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## ANGOLA EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN



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**Bulletin 4: June 1993**

### **The Situation in Angola**

#### **Unita Attacks Escalate**

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The UN suggest that Unita occupies roughly 75% of Angola's territory. However, such estimates can be misleading: the territory of Angola is vast, and the forces deployed by Unita (up to 50,000 troops) whilst well-armed and dangerous are not in a position to completely occupy large tracts of territory. Furthermore, the majority of the population, including refugees fleeing Unita attacks in the hinterland, is in the larger towns, including Luanda, still strongly defended by the Government.

#### **...Deaths and destruction increasing**

As the death toll mounts to 1000 a day, hundreds of thousands of people are in urgent need of food, clothing, medicines, blankets. A new threat is arising from the onset of drought in the southern provinces, and Angolans returned from neighbouring countries also need assistance. Figures compiled by the Angolan Government, in conjunction with Unicef, the World Food Programme, and the UNHCR paint a bleak picture of two million people affected by the emergency, over 400,000 of them children under 5. Even these figures, stark though they are, are likely to be an underestimate. For example, Unita refuse to allow international teams to visit areas they occupy, including Huambo, where there must be many more people wounded, hungry, or displaced (Unita has no governmental or administrative capacity, even if it had the will, to care for the civilian population.)



## Unita destroy peace hopes

The long-running negotiations between the Angolan Government and Unita, taking place in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, finally broke up on 21 May. Unita's intransigence caused the collapse of the talks, which resulted from their refusal to agree to "Point 11" of a draft protocol, which would have required them to withdraw their military forces from occupied municipalities. As the UN, the three observer countries, and the Angolan Government, subsequently revealed, the Angolan Government had made a number of political concessions in the hope of obtaining a ceasefire agreement from Unita. Unita, however, seemed determined to pursue their military option, regardless of the deaths, destruction, and misery inflicted upon the Angolan people.

## **International Community Responses**

### USA: Recognition at last

On Wednesday May 19, before the sabotage of the peace talks by Unita, President Clinton finally announced his Government's recognition of the Republic of Angola and its democratically-elected government. Recognition followed on much lobbying and pressure in the States and worldwide, and was influenced by a Joint Congressional resolution, pressure from Black Congressional leaders, and, it is understood, pressure from the ANC and other democratic forces in South Africa.

### United Nations : Unita condemned

On 1 June, the Security Council adopted SCR 834, the strongest yet condemnation of Unita. Para 3 reiterates the demand that Unita accept the results of the democratic elections, and abide by the Bicesse Accords, whilst para 4:

"Condemns Unita for its actions and armed attacks, which have resulted in increased hostilities and which endanger the peace process, and demands that it immediately cease such actions and armed attacks".

Para 5 Welcomes the peaceful intent of the Angolan Government at Abidjan, and "deeply regrets" Unita's refusal to agree to withdraw from occupied areas, reaffirming that such occupation is a grave violation of the Bicesse Accords. The Resolution goes on to hold Unita responsible for the breakdown of talks, and reaffirms that the Security Council "will consider all appropriate measures under the Charter of the United Nations" to implement the Accords. Furthermore, for the first time, the Resolution explicitly calls on all States to refrain from providing any form of direct or indirect military assistance to Unita inconsistent with the peace process (Para 10).

At the same time as stepping up the verbal condemnation of Unita, the Security Council however, scaled down the size of the UNAVEM monitoring force, and only extended the mandate to 15 July 93. Mediation efforts are to continue, but, until the newer and tougher line on Unita is translated into action - or the credible threat of action - it is hard to see what could compel



Unita to return to talks.

#### Donor Conference seeks over \$200 million aid for Angola

The UN Secretary-General's report of 25 May recognised the humanitarian emergency facing the Angolan people as a result of Unita's war. The UN had, after the seizure of Huambo by Unita, assisted in the evacuation to safety of 6000 civilian refugees, mostly women and children, who had escaped Unita's onslaught. In the same operation 350 tons of food and medicines were transported by convoy to the needy civilian and refugee population of Caibambo. Such initiatives, though welcome, are however far below the scale of assistance required.

Accordingly, the UN has drawn up a one-year \$226 million comprehensive programme, and convened a donor Conference in Geneva on June 1, to request Governments and NGOs to back the programme. A sign of the new attitude to Angola of the Clinton administration was their pledging of a significant amount towards the total. Britain has also pledged 3000 tons of wheat and £2-£3 million cash. Whilst some of the aid is an extension of existing programmes, and, disappointingly, France, Netherlands, and Russia were not present in Geneva, overall there should be a tangible increase in delivery of food, medicines and other needed supplies for Angola's people, but probably still falling short of the needs.

#### **Solidarity Responses**

##### 4000 petition signatures presented to Baroness Chalker

The AEC Petition, calling for emergency aid to Angola, had attracted over 4000 signatures by the time it was presented to Baroness Chalker on April 28. The Petition was presented by Bob Hughes, MP, Chair of Anti-Apartheid Movement, Peter Brayshaw, Co-Chair of Mozambique Angola Committee, and Michael Meacher MP, Shadow Spokesperson on overseas development, and a recent visitor to Angola on a fact-finding mission.

The delegation held a short meeting with the Minister, and, as well as the need for stepped-up material aid, pressed for tougher action against Unita by the international community, and for Britain to use its influence to secure US recognition of the Republic of Angola. Exchanges of correspondence with Baroness Chalker were later provided to the main Angola aid NGOs.

##### Solidarity Conference addressed by Angolan MPs

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120 people, including diplomatic representatives of frontline states, attended the Conference in London. They heard Bornito de



Sousa give a definitive outline of the events around Unita's resumption of war to overturn the election results, and say:

"The international community cannot remain subject to Mr Jonas Savimbi's dictatorial and militarist blackmail".

He set out a 6-point programme of action, including demilitarization of Unita, defence of the democratic institutions; support for the 2 million displaced by war; demobilisation programmes for Government and Unita soldiers; support for civil institutions and democratic culture; economic and material support, and investment; closure of Unita offices in Britain.

The delegation also had a series of other meetings during their stay, including several groups of British parliamentarians, aid NGOs, and the Foreign Office. Other discussions at the AEC conference included details of the material and humanitarian situation on the ground in Angola (led by Paul Robson, One World Action) the lessons of and for the UN (Malcolm Harper, UNA). Victoria Brittain led a plenary session on the role of and failure of the international community to support the Angolan people and Government, including a particular critique of US policies. Michael Terry (AAM), and Peter Brayshaw (MAC) introduced campaigning sessions.

#### Angola Emergency Campaign despatch medical aid

Many AEC supporters have been sending donations, and some money was sent with the Petition forms. As a result, we have been able to buy supplies of Chloramphenicol, Ampicillin, and procaine penicillin, and we were pleased to be able to send the first part of a consignment back with the Angolan MPs on their return flight.

#### AEC Support grows...

A growing number of organisations, including several national trade unions, War on Want, the UNA, etc, have agreed to become Participating Organisations of the Campaign. At the same time, AEC speakers have addressed public meetings in various parts of the country, and our press releases and articles have attracted interest.

#### ...but more needed -

The severity of the emergency means solidarity action needs to be further intensified. We urgently need more supporters to keep up the pressure on the British Government, by sending letters to the Foreign Secretary and/or constituency MPs. We also have a campaign postcard we hope you will send, calling for mandatory sanctions against Unita. Donations for medical aid and campaign expenses are always needed and welcomed. Contact us (c/o AAM) for more details on what you and your organisation can do to help defend peace and democracy in Angola, and to stop Savimbi's war.





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