

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION RELATING TO ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. OVERT AID - On February 17 the House International Relations Committee passed an amendment to the military aid bill, requiring specific Congressional authorisation for any overt aid to any faction in Angola. This is stronger than the corresponding language in the Senate, which would only allow a Congressional veto of such aid but would not require prior approval. This is significant not just for Angola but also as a precedent for control over future involvement in Southern Africa. The House version should be retained in Conference and to this end supporters of the amendment should be placed on the Conference Committee.
2. AID TO ZAIRE - The Administration has requested \$19 million in military aid to Zaire as part of an \$80 million package of military and civilian aid and credits. An amendment by Congressmen Harrington and Bonker to cut this back to the Fiscal 1975 level of only \$3.9 million was defeated in committee. However, if it is re-introduced from the floor it should receive full support for a fair hearing and passage. This amendment is significant because Zaire was one of the main conduits for American aid to the discredited FNLA faction in Angola.
3. MERCENARY RECRUITMENT - Recruitment of mercenaries for Angola in the United States went on well into this year; there is much evidence that this went on with the complicity of the U.S. Armed Forces. As such recruitment is clearly illegal, there should be an inquiry into what the Justice Department is doing to investigate and prosecute such recruiters.
4. BYRD AMENDMENT - This amendment allows a loophole in sanctions against the illegal Smith government in Rhodesia, for the import of chrome from Rhodesia. It represents support for this faltering regime which is likely to fall to African liberation fighters within this year. A bill to repeal the Byrd Amendment was narrowly defeated in the House last year. We congratulate Congressman O'Neill for voting for repeal last year and hope he will lend his support to speedy introduction and passage of a bill for repeal during this year.
5. EXPORT-IMPORT CREDITS FOR SOUTH AFRICA - The Fluor Corporation of California has requested \$225 million in Export-Import Bank credits for South Africa, to finance part of an operation to convert coal into oil. This would represent major U.S. support to the South African economy when many investors are leaving South Africa. 28 conservative Senators have written to the President to support these credits; there should be countervailing legislative pressure on the other side, against support for the Apartheid system.

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