

January 26, 1999

The Honorable Brenda Chamberlain
Member of Parliament
40 Cork St..
Guelph, ON N1H 2W8

BY FAX

Dear Ms. Chamberlain:

We are writing to request your support in our efforts to lobby the government to act on the most recent politico-military crisis in Angola in its capacity as a member of the UN Security Council. Development Workshop (DW) and Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada (MAFC), both Guelph-based non-governmental organizations, have offices and programmes in Angola (DW since 1981 and MAFC since 1989).

Enclosed please find a copy of a commentary that we had prepared (jointly with five other Canadian NGOs who are working or supporting partners in Angola) and sent to major Canadian media outlets last Friday, January 22, 1999. The commentary outlines our position vis-à-vis the recent developments in Angola. In sum, we would like the Canadian Government to:

- 1) Ensure the continued presence of the UN in Angola. While the peacekeeping role of the UN Observer Mission to Angola (MONUA) is now redundant, the UN still has a crucial role to play in 3 key areas:
 - organizing humanitarian response and negotiating humanitarian access;
 - human rights monitoring and capacity building;
 - facilitating dialogues between the combatants.

A restructuring of MONUA within the country to ensure the capacity and intent to undertake these functions is now essential.

- 2) Advocate for the UN Special Envoy for Angola to be based in Luanda, Angola and not in New York as the UN Secretary-General plans. A political office in Angola could more quickly use new opportunities to facilitate dialogue between the warring parties. It is also important in negotiating humanitarian access to all parts of the national territory.
- 3) Ensure that the arms embargo on the UNITA is properly enforced and backed up with effective action on countries and corporations that break the embargoes.

- 4) Work to maintain the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UCAH) in its current form, which is essential to the coordination of humanitarian response in the country and essential to safely carrying out our respective programmes of assistance.

We are encouraged by Minister Axworthy's recent statement at the National Forum in Montreal (on 22 January 1999) where he outlined his vision of Canada's role on the UN Security Council over the next two years. We request your help to put our position across to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy and to call the attention of the Canadian International Development Agency to increase resources for humanitarian assistance efforts in Angola.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Maribel Gonzales
Executive Director
Development Workshop
P.O. Box 1834
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7A1
Tel: (519) 763 3978
Fax: (519) 821-3438



Brad Fretz
Executive Director
Mission Aviation Fellowship
264 Woodlawn Road West
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6K5
Tel: (519) 821 3914
Fax: (519) 823 1650