



**Cuban
American
Foundation**

DY10

September 24, 1990

The Honorable William Lehman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED

SEP 27 1990

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Congressman William Lehman
Washington, DC 20515

During floor consideration of the FY91 House Intelligence Authorization bill in early October, it is anticipated that efforts may be made to prohibit U.S. military aid to UNITA, the Angolan organization fighting to bring multi-party democracy to their homeland.

We believe such an effort is both historically unwise and untimely. When the U.S. has remained firm it has paid rich dividends. Our resolve forced the Soviets out of Afghanistan. Furthermore, sustained pressure is forcing a settlement in Cambodia. And in Nicaragua, our pressure forced the holding of free elections. Perhaps no better example is the Soviet Union. After holding firm for over forty years, the Cold War is rapidly ending on favorable terms.

The same pattern will hold in Angola if we have the patience to see it through. Marxist hard-liners inside Angola's MPLA government are losing strength. Cuban troop levels, once estimated at 50,000 or more, are down to 12,000 and all will be gone by next summer. This will mean that the Communists' dispirited 80,000 troops, for the first time, will have to face UNITA's enthusiastic 65,000 troops alone. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and the State Department have agreed to jointly monitor and influence the negotiations mediated by Portugal between UNITA and the MPLA.

Aid to UNITA should not go on indefinitely. But, it should continue until its purpose is served, a date set for holding multi-party elections. In fact, UNITA has demanded internationally supervised free and fair multi-party elections for several years. It has also agreed that a cease fire and the end of military assistance should take place once the MPLA agrees to schedule a binding vote. In its public statements, the MPLA is edging closer to relinquishing its one-party rule and accepting that multi-party democracy can no longer be stopped.

All this will be jeopardized and perhaps lost if the MPLA believes that the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government are divided and therefore lack the joint resolve to see this process through to an otherwise inevitable and successful conclusion. Please vote to continue our successful Angolan policy. Another victory for multi-party democracy is not far away.

Sincerely,


Jorge Mas

6