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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a message dated 11 February 1999 from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, addressed to the Secretary-General, and request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the President of Angola
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of acknowledging receipt of the letter you sent me by way of Issa Diallo, your Special Representative in Angola.

The concerns to which you referred in the letter warrant the special attention of the Angolan Government. The Government has never had reason to oppose the presence of United Nations agencies in Angola, where they have undertaken regular activities without any constraint, except in areas that still remain out of their control. The Government of Angola will continue to deal with representatives of those agencies on issues related to humanitarian assistance, human rights and other matters of interest to the people.

Objectively, the Government of Angola considers that conditions for maintaining in Angola the presence of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) have ceased to exist, regardless of the format. This is because Jonas Savimbi, who had been calling into question the Lusaka Protocol since the end of the first quarter of 1998 with small-scale military actions and other acts that impeded its normal implementation, withdrew from the process to restart and spread the war on a large scale throughout the country beginning in December 1998.

The Angolan Government will maintain a line of constructive dialogue with those that are interested in peace. For this reason, it will continue discussions with the present leaders of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), elected at the recent party congress approximately 20 days ago. At that time, Jonas Savimbi was removed from the leadership of the organization. This removal means that Jonas Savimbi no longer represents UNITA.

This is a reality that will have to be well understood by the international community and especially by the United Nations, given that the explicit and formal acceptance by the Security Council of the present UNITA leadership as the interlocutor for national reconciliation will represent an inestimable contribution to the complete and definitive isolation of Savimbi on the international scene.

It is also certain that this measure will become effective and more efficient as a contribution to peace if the Security Council, in view of the behaviour displayed by Mr. Savimbi from the Bicesse Accords of 1991 through the Lusaka Protocol to the present date, does not hesitate to consider him a war criminal subject to a warrant of international arrest.

This decision, if complemented by the approval of reinforcing measures and improved sanctions control mechanisms against Mr. Savimbi, will restore to the Security Council, at least as concerns Angola, the fullness of authority trampled upon by Mr. Savimbi and some of his few friends in Africa and others scattered around the rest of the world.

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Finally, I would like to emphasize that we are not against the idea of indicating a representative of yours who, from New York, can maintain contact with the Government of Angola in monitoring the evolution of the situation in our country.

Hopefully you will take into consideration the ideas contained in this letter.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola
