

The American Committee on Africa

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ANGOLA - THE WORLD'S WORST WAR

December 13, 1993

Dear Bill,

One thousand people will die today in Angola. They will be killed in a war Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA movement are fighting to overturn Angola's internationally recognized democratic election.

As I write to you U.N. sponsored cease-fire negotiations are underway between the Angolan government and UNITA. We hope that these negotiations will bring a peace agreement. But the danger is that UNITA has made and broken many agreements in the past. Each time they have paused to re-arm and then launched a new war.

Meanwhile in Angola the killing goes on. The U.N. has designated Angola "the worst war in the world." Over 100,000 people have died since September 1992 when Savimbi went to war because he lost the election.

UNITA even fires on UN planes carrying food and medicine. Until recently the city of Cuito had received only a handful of relief flights in many months. An eyewitness described how people "at the hospital would crawl on their knees to the veranda and eat grass, leaves and ants." The last doctor fled the city driven by hunger.

Scenes like this are repeated every day in towns and cities throughout Angola. UNITA is using hunger and disease as weapons in their war against the democratically elected government.

The U.S. is heavily responsible for the death and suffering in Angola.

The CIA armed and financed UNITA to the tune of at least \$45 million during the Reagan and Bush years. The U.S. and its allies have always refused to exert any effective pressure to force Savimbi to honor any of the previous cease fires, and only formally recognized the Angolan government in May.

In their savage war UNITA planted landmines, many of them from the U.S., which have maimed tens of thousands of people. Because of these landmines Angola has over 55,000 amputees.

The Clinton Administration has taken a few steps to undo the damage. But much more is needed.

There is a UN arms and oil embargo on UNITA but it goes largely unenforced. Munitions and fuel are flown in regularly from South Africa. Mobutu's Zaire sells UNITA arms in return for plundered diamonds.

The UN is trying to raise a \$120 million fund for humanitarian relief. But less than half that amount has been pledged.

We need a new U.S. policy to meet Angola's desperate needs.

The first priority is public pressure on South African President F.W. de Klerk and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire to stop all aid to UNITA. This needs to be backed up with satellite reconnaissance information on arms shipments. If there is a cease-fire, U.S. pressure will be needed to keep Savimbi from breaking the truce as he has so often in the past.

Since so many of the UNITA landmines that maimed 55,000 people were "Made In The U.S.A." the least we can do now is send mine disposal units to help disarm them.

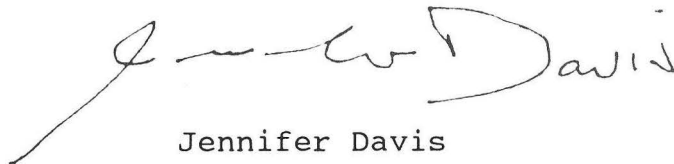
The U.S. should also contribute generously to the U.N. relief effort. Past U.S. administrations paid for UNITA's war machine. Now it is time for the Clinton Administration to pay for humanitarian assistance for UNITA's victims.

ACOA is mobilizing Americans from coast to coast to campaign for this new policy. You can add your voice today by signing the enclosed post card to President Clinton.

We also need your financial help to spread this campaign. ACOA has never received a penny of government, corporate or financial funding. All our support comes from people like you, who care about African freedom.

I hope you will give as generously as you possibly can. Remember, time is short for the Angolan people. Action is vital.

For freedom,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jennifer Davis

P.S. I want to thank you for all your help over the years. Thanks to you, we have won many important victories. I hope we can count on you again in the challenging and exciting days ahead. I want to wish you and yours all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Place

Stamp

Here

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

I urge you to act today to pressure UNITA to agree to a lasting and democratic peace in Angola. I also urge that the U.S. send mine disposal units to help disarm the U.S. made landmines planted by UNITA.

Signature