

FAX to 613-943-0227

To Mr. David Strangway, Canada Foundation for Innovation, Ottawa

From John van Mossel, Development Workshop, Ottawa

Ref: Briefing Notes on Angola

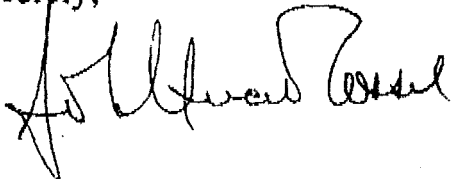
With reference to your supper meeting tonight with Foreign Affairs Minister Graham, I am please to attach the following four pages from Allan Cain.

Allan's points were written today in response to this opportunity and also in response to recent informal yet very clear news from DFAIT about the new openness within DFAIT and CIDA to position Canada in a much more active position regarding Angola.

- Page One of the attached is a Summary sheet.
- Following the Summary sheet is a Backgrounder of three pages.

I hope this provides you with useful points concerning Angola for your conversation tonight. Please call me if you would like to.

Sincerely,



John van Mossel
613-233-8913

for Development Workshop-Canada

c.c. Maribel Gonzales, Guelph ✓

Key Messages to Minister Graham From Allan Cain in Luanda, Angola

January 14, 2003

If Canada wants to influence governance and transparency in Angola, it should

- A. Support the Human Rights Programme of the UN mission in Angola,
- B. Support local Angolan organization (partners with DW) to engage in the national reconciliation process,
- C. Continue supporting justice-based projects like the existing Municipal Courts project (with Norway),
- D. Support the building of alliances among civil society organizations (partners with DW) who are speaking out on key issues - like the Land Law / modes of land management and the election of Provincial Governors,
- E. Support moves such as those being taken now by Canadian Natural Resources Limited/CNRL, (linked with Mary Tidlund Charitable Foundation of Calgary) to engage with Development Workshop on a funding structure that could be a model of good-practice and corporate responsibility.

Summary:

The Government of Angola listens much more closely to the opinions of national civil society than they do to the international community. It is therefore essential if Canada wants to influence governance and transparency in Angola that alliances are built with civil society partners.

DW wishes to acknowledge that DFAIT's Africa Bureau and CIDA's Southern Africa Desk are prepared to propose significant measures to place Canada in an active position related to Angola's reconciliation, reconstruction and socio-economic development in the wake of 40 years of war.

Background:

One of the partners/channels that the Canadian Government wishes to engage is through the UN Sec. General's mission in Angola, UNMA. I know that Ottawa /DFAIT has shown willingness in the past to wade in with the UN Mission (lead in the past by Ibrahim Gambari). The UN politics are, however, complex and the Angolan Government has not welcomed a political/military role for the UN's political office. I have in the past warned off DFAIT when they were tempted to step in support of one or another of Gambari's initiatives that were not welcome here by Government or the diplomatic community on-the-ground.

Today, we have a key problem/issue related to the renewal of UNMA's mandate in mid February. The Government is not keen on its renewal in its present form. The important issue for me and an issue that I would hope we could get Canada on-board with is the maintenance of the UN Human Rights Division (HRD) programme, which is intimately tied to UNMA. By being connected with UNMA the HRD benefits from the assessed budget contribution from UN member states. This means that the mission does not have to raise donor money like other agencies. This gives HRD a real advantage at a time when their work on support for the Justice system and human rights protection is crucial. There may be various options or mechanisms for a UN (Sec Gen) mission to continue in Angola, and for the HRD presence to be maintained. The mission will need to focus on humanitarian, transition, development, human rights and maybe eventual support for elections (probably in 2004), rather than trying to re-engage in political and military issues.

The Government and UNITA will continue working out a reconciliation programme between themselves, with mediation from the national churches, etc. The failure of UN Peace missions from 1992 through 1999 is too fresh in Angolans minds to trust UN in this area. DW's role, indeed Canada's preferred role at this juncture must be to reinforce local partners to engage in this national reconciliation process. I suspect that a compromise mission mandate will be agreed in New York, maintaining a small mission that will largely support the Human Rights programme. We strongly encourage Canada to support this option.

We should encourage Canada to continue supporting justice-based projects like their existing project (with Norway) supporting Municipal

courts. DW has been working in partnership with HRD on several projects, including Land Rights and through ANGONET support for building an Internet based court-case tracking system.

On Governance:

Key issues for national civil society in the next year or two, will be

1) debate on the new constitution. This is linked with the process of decentralization and the nature of local level democracy. Will there be real decentralisation of power, and financial resources to Provincial and Municipal levels? A key to this will be the election of Governors. Right now, the President appoints Governors. A concentration of power in their hands at the local level in the name of decentralisation is actually a mechanism of control by the President's office and a weakening of other structures of Governance, such as the elected legislative (Parliament) and the Ministry structure.

2) the second issue - and top on the agenda of debate - is the Land Law and modes of land management. We are in the middle of a national consultation on Land that the President initiated (to his credit). A national Land Network (Rede das Terras) has been organised by civil society to build a constituency for the debate. DW is very active in the Network in support of national partners and has taken the lead on the urban & peri-urban land question. We were invited today to present our recommendations to the Presidential Land Commission. It went very well and the Commission asked us to prepare a draft set of clauses on urban and informal sector land for inclusion in the draft law. (Quite a privilege!). We also discussed with the commission setting up an interactive web-site on ANGONET to promote the debate and get information into the public domain.

On Transparency:

There is some limited optimism that the new Government team will be somewhat more reformist on economic policy and may be able to move closer to the IMF. The Government is under some pressure from donors to reach an agreement with the IMF before the Round Table Conference that they want to hold in Brussels in April. The IMF rep who is a friend of mine (also Canadian) is very skeptical about this happening. He feels that with

current high oil prices the Government is less vulnerable to international pressure.

My feeling is that the Government listens much more closely to the opinions of national civil society than they do to the international community. It is therefore essential if Canada wants to influence governance and transparency in Angola that alliances are built with civil society partners.

DW's engagement with the principal Canadian company in Angola, Canadian Natural Resources Limited/CNRL, linked with Mary Tidlund Charitable Foundation of Calgary, could be a model of good-practice and corporate responsibility. We should encourage CNRL to associate with the BP and SHELL initiative to form a Business Forum on Angola and to demonstrate willingness to support the campaign for international Stock Markets to insist that registered companies "publish-what-they-pay" to governments, in this case obviously the Angolan Government and Sonangol. However, it is unrealistic to ask a company to commit suicide by standing alone on the issue.

Allan