Aid to Unita is Aid to South Africa


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## Aid to Unita is Aid to South Africa

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American Committee On Africa

American Committee On Africa
In 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038  l (212) 962-1210 l Cable
AMCOMMAF
AID TO UNITA IS AID TO SOUTH AFRICA
To: Key Contacts
From: Jennifer Davis

There are sinister moves afoot in Washington. This summer President Reagan was forced by Congressional pressure to impose some very limited sanctions on apartheid South Africa. Before the ink was dry the Administration was back on its old policy track supporting South Africa in its war against Angola. The Reagan Administration is seriously considering providing covert military aid to the anti-government rebels in Angola known as UNITA.

Since the collapse of Portuguese colonialism and the establishment of an independent government in Angola in 1975, South Africa has been using UNITA in its war to undermine Angolan independence. The Angolan government has been a strong supporter of independence for Namibia and freedom for South Africa. As such it is a threat to South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

South Africa's army first invaded Angola at the time of independence. It was only driven back from the capital by the combined efforts of the Angolan army and Cuban troops, who came to Angola in response to a plea by Angola's President Neto for international support. In addition to its own repeated invasions the South Africans have found a useful surrogate in UNITA, headed by Jonas Savimbi. Despite UNITA's claims to the status of freedom fighters, its tactics are brutal. Mutilation and murder of innocent civilians, sabotage which has resulted in the death of hundreds of Angolans and kidnapping of foreign nationals. UNITA survives as a force because of South African support. It has been armed, trained and supplied by the South African Defense Force. Only the direct intervention of South African troops prevented Savimbi from losing his base in southeast Angola in September.

At the same time as the administration is preparing to provide covert aid to UNITA, similar moves are are being made by right wing forces in Congress. Two bills recently introduced into the House of Representatives would have the United States overtly provide $54 million in military and "nonlethal" aid to UNITA. The first, introduced by Representative Claude Pepper of Miami and Rep. Jack Kemp of Buffalo (HR 3472) would provide $27 million in non-military aid. Rep. Mark Siljander of Michigan has introduced a bill (HR 3609) for $27 million in military aid.

Where would the aid go? Savimbi has no bank in the bush. The answer is
South Africa. Such funds would join the millions of rands the Pretoria
government is spending to supply UNITA. Military aid would be a direct
violation of the arms embargo that even the Reagan administration claims to
support. Aid to UNITA is aid to South Africa.
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We need to build a quick opposition to these dangerous measures. The chairman
of the House subcommittee on Africa, Rep Howard Wolpe, and other
Representatives knowledgeable about US-African relations, have already opposed
this US intervention in Angola. They argue that such an alliance with South
Africa will discredit us in independent Africa and increase Angola's need for
Cuban military protection from South African troops. In addition, it will take all
pressure off South Africa to implement an internationally acceptable settlement in
Namibia.
It is inevitable that the US, once in the Angolan breach, will be drawn
in deeper and deeper. South Africa's troops and police are more and more
stretched trying to contain revolution at home and an expanding regional war. Aid
to UNITA is aid to South African repression at home and aggression in Angola.
We urge you to immediately contact your Representative to oppose all bills and
any actions of the administration to support UNITA.
November 12, 1985
Rep.
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

American Committee On Africa
198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 100381(212)962-1210 I Cable AMCOMMAF
THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985
AIROAD AT HOME I Anthony Lewis
Marching for Pretoria
WASHINGTON
outh Africa's white minority
Government may have its American critics these days, but it has just pulled off a
remarkable public-relations coup in this country. AP leading Republican, a
potential calididate for President, has endos-ed one of Pretoria's main policy
objectives.
Jack Kemp, the conservative Congressman from upstate New York,
has.iproduced a bill to give $27 million in "nonlethal aid" to the Unita guerrillas in
Angola. South Africa supplies Unita and has been urgently trying to get the United
States in as its pArtner in supporting the warAgainst the .Angolan Government.
S.F ora shrewd politician like Jack Kerpp, it is a surprising position. Does he
foresee some shift in Ameritai opinion that will make it advantagedus to come on
as an ally of P.W. Begha? Is he planning to run with the Itey, Jerry Falweli on an
all-apartheid ticket?
Of course Mr. Kemp would deny that he wants to give aid and comfort to white South Africa. He would say that his bill aims only at a new U.S. role in the Angola conflict. But follow it through, and the result is plain. The big winner from that involvement would be the Botha Government in Pretoria - and the big loser would be the United States.

Mr. Kemp is not alone in arguing intervention. Over the last few weeks, by amazing coincidence a number of conservative columnists and politicians have come out for aid to Unita a parade stretching all the way over to Jeane Kirkpatrick on the right.

Mr. Kemp's bill would back South Africa
Reagan Administration. William Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, and others have been pushing hard for support of Unita - covert support if necessary. Secretary of State Shultz has opposed the idea. The argument for intervention is that it would be a way of resisting Communism in southern Africa. Cuba has 30,000 troops in Angola to help defend its Marxist Government. The Soviet Union has provided massive military aid.

Unita's leader, Jonas Savimbi, is also praised, in Mr. Kemp's words, as a believer in 'democratic government.' That description is likely to strike some as odd. He is a charismatic figure with a genuine following in Angola, but he has not held to any particular political theory except power for Jonas Savimbi. Unita has used classic terrorist tactics, taking hostages and shooting down civilian planes. Do Mr. Kemp, Dr. Kirkpatrick and the others favor selective terrorism?

But the point is really not Mr. Savimbi. It is Cuban and Soviet influence in Angola and how to reduce it. And that is the wonderful irony in the idea of American intervention. For such intervention would be the surest way of guaranteeing that the Russians and Cubans stay in Angola.

The policy of the Reagan Administration has been to arrange a Cuban withdrawal from Angola in tandem with a settlement next door in Namibia - one that would see South Africa pull out of that territory. For many years now South Africa has blocked such a settlement, by diplomatic obstruction and repeated military invasions of Angola. Why would President Botha block an arrangement that would see the Cubans leave? Because he wants them to stay. They provide living proof of his devil theory that Communism lies behind all unrest in South Africa and its environs.

Draw the United States into the Angolan war, and you can be sure the Cubans and Russians will not leave. Then, Mr. Botha may hope, he will be able to present the struggle in his own country not as the one for racial justice that it is, but as part of the East-West conflict.

For America to join South Africa in the Angolan war would risk grave consequences for us. It would convince many Africans that the United States is fundamentally in tune with Pretoria. It would be the strongest argument for Communist that Africa has heard in years.

That is the trap in the Kemp bill. It has a co-sponsor, the Democrat Claude Pepper of Florida, whose involvement may be explained through the presence of anti-
Castro Cubans in his district. But what is the excuse for Jack Kemp and the others to play so ignorantly with such dangers?
The House Republican leaoui, Robert Michel, wrote Secretary Shultz that the Kemp-Peppt, Oil) would "leave no doubt what, . whose side we are on in that troubled part of the world." Exactly: on South Africa's side. 0]

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Covert Aid
For Angola
Is Pushed
By David B. Ottaway Washington Post Staff Writer
The Defense Department and Central Intelligence Agency are urging the White House to approve before the U.S.-Soviet summit a large covert military operation to aid noncommunist rebels fighting the Marxist Angolan government, congressional and intelligence sources said yesterday.

One source said the money proposed is in the range of "two to three hundred million dollars," a figure eight to 10 times higher than any proposed aid packages for Angolan rebels being considered by Congress.

Top Pentagon officials reportedly are particularly anxious to have the administration reach a decision before the Nov. 19-20 summit in order to strengthen President Reagan's hand in any negotiations with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev about regional conflicts in which the two superpowers are engaged.

Whether the United States should become reinvolved in the Angolan conflict by providing assistance to the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which the CIA aided during the 1975-76 civil war there, has created sharp internal divisions in various agencies and departments. Congress appears just as divided.

Meanwhile, the administration was reported yesterday to have given "private assurances" to House Rules Committee Chairman Claude Pepper (D-Fla.) that it will check the bill he is coSee ANGOLA, A14, Col. 3