

January 25, 1999

The Honorable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
125 Sussex Dr.
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0G2

BY FAX

Dear Minister Axworthy:

Re: Breakdown of Peace in Angola

We request the Canadian government's support as member of the UN Security Council to put pressure on the Council to focus and act on the most recent politico-military crisis in Angola. A group of us Canadian NGOs working and/or supporting partners in Angola have jointly articulated our concerns in a commentary that we prepared and sent to major Canadian newspapers last Friday, January 22, 1999. A copy is attached for your reference. The commentary outlines our position vis-à-vis the recent developments in Angola. In sum, we request 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.

Fax
to Minister Axworthy
page 2

- 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 greatly encouraged by your recent statement at the National Forum in Montreal (on 22 January 1999) where you outlined your vision of Canada's role on the UN Security Council over the next two years. We offer information and ideas in conjunction with our Angolan contacts, and declare our determination not to let war overcome the thirst for peace which the vast majority of Angolans must truly feel, had they the freedom to express it.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

On behalf of Canadian NGOs working in Angola*



Maribel Gonzales
Development Workshop

* Alternatives, Angola Development Network, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Development Workshop, Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada, and United Church of Canada