

TO AID UNITA?

THE CHURCHES IN ANGOLA SPEAK

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ANGOLA

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN ANGOLA

WHAT DO THE U.S. CHURCHES MOST INVOLVED IN ANGOLA THROUGH PARTNER CHURCHES
SAY ABOUT WHETHER THE U.S. SHOULD AID THE UNITA ARMY?

The United Church of Christ which was the first U.S. Protestant church in
Angola (1880) --

"The United Church of Christ pursues the task of reconciliation in the following ways...declares its support for the U.S. government to pursue a policy in southern Africa which will be conducive to a peaceful resolution of the civil conflict in Angola that will respect the interests of all the Angolan people and will be conducive to a settlement in Namibia that will provide genuine independence from South Africa; urges U.S. government recognition of the MPLA government in Angola...opposes efforts by the U.S. government to provide covert or open assistance to any factions in the Angolan conflict."

Adopted by the 13th General Synod 1983

The Roman Catholic Bishops of Angola in 1984 stated:

"Our country is the victim of carnal hatred, with all the horrors that accompany it, dislocation of people, breakdown of families, hunger, sickness, death, and other evils of moral order. Even a part of our country is occupied by foreign forces, in violent opposition to international law. Hunger continues to be one of the greatest contradictions of our society. And this in spite of the fact that Angola has immense possibilities of furnishing food for her children as well as producing food for export. People die of hunger every day. Hunger has come to the point of menacing the people of Angola as it has done in the great epidemics of history. The war prevents people from working and creates beggars unnecessarily. Because of this, we find a population that is undernourished, open to the attack of disease, and aggravated, of course, by the absence of the most rudimentary drugs. The war and hunger create a climate of irresponsibility, lack of respect for life and the dignity of human kind. In consequence, we have lack of interest in work and degradation of social values.

"All those who are concerned about survival and dignity for our country will not hesitate to dedicate all of their energies so that the war will cease and the great Angolan family shall be reunited and reconciled. Angolans want peace for there is no other way open; either the extermination of the majority of the population or the Reconciliation of our severed Country. Reconciliation requires dialogue between all those who are involved in the conflict. Refusal to dialogue will result in a disaster which only others will

profit from and the Angolan family will be the victim. We say this in the name of Jesus Christ and we say it too in the name of the history of peoples."

The Catholic Bishops of Angola February 1984

The Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches said regarding assistance in some form to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola:

"We believe that such assistance, either humanitarian or military, covert or overt, can in no way serve the interests of the people of Angola, Namibia, South Africa, or Mozambique, nor can it serve U.S. interests. The assistance will further polarize and brutalize the civil war in Angola and clearly make the current Angolan government, which has taken bold steps toward an independent foreign policy in recent years, even more dependent upon military assistance from the Soviet bloc. The assistance will ally the United States with South Africa.... The effects of this alliance serve no good purpose.... We call on our government to immediately reject any requests for U.S. assistance to UNITA."

October 16, 1985

The United Methodist Church in Angola, the largest Protestant church there urges:

"United Methodists and United Methodist agencies and institutions to pressure their governments to ... end any collaboration with South Africa by:...

"Opposing South Africa's policy of destabilization of governments in neighboring countries....

"We further urge United Methodists and United Methodist agencies and institutions to pressure their governments to:...

"Oppose covert and overt support to insurgent groups in Angola as blatant intervention in its sovereignty.

"Encourage the United States and the Peoples' Republic of Angola to engage in diplomatic discussions which will lead to mutual recognition."

Adopted by the General Conference of the
United Methodist Church 1984

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