

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SHULTZ REAFFIRMS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR UNITA

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) today received written assurance from Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States is not about to pull the rug out from under Jonas Savimbi and his Freedom Fighters in Angola.

After hearing reports two weeks ago that the Department might be getting ready to terminate aid to Savimbi, Dole wrote Shultz, asking him to reaffirm America's commitment to the Democratic resistance in Angola.

In remarks on the Senate floor today, Dole said, "I am pleased to inform the Senate that I have received a response from Secretary Shultz, which categorically reaffirms the Administration's support for UNITA. Let me quote one section of the Secretary's letter:

Our support for UNITA is clear.... In our continuing policy deliberations with regard to Angola, we have focused on how best to sustain and improve that support.

"I welcome this reaffirmation of the President's policy in Angola -- a policy which I believe has strong support in the Congress. I will continue to monitor events in Angola -- and in Washington, relating to Angola -- very closely, to insure that we continue to provide needed aid to UNITA and, more generally, pursue consistent and effective policies aimed at our real goals: the end to the Soviet and Cuban military presence in Southern Africa; and political solutions to the problems there, reflecting the will of the people of that region," Dole concluded.

The full text of the Secretary's letter is on back.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1987

Dear Bob:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 23 concerning reports that the State Department urged an end to U.S. support for UNITA in a recent interagency discussion of Angola policy.

As you must know, I too would be concerned if there were any basis to the reports to which you refer. Let me assure you, however, that they are in error. At no time has any representative of the State Department, nor as far as I know of any other element of the Administration, suggested that U.S. support for UNITA and Jonas Savimbi should end.

On the contrary, our support for UNITA is clear. UNITA is a legitimate nationalist movement whose interests must be taken into account if there is to be peace and national reconciliation in Angola. I have met Jonas Savimbi and was deeply impressed. I share the widespread admiration for the struggle he has waged for over 10 years against Soviet and Cuban imperialism. We are supporting that struggle in what we believe to be an appropriate and effective manner. In our continuing policy deliberations with regard to Angola, we have focused on how best to sustain and improve that support.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



George P. Shultz

The Honorable
Robert Dole,
United States Senate.