

by Marjorie Boehm

I want to thank the board for sending me as their delegate to this seminar. I learned a great deal about Angola and about what other organizations in the U.S. are doing to help the MPLA and stop U.S. intervention. I loved being in Cuba!

The Cuban government had agreed to host the seminar at the request of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola. Angola sent 3 delegates, 1 a woman. There were 26 delegates from the U.S. The first day and a small part of the second day were spent in reports from the U.S. delegates about their organizations and their activities, especially about Angola. The rest of the second day was given to the response of the MPLA, questions from the U.S. delegates and answers. A press conference, separate and joint delegation meetings, and 2 receptions also took place. There were Cuban observers and simultaneous translation. The Cubans sandwiched in a good amount of entertainment and touring. We spent some hours at a beach, visited a housing project--really a new city--and went to the Folklorico. The Cuban Women's Federation entertained me on my free day with a trip to a child care center, visits to the national headquarters and a neighborhood meeting, and a luncheon. I was received by Vilma Espin de Castro at the headquarters.

The Angolan delegates are young but experienced. They are realistic but confident that their movement and a liberated Angola will survive. They told us that the priorities in development will be agriculture, medical care, and education. Many of their people became acquainted with medical care only during the liberation struggle, and the present illiteracy rate is 90 per cent.

Foreign policy in Angola will be based upon non-alignment, unity with other revolutionary movements and with organizations such as ours, and support of other South African liberation movements. There will be no military installations not needed for the defense of the country.

The delegates said that they hoped for friendship with all peoples and states, including the United States.

Within Angola the delegates did not see a threat to the MPLA from guerilla action nor from the puppet governments of Zaire or Zambia. They believe that South Africa is approaching intermediaries to negotiate. Most of the UNITA and FNLA soldiers had weapons taken and were set free. We were told that the majority of them are now contributing to the new society.

The U.S. delegates adopted the following seven goals because of specific needs listed by the Angolan delegates and because of their desire for recognition by our government. They are:

A. U.S. RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA

1. We pledge wholeheartedly to commit our resources to seeking recognition of Angola, by
 - a. Generating support among the American people through the

dissemination of vital information by the press and all organizations represented by the Angola 26 Delegation; and
b. Lobbying in Congress in support of recognition.

B. NATION-BUILDING SUPPORT

1. Provision of Medical Aid:
 - a. Collection of pharmaceuticals and medicines which are especially used in tropical areas; and
 - b. Providing medically-trained personnel.
2. Obtaining fertilizers and agricultural equipment (tractors):
 - a. Finding corporations that could provide materials needed at least cost;
 - b. Raising funds to supply tractors and fertilizers;
 - c. Once U.S. recognition is obtained, lobbying in Congress for general agricultural aid to Angola.
3. Provision of Educational Aid (when indicated that such aid is desirable)

C. DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT MPLA AND THE ANGOLAN SITUATION IN THE U.S.

1. Use all means available to disseminate vital information throughout the U.S. about Angola; and
2. Provide all of the Angola 26 Delegation with information about all efforts each organization conducts, as well as efforts of the press.

D. AVERT A UNITED STATES ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF ANGOLA

1. Dissemination of information to the American people regarding efforts of the State Department to impose economic sanctions on Angola through pressure on Gulf and Boeing.
2. Utilize Congressional contacts who were most adamant about U.S. non-involvement in Angola to publicize U.S.-imposed sanctions.
3. If Gulf and Boeing have not performed (paying royalties and delivering planes) by the time we return to the U.S., to build support for a general boycott and exposure of the two companies.

E. ANGOLA GROUP VISITATION; GRANTING OF VISAS BY THE STATE DEPT.

1. Extension of formal invitation to Angolan group to visit U.S.
2. Legal challenge to State Dept. on granting of visas both to press seeking to go to Angola and to the Angolan groups seeking to come to the U.S.
3. Imposition of general pressure on the State Dept. to grant visas to Angolans and persons seeking to go to Angola.

F. SEEK TO AVERT ALL MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA

1. Dissemination of information to U.S. people about U.S. increasing military aid to Zaire and South Africa.
2. Lobby within Congress for defeat of further appropriations of such aid.

G. BROADEN THE BASE OF SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA

1. Organize a Working Conference (National) to be held in May; and
2. Organizations represented by Angola 26 Delegation to begin organizing regional meetings.

H. GENERAL NATIONAL COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF DELEGATION

(We designated a National Administrative Director and a coordinating committee of 5. Those names are starred on the following list of organizations represented at the seminar.)

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

1. Commandante Dibala, a members of the Central Committee and Political Commissar of the Eastern Front
2. Sra. Olga Lima, Director of Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Relations
3. Pedro Zinga Baptista, from the Department of Foreign Relations of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED FROM THE U.S.

1. Amalgamated Meatcutters & Butcher Workers of North America (AFL-CIO)
- * 2. American Committee on Africa, George Houser
3. American Friends' Service Committee
4. Black Economic Research Center
5. CASA - General Brotherhood of Workers
6. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (NYC)
7. Coalition for a New Foreign Policy
- * 8. MPLA Solidarity Committee, Barbara Barnes
- * 9. National Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Movement for African Liberation, Anthony Monteiro
- *10. National Conference of Black Lawyers, Patricia Murray, National Administrative Director
11. National Council of Churches (Africa Office)
12. Partido Socialista Puertorriqueña
13. Prairie Fire Organizing Committee
14. Third World Coalition/Southwest Workers Federation
- *15. U.S. Out of Angola Committee and Chicago Committee for Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guiné, Prexy Nesbitt
16. Venceremos Brigade
- *17. Washington Office on Africa, Edgar Lockwood
18. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
19. Youth Against War & Fascism

Members of the Press represented:

1. Afro-American Newspapers (Baltimore *Afro-American*)
2. *Bilalian News* (two journalists attended)
3. *Black Scholar*
4. *Freedomways Magazine*
5. *San Francisco Sun-Reporter*

One freelance labor journalist also attended.

PROPOSALS TO THE NATIONAL BOARD

- 1) That we include the 7 goals of the Angola 26 Delegation in our statement of policy on Angola.
- 2) That we utilize the tactics listed to help bring these goals about.
- 3) That we delegate as many as possible WILPF members to attend the May Working Conference in Chicago.
- 4) That we extend an invitation to the People's Republic of Angola, offering our hospitality to any proposed delegation.
- 5) That we inform members of the International Executive Committee of the needs and wishes of the People's Republic of Angola by sending them copies of this report.