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LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Today, 11 November 1981, the Government and people of the People's Republic of Angola, guided by the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers Party, are commemorating the sixth anniversary of their declaration of independence and their freedom from the oppression and exploitation of 500 years of colonial domination.

What was as important as the Angolan struggle for independence was Angola's second war of liberation, begun even as the sound of the shots and cries of independence was still in the air. No sooner had independence been proclaimed, simultaneous to the departure of the colonialist administration, than an even worse foe, allied with the powers of Western imperialism and neo-colonialism, launched a vicious attack on the fragile Angolan republic, threatening our newly won sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence.

The armed forces of the minority racist apartheid régime in South Africa launched a full-scale invasion, by land and air, of the People's Republic of Angola in an attempt to reverse the gains of the Angolan revolution, to destabilize southern Africa, to establish, once and for all, its hegemony over the region, to instal its own puppets in Luanda, to safeguard its colonial and expansionist policies in the illegally occupied territory of Namibia and, finally, to protect its own system of apartheid, which guaranteed minority rule and privilege while denying to the majority inhabitants of South Africa their human, civil, political and economic rights in their own historic fatherland.

That situation has not changed to this day. The racist South African troops have continued to attack Angola, in ways ranging from the violation of our air space to brutal massacres, such as that of Kassinga in May 1978, where more than a thousand unarmed men, women and children were killed by the racists. Pretoria's acts of armed aggression against the territory and people of Angola have been conveyed to the Security Council regularly throughout the past six years. Numerous Council meetings have been held, and resolutions adopted, but without the intended results. If anything, Pretoria has become bolder over the years, with armed attacks against other independent sovereign States in southern Africa as well and with calculated insults to the international community over the issue of Namibian independence.

Over the years, the racist régime has increased its military presence in Namibia, not only to strengthen its occupation of that country, in defiance of United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, but also the better to attack Angola and maintain its military adventurism in that area. In fact, even today, areas of southern Angola are still under the military occupation of the racist troops. The fact that the racist armed forces have needed a whole series of acts of armed aggression is a demonstration of the valour and courage of FAPLA (Forças Armadas Populares de Libertação de Angola) and of the entire Angolan nation, which have, together, been unhesitating and unflinching in the face of enemy attack and in defence of their country.

The apartheid régime, despite strong diplomatic, political, economic and military support it receives from its partners and allies, who seek to use it in a southern Atlantic context, will never win against the progressive forces of southern Africa. Under the leadership of President José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the MPLA-Workers Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola, and guided by the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers Party, the Angolan people are more determined than ever to consolidate the gains of their revolution, to continue with the task of national reconstruction and to maintain their support for the independence struggle of the people of Namibia.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola is steadfast in its role as a force for justice and progress in southern Africa. It was in this context, which is considered by the Angolan people an extension of their revolution inside Angola, that the Government has played an internationally acknowledged role in breaking the deadlock created by South Africa vis à vis the plans for Namibian independence. And, on their part, the Government and people of Angola expect the international community to respect the sovereign status of Angola and its membership in the United Nations and to force the racist régime to comply with United Nations resolutions regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola.

The racist régime could not have become the terrorist monster it has without overt and covert support from its friends. And this monster will not be controlled and subdued without international action. Now is the time for action, because the fragile peace and stability of southern Africa are threatened as never before.

Until final victory
A luta continua

I request, Sir, that this communication be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connexion with the question of South African aggression against the People's Republic of Angola.

(Signed) Elisio de FIGUEIREDO
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
