

UNITA withdrew its troops from the unified national army and violent clashes paralysed the country. Unsuccessful diplomatic initiatives aimed at saving the peace process have been undertaken by South Africa, Portugal and the United States. The United Nations is continuing an intensive mediation effort but has thus far failed to bring the two sides together.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has supported the peace process in Angola and contributed 15 military observers to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) established under the terms of the peace accord. As well, Canada contributed \$500,000 to the UN for communications equipment to be used during the elections and provided three election observers.

On 30 October the SSEA issued a press release condemning the escalation of post-election violence and called on both sides to respect the results of the elections and return to the peace process. Canada continues to support the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the current crisis and has twice, at the request of the Security Council, extended the assignment of its military observers serving with UNAVEM. Through our Honourary Consul in Luanda, we have urged the MPLA Government to guarantee the safety of members of the UNITA leadership wishing to return to Luanda to resume peace talks. Canada has also indicated to other countries that have a more direct involvement in Angola that we would consider as constructive any efforts they may undertake to get both sides back to the negotiating table.

Canada is continuing to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the Angolan conflict. Most recently, on November 5th, CIDA provided \$200,000 to Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada to deliver medical supplies to hospitals in Angola (on the same flights that were being used to evacuate Canadian and UN personnel). According to our Honourary Consul in Luanda, this was one of the first emergency relief efforts launched to assist the victims of the post election violence.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- CHR has not traditionally adopted resolutions concerning Angola. Would the NGO community consider specific action necessary at CHR, given that the Security Council is actively seized of the matter ?