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BRENDA CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.
GUELPH - WELLINGTON
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF LABOUR

February 1, 1999

Ms Maribel Gonzales
Executive Director
Development Workshop
P.O. Box 1834
Guelph, Ontario
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Dear Ms Gonzales,

I am writing in response to your joint letter with Mr. Brad Fretz dated January 26 and the enclosed commentary. I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns regarding Angola.

The federal government is very concerned about the worsening situation in Angola. Given the break down of the peace process and return to hostilities, the Secretary General of the United Nations recently recommended the withdrawal of the UN Observer Mission to Angola. Canada joined the other members of the Security Council in accepting this recommendation. However, we called for the retention in Angola of a UN political presence, the continuation of UN human rights monitors and UN humanitarian operations. The Security Council has also called on both sides of this conflict to grant humanitarian aid agencies immediate guarantees of security and access those in need.

I hope you have found this information to be useful. I appreciate you taking the time to share your views on this important matter. As requested, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, so that he can take your suggestions into consideration. I will contact you again as soon as I receive a reply from Minister Axworthy. Please note that a ministerial reply usually takes one to six months.

Yours Sincerely,

Brenda Chamberlain, M.P.
Guelph-Wellington
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of Labour