



The Angolan Mission Observer

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations

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Angola to Focus on Peace, Security and Economic Development at the UN

On January 1, Angola joined the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term. As part of its Security Council duties, Angola has been named vice chairman of the UN Security Council committee on Liberia.

Upon joining the body, Angola's Foreign Minister João Miranda said that Angolan diplomacy would focus on consolidating peace and re-launching international cooperation, with a specific emphasis on fostering closer cooperation with other African countries and those countries with which Angola has economic ties.

In Africa, Angola is especially concerned about the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where it has been a major player in brokering peace. The Angolan government hopes to lend its experience in conflict resolution to the peace process in the DRC and in other areas that the Security Council will consider during Angola's tenure.

Angola will also place an emphasis on raising awareness within the international community about African development issues. Angola's diplomats throughout the world have been instructed to focus on the country's reconstruction



by actively promoting foreign public and private investment in Angola.

Since Angola joined the Security Council, however, debate has focused largely on Iraq. In February President dos Santos conferred with US President George W. Bush, French President Jacques Chirac, Portuguese Prime Minister José Manuel Durão Barroso and US Vice President Dick Cheney. In addition, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Georges Chikoti represented the Angolan government at the February 5 meeting of the UN Security Council at which US Secretary of State Colin Powell briefed the Council on the intelligence information the US had gathered on Iraq's weapons capabilities.

At the February 5 meeting, Vice Minister Chikoti informed the Security Council that while Iraq poses a real threat to international peace and security, the Angolan government was still hopeful that a peaceful solution could be found and that inspections should be allowed to continue.

The Security Council again discussed Iraq following a briefing by chief weapons inspector Hans Blix on February 13. At that time Angolan Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ismael Gaspar Martins spoke on behalf of the Angolan government and stressed the need for the Council to be united in order to send a clear message to the government of Iraq. "We need to allow sufficient time for the inspectors to gather the necessary information for us to make an informed decision at the appropriate time," Ambassador Martins said. "Whatever decision we collectively take....need not be popular, but it must reflect the consensus of this council and it must be justified," he concluded.

Read the full texts of the speeches by Vice Minister Chikoti and Ambassador Martins at www.angolamission.org

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UN Mission in Angola Officially Ends, But Cooperation Continues

Febbruary 15 brought the end of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Angola (MINUA). With the formal conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol, the UN and the government of Angola are now considering how the world body can support government efforts to rebuild the country.

In a report to the UN Security Council, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan noted that peace was irreversible in Angola. “Angolans can live without fear of a recurrent and devastating war,” Secretary General Annan told Council members. Looking to the future, the Secretary General informed the Security Council that he had instructed his Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari to consult with the Angolan government to determine how best the UN could help the government consolidate national reconciliation and rebuild the nation.

To that end, Mr. Gambari visited Angola just prior to the expiration of MINUA’s mandate. He met with President dos Santos, Prime Minister Nando and a number of other senior Angolan government officials to hear their thoughts on a future role for the UN in Angola and to offer his suggestions on areas of cooperation. Mr. Gambari told the

government that the UN could provide technical assistance and additional resources for the reintegration of demobilized soldiers into civilian society. In addition, the UN would focus on assisting with upcoming elections, de-mining operations, capacity building in the human rights field, and mobilizing resources for the upcoming donors’ conference on Angola.

Following his meeting with Mr. Gambari, President dos Santos wrote to Secretary General Annan to outline his government’s priorities in the wake of MINUA. The President informed the Secretary General that a national dialogue between the government and opposition parties, including UNITA, continues “in an environment of tranquility and with a constructive spirit.” With peace achieved, the President said the government is now focused on the profes-

sional and social reintegration of all demobilized soldiers, the resettlement of displaced people, the reconstruction of the social and economic infrastructure of the country and the strengthening of the democratic system. The President underscored the importance of international humanitarian assistance for the displaced and asked the UN to give special attention to mobilizing resources through the international donors’ conference as well as through other means.

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— UN Secretary General
Kofi Annan

New Oil Discoveries on Blocks 14 and 17

Chevron Texaco announced it has made a “significant” discovery of oil in Block 14. The Negage well tested at a flow rate of 8,630 barrels of oil a day. The well was drilled in 4,738 feet of water, about 29 miles southwest of the existing Gabela oil discovery. Negage is the ninth discovery on the Block since exploration began in the area in 1997. Chevron Texaco’s Angola affiliate, Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, is the operator of the Block and holds a 31 percent interest. Other partners in the Block are Angola’s state oil company, Sonangol, with a 20 percent interest, Agip (20 percent) TotalFinaElf (20 percent) and Petrogal (9 percent).

Additionally, TotalFinaElf, operator of prolific Block 17, announced recently that it had made its 13th discovery in the area. The Zinia-1 well was drilled 45 kilometers north of the Dahlia well in 718 meters of water and tested at a rate of 3,650 barrels per day. Block 17’s Girassol oil field is already producing some 200,000 b/d, and other discoveries are at various stages of development. TotalFinaElf is the concessionaire of the Block and holds a 40 percent interest. The remaining 60 percent interest is shared among Exxon Mobil (20 percent), BP (16.67 percent), Statoil (13.33 percent) and Norsk Hydro (10 percent).



US and EC Increase Assistance to Angolan Refugees

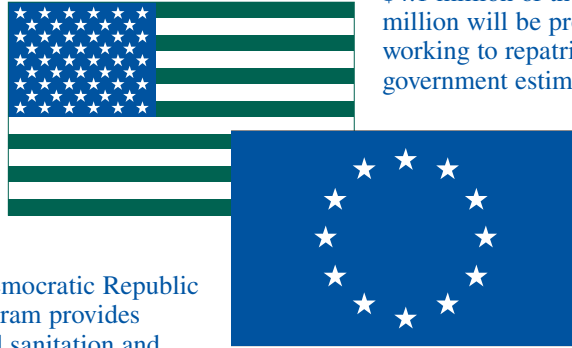
Both the United States government and the European Community pledged additional support for Angolan refugees living in neighboring countries. At the same time, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has begun planning for the refugees' assisted repatriation.

provide \$5.4 million to assist in the repatriation of Angolan refugees from neighboring countries. UNHCR will receive \$4.1 million of the US donation while the remaining \$1.3 million will be provided to non-governmental organizations working to repatriate some 170,000 Angolans. The Angolan government estimates that there are approximately 450,000 Angolan refugees in Zambia, Namibia, Congo and the DRC.

Since April 2002, the Angolan government estimates approximately 120,000 refugees have voluntarily returned to Angola. The government is preparing to sign repatriation agreements with South Africa and Botswana to increase repatriations. Returning refugees are receiving food and other basic commodities from UNHCR to help them reintegrate into society.

On January 13, the EC donated \$1.16 million to UNHCR for the protection, care and maintenance of Angolan refugees living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR program provides primary health care, clean water and sanitation and food for refugees until their repatriation, which is currently planned for mid-2003.

On January 17 the US government announced that it would



Constitutional Commission Confirms Status of the Office of the President

Angola's Parliamentary Constitutional Commission decided at the end of January that the office of the President of the Republic would maintain its constitutional status as Head of Government. The decision, which followed months of debate and discussion, was approved with 32 votes in favor and five votes against the current system. Commenting on the decision, Commission President and MPLA Secretary General João Lourenço said that all core principles that will guide the revision of the constitution had now been approved. "We no longer have pending issues. From now on, work will proceed well because the documents will be submitted at the technical commission level, with a view to conclude the constitutional text," he said.

In related news, Angola's Minister of Territorial

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*– MPLA Secretary General
João Lourenço*

Administration Faustino Muteka announced on January 31 that the government is making plans for a nationwide census of voters to prepare the country for general elections. The Ministry of Territorial Administration has set up an office that will determine "technical and logistical requirements necessary for the conducting of a census of voters."

While the government hopes to hold general elections in 2004, President dos Santos has said that he is consulting with political groups and civil society to develop consensus on a date for the vote.

Angola's last general elections were held in 1992. At that time, the MPLA party won the first round of elections and UNITA responded by re-launching hostilities that prevented a second round of voting.





International Relations

President dos Santos Attends African Union Summit



President dos Santos traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in early February for an extraordinary summit meeting of the African Union (AU). AU members discussed the AU constitution and crises in Cote

d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic, Burundi, Sudan, Somalia, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Comoros, and the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Following the meeting, President dos Santos declared the summit "a success" and noted the action plans the AU had outlined for resolving conflicts in the region through peaceful negotiation. Citing Angola as an example, the President said, "it is possible to resolve these problems as long as there is a firmness, political will, and good will." President dos Santos noted, however, that in addition to conflict resolution, Africans need to find a balance on economic, development and health issues as well. "Without these aspects, we cannot go forward," he said.

In analyzing the role of the AU in today's world President dos Santos stressed that the body must adjust to current realities and "that it is not colored by the fight against colonialism, but rather the fight for the promotion of democracy, economic development and prosperity in our countries." He urged the AU to fight against the marginalization of Africa in the new global economy and added that development issues could be addressed by starting with peace, political stability, the introduction of democratic rules, good governance and transparency.

Regarding the issue of Angola, the AU Executive Council praised the peace agreement in Angola and expressed its hope that the positive outcome in Angola would spread to other countries in the region where conflict remains a problem. President dos Santos told AU members that peace was indeed irreversible in Angola. "This time peace has a definitive character because of the willingness shown by all political parties and Angolan society," President dos Santos said.

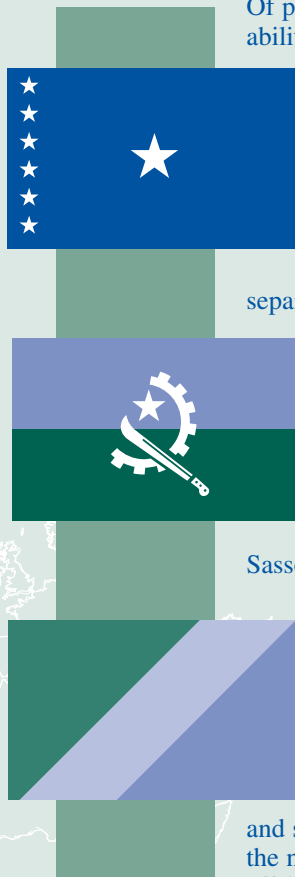
Angola Hosts Summit Meeting with Congolese and DR Congo Presidents

President José Eduardo dos Santos hosted his counterparts from the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at a summit meeting on regional peace and security in Luanda in mid-January. The three leaders discussed border control issues as well as security threats to the three neighboring countries.

Of particular importance to Angola was the ability of Cabindan separatist elements to operate in the territories of Congo and the DRC. The Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front (FLEC) uses the two neighboring countries as rear bases from which to attack Angola's Cabinda province. Angolan diplomats requested that the DRC and Congolese governments stop the separatists from using their territories for such purposes.

Congo's President Sassou Nguesso thanked the government of Angola for its help in "bringing the Congolese people back from chaos and the abyss." In an address to the Angolan Parliament President Sassou Nguesso said Angola had become "a major power for peace and development" in the region.

At the conclusion of the summit the three foreign ministers signed a protocol establishing a joint defense and security system among the three countries to promote peace, security and stability along their border areas. Under the new mechanism, ministers of foreign affairs, defense and internal administration from the three countries will meet regularly to coordinate foreign and defense policies.

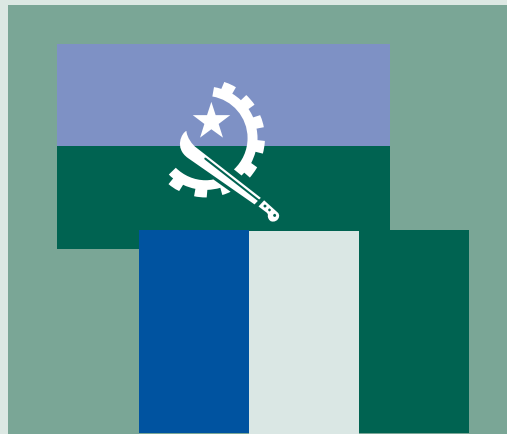




Belgian Foreign Minister Praises Angola's Role in Supporting Regional Peace

Belgium's Foreign Minister Louis Michel visited Luanda in January to discuss with President dos Santos efforts to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Recent fighting between the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), the country's largest rebel group, and several smaller militia groups in the northern and eastern parts of the DRC had put in jeopardy an international peace agreement reached in December. Minister Michel spoke with President dos Santos about the Angolan government's efforts to resolve the DRC conflict peacefully and praised the President for his "vision" and for the "very important stabilizing role" the country has played in the region.

Minister Michel also pledged the Belgian government's support for an international donors' conference on Angola. "A timetable for the conference should be elaborated immediately," Minister Michel said following his meeting with President dos Santos.



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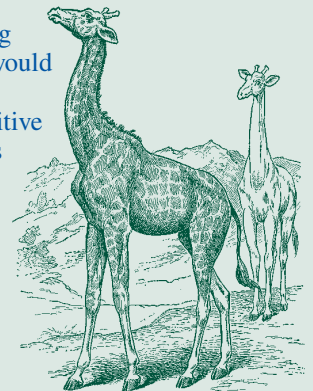
*– Louis Michel,
Belgian Foreign Minister*

Angola-Zambia Joint Commission Pledges Further Regional Cooperation

Angola's Defense Minister Kundi Payhama met with Zambian Interior Minister Wamundila Muliokela at the 19th session of the Angola-Zambia Joint Permanent Defense and Security Commission in Kitwe, Zambia to discuss security issues along their common border. Both ministers noted an improvement in border security and pledged to strengthen cooperation on defense and security issues. Minister Payhama expressed the Angolan government's gratitude to the Zambian government and the Zambian people for their continued assistance to Angolan refugees in Zambia. The two governments also condemned recent terror attacks in Asia and East Africa and promised to support regional efforts to combat terrorism through the Southern African Police Chiefs Coordinating Organization and other international efforts.

Angola to Host World Tourism Africa Conference

The 39th conference of the World Tourism Organization's Africa Commission will be held in Luanda, the Angolan capital, May 27-30. Tourism Minister Jorge Valentim announced that delegations from 52 member countries would be attending the meeting that would discuss means to create a more positive image of Africa as a tourist destination and how best to develop the sector.



Reconstruction and Resettlement Efforts Continue

In mid-February, the Angolan Council of Ministers reviewed the status of government programs aimed at reintegrating demobilized soldiers and displaced populations and rebuilding Angola's social and economic sectors.

Between November 2002 and February 2003, some 93,000 Angolans returned to their home areas. Of these 22,000 were demobilized soldiers, and 71,000 were civilians. As a result of the resettlement program, the government was able to close five reception camps in Bengo, Benguela, Kwanza Sul and Cunene provinces.

At the same time, the government announced at the end of January that it had dedicated \$125 million toward its two-year reintegration plan.

Assistance and Social Reintegration Minister João Baptista Kussumua launched the program by distributing "kits" to more than 6,000 people in the Vale de Loge and Uamba quartering areas in Uige province. The kits contain work equipment, cooking utensils, bedding and hygiene material.

Through its citizenship and employment program, the government has also launched basic skills and professional training for demobilized soldiers to facilitate their resettlement and productive reintegration into society and the economy. It is expected that some of the demobilized soldiers will be employed by the Angolan national reconstruction program. The Angolan government is also working with the World Bank to develop an expanded demobilization and reintegration program.

Under another government program aimed at returning and resettling civilian populations displaced by armed conflict, some 1.5 million people have been able to return to their areas of origin in 17 provinces throughout the country. The largest groups have returned to Bengo, Bié, Huambo, Kwanza Sul and Malange provinces.

Much remains to be done, however, and the Angolan government is actively working together with donor

countries and multilateral organizations to address the immediate needs of its citizens and longer term development issues. At the end of January, the Angolan government hosted Mr. James Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP), who visited Luanda, Kuito and Bié province to assess the humanitarian situation and WFP feeding programs.

Mr. Morris used his visit to impress upon the international community the need to provide additional assistance to Angola. WFP estimates that it needs at least \$100 million to continue its operations until the end of the year. WFP currently supplies food aid to 1.74 million Angolans, but deliveries are hampered by damaged transportation networks and the widespread presence of land-

mines. Angolan Minister of Public Works Higinio Carneiro recently estimated that the government would need at least \$300 million to repair roads and bridges throughout the country.

While in Angola, Mr. Morris met with President dos Santos, numerous government ministers and heads of UN agencies operating in Angola. During his meetings Mr. Morris emphasized the importance of establishing a close partnership with international donors and the Angolan government. He discussed the drought in southern Africa and the AIDS crisis, which severely affect vulnerable populations. "WFP can do a tremendous amount to help the Angolan population get back on their feet after decades of despair, and we must seize this opportunity," said Morris. "What's needed

is a constellation of committed partners, including our traditional donors, working together to tackle the immense tasks which lie ahead," he added.

European Commissioner for Cooperation, Development and Humanitarian Aid, Paulo Nielson, also visited Angola at the end of January to sign the EU-Angola Country Support Strategy. The \$59.5 million aid and development package has as its overarching goal poverty reduction, and contains both emergency relief and support for rehabilitation and development.

"What's needed is a constellation of committed partners, including our traditional donors, working together to tackle the immense tasks which lie ahead"

– Mr. James Morris,
Executive Director of the World
Food Program (WFP)



In the short to medium term, priority will be given to support the peace process and national reconciliation, including creating conditions for free and fair elections. Such assistance will include support for Angola's resettlement and reintegration programs, emergency health and nutrition assistance and provision of basic non-food items, such as blankets, cooking kits and tarpaulins for shelter. In the medium to long term, aid will be concentrated on social sectors and food security/agricultural development in particular. Mr. Nielsen said that significant contributions would be made toward de-mining operations, construction of new roads, supply of potable water to rural communities, construction of hospitals and

schools and to agricultural development.

At the signing ceremony Mr. Nielson pledged continued assistance to Angola, stating "the international community is committed to complement the government's efforts to bring relief to its people and reconstruct the country." He also promised EU support for the planned donors' conference on Angola. He concluded by underscoring Europe's partnership with Angola. "We are with you in this process. After winning the battle for peace and national unity it is now time to fight for reconciliation and to win the war against poverty," he said.

New Government Moves to Promote Investment and Restructure the Economy

With new ministers and vice ministers in place, the Angolan government has adopted a series of measures in the last two months to restructure the economy and make Angola a more attractive investment destination.

The Angolan government has presented proposed legislation to the National Assembly that constitutes a comprehensive revision of Angola's private foreign investment law. If enacted, the legislation would promote and protect private national and foreign investment in Angola.

Specifically, the legislation would make any capital investment between \$50,000 and \$250,000 aimed at creating small businesses entirely exempt from customs duties. Such investments would also benefit from a 15-year grace period from industrial taxes. Large, new vehicles used for transporting goods and passengers would also be fully

exempt from customs duties. Used vehicles imported for the same purposes would benefit from a 50 percent reduction in customs duties.

The proposed legislation calls for:

- Equal treatment under the law for national and foreign private investment.
- Streamlining bureaucratic procedures for investors.
The legislation stipulates that investments less than \$5 million should be approved or rejected within 15 days of application, while applications for investment in excess of \$5 million should be processed within 30 days.
- Improving the efficiency of public administration.
- Creating an investment-friendly legal system that is transparent.

At the same time, the government has re-opened foreign exchange bureaus and adopted new procedures to make state financial institutions more transparent. Central Bank Governor Amadeu Mauricio announced that foreign exchange bureaus would now be able to use unofficial market rates of exchange. In the late 1990s, Angola's foreign exchange bureaus closed down as a result of the large discrepancy between official and parallel exchange rates. New public spending rules require state entities to follow Central Bank procedures for all hard currency payments and foreign transfers and to obtain Finance Ministry authorization. According to Finance Minister José Pedro de Morais, the government ultimately hopes to end "the dollarization of the Angolan economy."



UN Recognizes Significant Improvement in Human Rights Situation in Angola

During a mid-January visit to Angola, the UN Human Rights Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello said, "there's been a significant improvement in the human rights situation in Angola," but acknowledged that "the scars are deep and can't be wiped out in a single stroke."

Mr. de Mello met with both President dos Santos and Prime Minister Nando during his three-day visit to Luanda and Malange. During these meetings the chief UN official for human rights promised continuing UN support for the Angolan government's efforts to improve human rights in the country. Mr. de Mello said his meetings focused on the economic and social dimensions of human rights. He noted the capacity of numerous UN agencies to help implement



fundamental human rights, such as access to food, education, health and jobs. Noting the dire needs of those displaced by war and the demobilized soldiers, Mr. de Mello said the Angolan government was in urgent need of help to provide for these groups of people. "There are two major problems which require special and urgent attention - people uprooted by years of colonial and civil wars and former fighters, especially those of UNITA," he said.

Mr. de Mello also pledged assistance beyond the needs of the displaced and demobilized. He told Angolan officials that the UN was also "committed to assisting legislative and legal projects aimed at improving conditions and the human rights record throughout Angola."

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS
125 East 73rd Street • New York, NY 10021

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