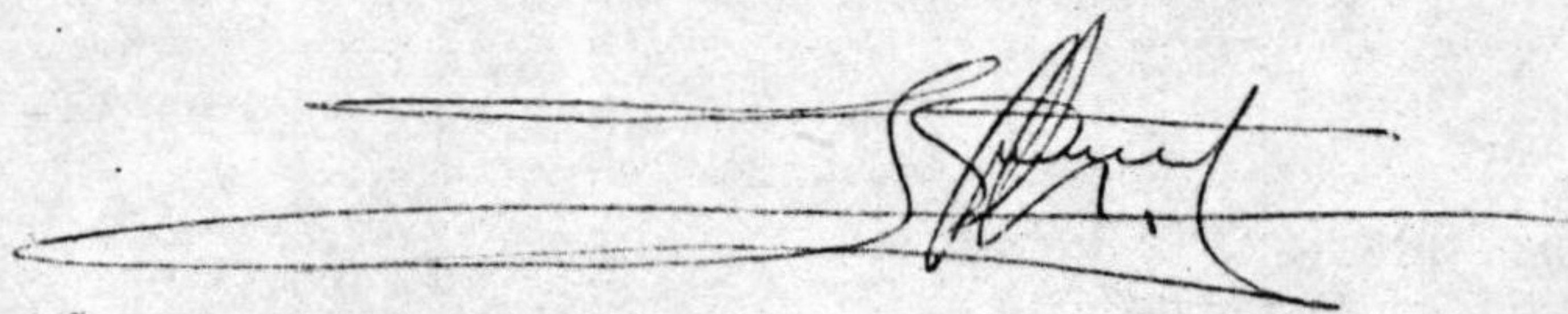
It is indeed heartening and encouraging to see that some Congressmen, as demonstrated by Congressman Dellum, do not share the repressive attitude and negative views of successive US Administrations. Unlike us John the Baptist was lucky that when he called in the wilderness he was heard in spite of poor Communications at the time. But from our jungle we are unable to lobby ^{the} Congress.

The Secretary of State recently queezed Present Mobutu on violation of human rights in Zaire and he is understood to have told him that he is supported by all Zaireans in the Country and therefore there is no problem. The United States Government on a Tuesday, June 27, 1989 openly declared its intention to continue supporting UNITA despite a ceasefire with the Angola government. The fact remains that the Kinshasa ruling caucus is the only one that understands what is discussed at world and international forums

and therefore is bound to support Mobutu while the masses are languishing unrepresented, in abject conditions and simply can not be heard outside their villages. In order to save his face President Mobutu offered to help solve the Angola problem between MPLA and UNITA, because he is known to provide facilities for US military supplies to UNITA and therefore he is an embarrassment to the OAU and Africa. Unfortunately he continues to manifest his double-dealing and blood-thirsty qualities because he is continuing to facilitate the US administrations support and supplies to UNITA even during this ceasefire.

We call upon all other Congressman and Senators in the United States to support Rep Dillum in the name of the dying children of Zaire who simply and desperately watch their potentially rich country being plundered and depleted by Mobutu and his caucus. The existing massive repression and kleptocracy by Mobutu does not augur well for the maintenance of any US interests at all as the US government thinks.

ALEXANDRE BOFOF
Responsible for the MNC - Lumumba
Africa Bureau

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Bofof', is written over two horizontal lines. The signature is stylized and cursive.