

GBC REP MEETS
WITH FNLA
OBSERVER TO UN

On November 5th, Pat Reach, Director of GBC, met with Mangali Tula, FNLA Official Observer to the United Nations. Tula was optimistic regarding the negotiations going on in Luanda between the liberation movements and the Portuguese. "Differences between FNLA, MPLA and UNITA are almost worked out" he said. Tula stated that he expects a transitional government to be set up by the end of this year and that elections, with United Nations observers, will be held within 4 months. Tula believes that Angola will be able to hold elections sooner than Mozambique, thus becoming the second former Portuguese colony to obtain independence.

When asked FNLA's views regarding Cabinda Tula's response was that "FNLA is in favor of unity for Angola." He does not believe that the Portuguese will encourage any type of separation between Cabinda and Angola.

On the question of multi-national corporations active in Angola, particularly Gulf Oil Corporation, Tula stated that their contracts would be reviewed when the Transitional government is set up. It was clear that Tula felt that this review would be influenced by the corporation's prior activities regarding Angolan independence.

Tula does not expect the Portuguese troops to leave Angola immediately. He feels that they will be asked to remain to insure law and order until after the elections are held.

GULF OIL
SUPPORTING
CABINDA
INDEPENDENCE??

Cabinda (Neues Deutschland, East German daily 12/13/74)--
The MPLA has violently denounced the demands of the "Liberation Front of the Enclave of Cabinda" for an independence Cabinda as an attempt of reactionary forces, working in concert with the Gulf Oil Company, to break off the province of Cabinda which is rich in natural resources. The MPLA communique, which was released in Algiers and Brazzaville, pointed to the UN and OAS charters which guarantee the territorial integrity of Angola.

GBC has no way of knowing whether or not Gulf is involved in the politics of Cabinda. However, a review of the history of multinational corporations involvement in the politics of other countries makes the above news release sound plausible. Letters to Gulf urging them to refrain from attempting to influence separation rather than unity are needed.

SHELDON
TESTIFIES BEFORE
SUB-COM ON
AFRICA

On October 8, 1974, Paul Sheldon, Vice President, Gulf Oil Corporation, testified before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, regarding Gulf's activities in Angola. Highlights of his speech include: "Assuming current crude oil prices and anticipated sale of expected production, the Angolan government could receive more than \$400 million from 1974 royalties and taxes."....."Prior to the change of Government last April, Gulf and the Portuguese government in Lisbon had begun negotiating government participation--part ownership in the concession...We expect that at some point in the future we will be asked to continue these negotiations, perhaps with representatives of the new provisional government in Angola."

CONOCO WITHDRAWS FROM NAMIBIA

The mission boards of the United Church of Christ announced on October 31, 1974 that Continental Oil Company (CONOCO) has informed them that it has decided to withdraw from oil explorations off the shores of Namibia.

The spokesman for the United Church agencies holding shares in Conoco, the Rev. Dr. Howard Schamer, said "We understand that Continental Oil Company is in the process of making contractual arrangements with its partners in this particular venture, Getty Oil and Phillips Petroleum, for the re-assignment of its interest and has so notified the South African government."

This is the first time that a multinational corporation, faced with mounting shareholder concern about its investment in a white minority-ruled part of Africa, has chosen to withdraw from the area, according to Dr. Schamer.

The United Church of Christ boards filed a shareholder resolution in both 1973 and 1974 asking the corporation to wind up all business activities in Namibia and adjacent waters "under purported concessions obtained from South Africa, until a government approved by the United Nations is established."

"We wish to commend Continental Oil Company for this statesmanlike decision," Dr. Schamer declared, "and we recommend that its partners follow suit."

He added that Conoco, from the beginning of the discussion of the Namibian issue, had indicated that it would not proceed to invest in Namibia solely on the basis of favorable geological and technical findings, that the company believed it important to operate in a social and political situation permitting the population to benefit from the development of its natural resources, and that it would support political agreements toward that end reached through negotiations between the United Nations and South Africa.

"I believe that the Black population of Namibia, and many African countries, will not fail to note that CONOCO's priorities have led it to get out of a questionable undertaking." Dr. Schamer said.

"They will expect other American companies to show the same foresight and courage. When the Namibian people win self-rule and the chance to develop their own resources, they will not forget which companies in their time of need recognized their inalienable rights." he added.

Dr. Schamer pointed out that African leaders in Namibia have called for a moratorium on the exploitation of their natural resources until the general population, and not merely the foreign occupying power and the foreign investor, can gain from their development.

There are presently four other American Oil companies investing in Namibia: Getty, Caltex, Texaco and Phillips. The Gulf Boycott Coalition urges that letters be sent to these companies asking them to follow CONOCO's example.