ANGOLA - GENERAL - 1994
Angolan war the world’s ‘worst’ in ’93

JOHANNESBURG. — UN officials trying to bring peace to Angola labelled the country’s renewed civil war as the worst conflict in the world during 1993, while the Angolan government called the conflict the world’s “forgotten war.”

UN officials and foreign diplomats estimate that at least 100,000 people have died in the 14-month-old conflict between the Angolan government and Unita guerrillas.

It is estimated that at times as many as 1,000 people were dying daily either as a direct result of the fighting or through shortages of medicine and food. The Angolan government claims that the overall body count could be more than four times that estimated by the international community.

Despite the soaring death toll, the world community had largely ignored Angola, choosing to concentrate on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the UN relief operation in Somalia, Angola’s Foreign Minister Mr Venancio de Moraes has said. And former UN envoy to Angola Mrs Margaret Anstee said the international community was simply ignoring the Angolan conflict.

The UN has a restricted team of 76 officials and military observers in Angola.

• Angolan President Jose Eduado dos Santos said in a New Year message peace would come soon to Angola, but added that there would be no stability until Unita rebels were disarmed and the 1991 peace pact was implemented. — UPI, Sapa-Reuters
Savimbi: We’ll be at talks

LUANDA. — Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi said his movement would return to peace talks scheduled to resume in Lusaka on Wednesday.

In his New Year’s message, Dr Savimbi said a Unita delegation would arrive in Lusaka today.

Before the temporary suspension of the talks on December 24, UN special envoy in Angola Mr Alioune Blondin Beya said he had received “guarantees” from both sides that they would be present.

Reconciliation

Before the holiday break, the two sides had reached agreement on military issues.

Discussions will now focus on political issues, such as national reconciliation, the distribution of cabinet portfolios and the restoration of government administration, over zones controlled by Unita.

A possible “special status” for Dr Savimbi will also be discussed.

Mr Beya met President Miguel Trovoada in São Tomé yesterday to discuss the Angolan peace process. — Sapa-AFP
Military commanders to meet
Sao Tome set to host Angola talks

Sao Tome — Military commanders of the Angolan government and Unita will meet in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe on Monday to discuss military aspects of a planned peace settlement, a source close to Sao Tome President Miguel Trovoada said yesterday.

The date was agreed to on Sunday between Trovoada and Alloune Biondin Beye, the UN special representative in Angola. Beye has been mediating talks between the Angolan government and Unita in Lusaka since November to end 18 years of civil war.

The Lusaka talks are due to resume this week after a two-week break.

Beye last week broke a news blackout imposed since the talks began in July to say legal and military deals had been finalised, but issues such as power-sharing and Unita's withdrawal from certain areas remained to be settled.

Diplomats said earlier the two sides had agreed on a ceasefire. But no date for its commencement was announced.

Unita leader Jonas Serrambi said on Saturday his movement would return to Lusaka and wanted to hold "serious discussions". He said Unita would be ready to sign a ceasefire immediately to allow humanitarian aid to continue.

Unita had earlier threatened not to return to negotiations because it suspected the government was planning an offensive.

Despite the peace talks, fighting rages unabated in Angola.

Despite more peace talks scheduled for Zambia and Sao Tome in the next fortnight, fighting rages unabated in Angola.

The United Nations says more people are dying of wounds and starvation than in any other ongoing conflict. Tens of thousands of people have perished over the past year.

On Friday, Angola's national news agency ANGOP reported Unita attacks near Luanda and in eastern Mexico province.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said in a New Year message that peace would come soon to Angola, but there would be no stability until Unita rebels were disarmed and a 1991 peace pact was implemented.

"The war has brought destruction, pain and suffering to millions of Angolans but I believe it will end soon," he said in a speech carried by State media on Thursday.

The Sao Tome source said the Sao Tome meeting would deal only with military aspects of a peace settlement. It was not clear whether the talks would take place after the completion of negotiations in Lusaka or in parallel with them.

Beye declined to confirm or deny that talks would be held in Sao Tome, a twin-island state off the coast of Gabon.

The most important thing is not the date or the place, but it is good when the two sides get together to try to end the war," he told reporters before leaving Sao Tome yesterday.

Beye will return to Sao Tome on Sunday, the Sao Tome source said.

Angola's oil output was unaffected by Sunday's mortar attack on a US support base for offshore production in the Cabinda enclave, Cabinda Gulf managing director Robert Conno said yesterday.

"Three mortar bombs hit the base early on Sunday, wounding a worker and damaging vehicles and buildings, he said."

"It was psychological terrorism. It had no effect on production," said Conno, denying Portuguese reports that personnel had been evacuated from the base after the attack.

Conno said he had no idea who carried out the attack.

The onshore base at Malongo in northern Angola provides services for 300,000 barrels a day of offshore production by Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chevron Corporation.

Last year Unita seized the oil support base of Soyo, 80 km south of Malongo, and closed down 27,000 barrels a day of onshore production by Belgium's Petrofina. — Sape-Reuters.
Angolan threaten to attack Unita

LUANDA — The Angolan military, on the eve of peace talks, threatened to strike against Unita for alleged attacks, including a mortar raid on a US oil support base in Cabinda.

The government said two soldiers were killed and an unspecified amount of damage was caused.

Unita has denied responsibility for Sunday’s attack on the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company base.

The oil company’s managing director, Mr. Robert Connin, said yesterday production was not affected by the attack.
Luanda — The Angolan military, on the eve of planned peace talks, threatened to strike back against Unita for alleged attacks, including a mortar raid on a US oil support base in Cabinda.

"Unita's bellicose initiatives, especially during a period when negotiations are under way, will not go unpunished. The Angolan Armed Forces will launch retaliatory actions," the military said yesterday.

Cabinda's provincial government accused neighboring Zaire of helping Unita.

"The attackers came from Zaire and fled towards there after government troops reacted. This confirms yet again Zaire's involvement on the side of Unita in the Angolan conflict," it said on Monday.

Unita has denied responsibility for Sunday's attack on the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company base in the country's prime oil area which the government says killed two soldiers and caused unquantified material damages.

The government blamed Unita and also accused it of attacking a government military base in northern Malange, the southeastern city of Menongue and villages in the strategic central highlands and diamond-rich northeast.

Unita and the government, at war for almost two decades since independence from Portugal in 1975, are due to resume peace talks in Lusaka, Zambia, today.

There was no independent confirmation immediately available of the government claims.

Cabinda Gulf officials declined to speculate on who carried out the attack on the onshore base in Malongo, which provides services for 300,000 barrels per day of offshore production for the wholly-owned subsidiary of Chevron Corporation.

The company's MD Robert Comon told Reuters production was not affected by the attack.

Angolan Oil Minister Albino Assis told the state news agency Angop on Monday that staff had returned to work on the base but were demoralized by the "surprise" attack.

Unita has carried its civil war to almost every part of Angola except Cabinda. So far it has not acted on threats to attack the enclave which accounts for two-thirds of Angola's 500,000 barrels per day oil output, the country's chief export.

But separatists of the fractured and small Front for the Liberation of Cabinda Enclave (FLEC) have been waging a low-level guerrilla struggle in the territory separated from the rest of Angola by Zaire's corridor to the sea.

UN special envoy in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, who is mediating the Lusaka talks, said on Monday he expected the talks to resume as planned and that all agreements reached before the holiday break would hold. — Sapa-Reuters.
Fighting threatens Angolan peace talks

LUSAKA. — Renewed fighting between Angolan government and Unita rebel forces could jeopardise the country's fragile peace process, UN Angola mediator Alioune Blondin Beye warned as talks resumed.

Mr Beye made an impassioned appeal to both sides to cease hostilities and put a stop to a recent upsurge in fighting between the two sides, said diplomats monitoring the talks.

Continued fighting could imperil the latest round of the peace talks, which began in the Zambian capital on November 15 and which had already yielded an agreement in principle on a ceasefire and the formation of a joint army, said Mr Beye.

The statement by the UN special representative "was very strong and kept stressing that they should refrain from further active hostilities to save the peace process," said a diplomat.

Mr Beye reiterated his appeal to the warring sides to act on commitments made when they agreed on the principles of a ceasefire last month.

"He told them that even if there was no formal signing, there could be a de facto ceasefire in Angola, because as things are the people inside the country are not taking the Lusaka talks seriously," another diplomat said.

Both sides pledged to work for peace in their opening speeches at the plenary session, and assured mediators that they were in Lusaka to "achieve positive results," another diplomat said.

UN force in
Unita back at talks

LUSAKA — Unita said yesterday it was resuming Lusaka peace talks with the Angolan government, "with open hearts" after a two-week break.

Yet, Unita blamed the government on Wednesday for recent shelling in the northern city of Malange, and for a mortar attack on a US oil installation.

Angola's state news agency yesterday reported more fighting with Unita guerrillas near the eastern city of Luena.

Key Unita demands include equal distribution of future government posts, especially in key ministries such as defence, and an amnesty for Unita members.

Among Angolan-government demands are that Unita accept the results of 1992 UN-sponsored elections, which the government won. — Sapa-Reuters.
Unita officials and US congressmen hold talks

HARARE. — Four US congressmen held talks with Unita officials yesterday in Zimbabwe's northern resort of Victoria Falls, Western diplomats said.

They said the Democratic congressmen, led by Mr Harry Johnston of Florida, who is chairman of the House of Representatives sub-committee on Africa, talked to the officials attending peace talks with Angolan government negotiators in Zambia.

Diplomats gave no details of yesterday's talks, but Mr Johnston earlier said Washington may contribute up to 5,000 troops to a proposed UN force that would implement a truce. — Sapa-Reuters
SA right ‘helping Unita to fight’

WINDHOEK — Right-wing extremists in South Africa are sending mercenaries and aid to the Unita movement in Angola, the Angolan ambassador to Namibia, Mr Garcia Bires, said yesterday.

Mr Bires said there was “solid evidence” that South African right-wing groups were sending equipment and mercenaries to Unita via Zaire.

Citing Angolan government reports, he said white mercenaries, believed to be from South Africa, were fighting alongside Unita in north-eastern Angola.

Mr Bires would not name the extremist groups involved.

He said the Botswanan, Zimbabwean and Zambian governments had all confirmed airspace violations by South African aircraft.

The claims come as Unita and the Angolan government resumed negotiations in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, to end their civil war.

Mr Bires, who took up his post as Angola's ambassador to Namibia in December, said he believed the talks would produce a lasting peace if Unita negotiated in good faith.

The South African government supported Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita during the civil war that followed independence in 1975, but distanced itself from the rebels when renewed fighting broke out after the movement lost a UN-supervised election in September 1992.

The present talks in Lusaka, which began on November 15, are focused on the political aspects of reconciliation, including power-sharing and government decentralisation. — Sapa-AFP
Fighting intensifies in Angola conflict

LUANNA. -- Fighting had intensified in Angola and peace talks with Unita rebels in Zambia had made no progress, Angolan state media said yesterday.

"There has not been any progress at the negotiating table. It is only the war that has continued," state radio said. "The war in the interior has increased in intensity," it added.

It said Unita attacked the town of Libongos, 100km northeast of Luanda, the towns of Chingo, Chake, and Ucuma in the central province of Huambo, and unnamed locations in western Cuanza Sul province and central Bie province.

"Shelling in these places caused a considerable number of deaths and injuries," the radio said. Independent confirmation was not available. — Sapa-Reuters
'Progress' in Angolan talks

LUSAKA. — Government and Unita negotiators have agreed on principles to govern the re-organisation of the police force, a source said yesterday.

They agreed that Unita would be represented at all levels of the force, the source said.

Remaining issues include the distribution of cabinet posts and the demobilisation of the riot police. — Sapa-Reuter
WINDHOEK.—Patients in south-east Angola are starving to death because of a ban on cross-border food movements, Namibian police yesterday quoted Unita rebels as saying.

The rebels begged Namibian police to let maize move across the frontier and offered to pay customs dues on it. Police said they were investigating charges of smuggling against two Namibians after 101 bags of maize were confiscated on the banks of the Okavango river on the Namibian-Angolan frontier.

Shortly after the maize had been seized, a boat arrived with Unita soldiers who begged the police to release the grain, apparently destined for hospitals. —Sapa-Reuters
UNITA attacks before talks

LUANDA. — Angolan government troops repulsed UNITA rebel attacks around the besieged northern city of Malange, killing more than 50 guerrillas.

The fighting took place as the two sides prepared to resume talks on settling nearly two decades of civil war.

Malange is one of several government-held cities in the interior under siege.

One guerrilla was captured and weapons, including 43 machineguns, were seized. — EPA-REUTERS C18111944
Slow progress in Angolan talks

LUSAKA — Angolan peace talks made limited progress yesterday when Unita conditionally gave way to the government's insistence that the special anti-riot police force not be disbanded, diplomats said.

"But at the same time, Unita warned in a radio-broadcast that the civil war was bound to go on and accused the government of preparing to mount an offensive.

"Disagreements over the future of the police, especially the riot unit, had proved a stumbling block in the latest round of talks, which began in the Zambian capital in November." Unita had wanted the unit disbanded, arguing that it operated more like a military than a normal police force and served to "terrorise" people rather than keep the peace.

"Unita told mediators it wanted to contribute men to make up half the numbers in the riot unit, set up by the government before UN-supervised elections in 1992." The Angolan foes still have to agree on matters of power-sharing, national reconciliation, the decentralisation of government, and the completion of the second round of presidential elections suspended after Unita went back to war.

"In its radio broadcast, Unita charged that the government was making "efforts for the continuation of the war" at Cacambane, the only place in Cuanza Norte province still under Luanda's control.

The military was preparing for an offensive on Unita forces holding "most of Cuanza Norte and the two other northern provinces of Uige and Zaire, the broadcast declared.

"The government also talked war yesterday on official radio, warning that it would use "all its resources" against rebel forces if Unita persists in its lack of readiness for dialogue." — Sapa-APP.
Cuba ready to fight in Angola

LUSAKA. — Cuba has threatened to send its troops back into Angola if it detects any foreign intervention in the current civil war, according to reports here. Cuban Foreign Minister Mr. Roberto Robaina said on Wednesday his country was watching the situation closely and the negotiation process carefully. "We have no confidence in Unita promises," he said. Mr. Robaina described the Lusaka talks as directionless, and said Cuba was ready to redeploy its army. — Sapa.
Emergency food for Angolans

HARARE. — An emergency food programme for 2.1 million Angolans was announced today by World Food Programme director Catherine Bertini.

The programme will deliver 167,346 tons of food at a cost of $84.6 million (R287.5 m), including transport costs, she said.

Since July 1992, two months after the start of a brief ceasefire between the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement, the WFP has delivered R340 million in humanitarian aid to Angola.

Ms Bertini said the programme was aimed at 802,000 displaced people, 240,000 people affected by war, 105,000 people hit by drought and 99,000 refugees from Zaire and Zambia.

Should peace talks between Unita and the MPLA government be successful and delivery of food by road become possible, the WFP would substantially expand its aid operation, Ms Bertini said. — Sapa.
One rate for Angola

Luanda — The Angolan government is abolishing differential exchange rates for foreign currency and introducing a single exchange rate.

Prime Minister Marcelino Moco said on state television banks would adopt a single floating exchange regime.

National radio said the buying and selling of foreign currency outside authorized mechanisms, including sale on the street, was immediately illegal.

The changing of foreign currency outside the authorized channels can be punished with up to two years in prison and a fine of up to five million new kwanzas (about $45 at current black market rates)," state radio added.

Before the announcement the banks offered three rates. The "official rate" on was 8 500 kwanzas to the dollar, the "floating rate" at about 55 000 to the dollar, and the "free market rate" at about 115 000 to the dollar. — Sêpa-Reuter.
UN to Police Angola

International News

Major breakthrough in Angolan talks
Angola to host peace summit

Talks with Mandela, Chissano

LISBON. — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will host Nelson Mandela and Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano for talks he called crucial to peace in southern Africa.

The meeting, scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday in Luanda, will focus on ways to avoid an eruption of mass violence after elections this year in Mozambique and South Africa.

“South Africa’s elections will be, without doubt, the most important event on the African continent,” an aide to Mr. dos Santos said yesterday.

Mr. dos Santos hopes trade alliances and accelerated economic development will end the region’s history of poverty and civil strife, the aide said.

The three leaders were united for years by Marxist ideology, and by their mutual struggle against the South African government, which supported rebel movements in Angola and Mozambique and attempted to wipe out Mr. Mandela’s African National Congress.

All three have since come out in favour of free market systems.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. Chissano, like Mr. dos Santos last year, are leading candidates in elections in their countries.

A date has not yet been set for Mozambique’s elections. United Nations election monitors are proceeding cautiously, hoping to avoid the return to fighting that tarnished Angola’s first democratic elections in September 1992. — Sapa-AP.

Drive against Unita claimed

LUANDA. — Angolan government troops have launched an offensive in the north of the country which has put delicately-balanced peace talks in danger, the rebel Unita movement has announced.

The government offensive was aimed at the northern provinces of Uige and Zaire and parts of the Bengo region controlled by Unita, the movement’s vice-president, Antonio Dembo, said on rebel radio Radio Vorgan. He gave no details of casualties or damage.

The attack comes as government and rebel forces meeting in Lusaka try to agree on the make-up of a future Angolan police force, the remaining stumbling block to a ceasefire in the country’s 18-year civil war.

Unita radio also said it was prepared to call on the United Nations to end Russia’s role as one of the three countries monitoring the peace process.

Unita says German authorities have uncovered a shipment of Russian amphibious combat tanks destined for the government army. — Sapa-AP.
Lusaka. — The chief United Nations envoy to Angola said yesterday that a peace accord would soon be signed, after 15 years of war, but added that mistrust and continued fighting were the main barriers to a settlement.

At a rare news conference in Lusaka, Aloume Blondin Beye said he believed the Angolan government and the Unita rebel movement were on the verge of a breakthrough.

Bye told reporters the warring sides had agreed to six out of 10 crucial points on the agenda of the UN-brokered talks.

He declined to be specific about when an agreement could be struck. "The continued fighting is not acceptable at this stage. The two sides have already agreed on the general principles of a ceasefire, and the fighting must stop," he said.

— Saps-AP.
Cheers greet Angolan police ‘breakthrough’

LUSAKA. — The Angolan government and Unita rebels yesterday agreed on a re-organisation of the national police force, a breakthrough in finding a settlement to their long war, sources close to peace talks said.

The agreement, which will allow Unita to participate in the force, was greeted with applause by negotiators at the UN-sponsored talks here.

“This is an important breakthrough in the negotiations because what they have decided is not the police for the government or Unita but a police for the Angolans,” one source said.

Composition of the force was a main stumbling block to finding a settlement to end 18 years of civil war.

Negotiators now turn to “national reconciliation” issues, including the status of Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and opposition parties, press freedom, amnesty, economic policy and Unita demands for government positions. — Sapa-Reuter
Talks, but still

talks.

Angola battles

LUANDA: — Fighting between government forces and Unita intensified around Angola's last weekend, despite peace talks.

A source close to the military said clashes took place in Quingenge, 90km west of the Unita-held city of Huambo, and in other parts of the country.

State media said yesterday both sides had made a significant advance at peace talks in Lusaka with agreement on a national police force. — Sapa-Reuters
Looking for peace: Angola's President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos will travel to Namibia this week to try to broker a peace deal.
Savimbi calls for 'global ceasefire' in Angolan war

LISBON. — Dr Jonas Savimbi has called for a "global ceasefire" in Angola and said Unita wants peace talks to succeed.

In a Saturday interview on Portuguese TV Dr Savimbi repeated recent assertions by other Unita leaders that a military solution to the Angolan war was a futile undertaking as no one would win the war.

"The ideal solution would be to reach a global ceasefire," he said.

Dr Savimbi denied reports that Unita wanted to buy more arms as its arsenal would be empty within two years.

"That is completely untrue. We have no need to buy war equipment as the South Africans, when they were our allies, delivered tons and tons of material into Angola," he revealed.

He said Unita would continue peace talks in Zambia with "the same determination as the government.

• Angolan state radio reported renewed fighting in Cuito Cuanavale where it said 100 civilians had been killed in 48 hours. — Sape-AFP
Angola in 'arms build-up'

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Unita claims the Angolan government is making large purchases of arms from Brazil for a major offensive — in spite of the peace talks in Lusaka.

According to Unita, Angolan army chief Joao de Matos said in Lisbon yesterday the Luanda government was "preparing large-scale offensive operations" against Unita.

General De Matos, who was on his way to Brazil, said the United Nations mediated Lusaka talks were a waste of time, Unita said.

It alleges the main purpose of General De Matos's trip is to buy weapons and said the Luanda government had bought R405 million worth of armaments in the past six months, including surface-to-surface missiles with ranges of up to 60km.

Unita said they were ready to discuss a general cease-fire with the MPLA.

Sapa-AP reports from Lisbon that fierce battles between Angolan government forces and rebel Unita soldiers have killed more than 50 people around a key rebel-besieged city, government sources said.

Fighting broke out early on Saturday, then slacked off overnight, leaving the government in control of about 80 percent of Cuito, 670km southwest of Luanda, according to the sources.

The government said it decided to launch its attack out of frustration with the course of peace negotiations in the Zambian capital Lusaka, and concern about Unita's troop movements around Cuito, which has been besieged by rebel forces for the past 13 months.

But Unita called the government's claim "propaganda."
50 killed in Angola battles

Lisbon — Fierce battles between Angolan government forces and rebel Unita soldiers have killed more than 50 people around a key rebel-besieged city.

Fighting broke out early on Saturday, then slackened overnight, leaving the government in control of about 80 percent of Cuito, 670 km south-west of Luanda, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported yesterday, citing government sources.

The government said it decided to launch its attack because it was frustrated by the course of peace negotiations in Lusaka and concern about Unita troop movements around Cuito, which has been besieged for 13 months.

A Unita spokesman in Washington dismissed the government's claim as propaganda and accused it of staging the battle to justify aerial bombardment of Unita positions.

The government also said it was bombing Unita positions in the oil-rich enclave of Soyo, 300 km north of Luanda, because of increased Unita activity. Confirmation of either side's claims is impossible in the war-torn country, where the fighting has driven most independent observers from the field.

Relief workers with the UN World Food Programme in Luanda were evaluating the situation to see if flights this week would have to be cancelled. — Sapa-AP.
Unita reconsider ceasefire

LUANDA. - Leaders of Angola's Unita rebels met in the central town of Huanbo yesterday to discuss re-establishing a ceasefire for nearby Kuito, scene of fierce clashes between rebels and government forces on Saturday.

In a statement broadcast by a Unita radio station, a spokesman said the rebels were looking at "possibilities of pursuing negotiations in Lusaka", citing some progress there. Talks in the Zambian capital opened on January 6.

The state radio put the death toll from Saturday's violence at 48, with a further 62 injured. The radio added that yesterday afternoon government forces were in control of some 85% of Kuito territory.

On Saturday, a government spokesman at the Lusaka talks said on returning to Angola that Luanda was "ready for a ceasefire" provided it was verified by the United Nations. - Sapa-AFP
Malawian foreign currency controls go

BLANTYRE — The Malawi Reserve Bank said on Saturday that it had scrapped foreign currency controls and introduced new measures in the financial sector.

Reserve Bank governor Francis Pelekmoyo said the bank would eliminate exchange controls and introduce a market-determined exchange rate for the Malawian kwacha from today.

Foreign exchange outlets would open in major cities across the country.

Under the new system, imports of goods and services will no longer be subject to prior approval by the Reserve Bank, with the exception of some financial services.

Pelekmoyo said under the new regulations, Malawi residents would no longer have to sell any foreign currency they had to authorised banks.

Exporters and other residents receiving foreign exchange on a regular basis would be allowed to open foreign currency accounts, he said.

With effect from today, authorised banks would be allowed to buy and sell foreign exchange at market-determined rates. Malawian residents travelling abroad would be allowed to buy up to the equivalent of US$3,000 for holiday expenses, $4,000 for medical expenses and $5,000 for business purposes.

President Kamuzu Banda held a referendum in June in which an overwhelming majority of the country’s 9.7-million people voted to end Banda’s autocratic, one-party rule. In its place, they wanted a multiparty democracy.

Aid has since started to flow again after the government announced that the country’s first multiparty elections were scheduled for May.

A combined effect of the freeze on aid worth $250m, widespread industrial unrest and the worst drought of the century in much of southern Africa crippled Malawi’s agricultural-dependent economy.

Businessmen and economists said Malawi’s inflation had shot up to 30% in 1993 from 12% in 1992.

Business leaders said the resumption of aid should help bring new life into Malawi’s export sector, where several factories were on the verge of closing down.

They had been hit by the unavailability of raw materials and cuts in lines of credit by suppliers because of the shortage of hard currency in the country. — Reuter.

30 killed as Unita artillery blasts Cuito

MORE than 30 people were killed in renewed fighting between government troops and Unita forces in the central Angolan town of Cuito on Saturday, the state radio reported yesterday.

The radio, monitored by the BBC in Johannesburg, said most of those killed and injured were children and the elderly.

Unita forces were using guns and mortars to “demolish Cuito residents and reduce the city to ashes”, the radio said.

It said government forces had sworn to avenge the death of their commander, Lt-Gen Alfredo Kusumuo. — Reuter.

The upsurge in fighting came a few days after Angola’s state-controlled media said peace talks with Unita were going well and making progress.

A UN mediator, too, said problems had been resolved.

But the Jornal do Angola warned peace was still some way off. — Reuter.
Unita makes new advances

LUANDA. — Fierce fighting between Unita and Angolan government forces spread in the central town of Kuito yesterday as the Angolan military acknowledged new losses to the rebel movement. Unita meanwhile charged that Angolan warplanes had bombed its central stronghold of Huambo, but an official military spokesman immediately denied this.

The military announced yesterday that the town of Jamba-Mineira in the southern province of Huila and the central district of Bakaera had been taken by Unita troops.

Concerning the Kuito fighting, the Angolan military said in a statement that Unita forces were bent on "taking up new positions on the ground" in order to "raise obstacles" at the peace talks in Lusaka. — Sapa-AFP
Angolan peace talks jeopardised by bombs


Government planes unleashed heavy bombing of Huambo, stronghold of Unita, said a Western diplomat.

Rebel positions were also hit in the city and the hills around neighbouring Cuito, 670 km south-east of Luanda.

"Unita is firing right back with very heavy artillery," the diplomat said.

Radio contact has been lost, with United Nations and humanitarian aid officials taking cover in trenches.

All emergency food supplies to Cuito's 60,000 trapped civilians were halted.

At least 50 people were believed killed in weekend fighting in Cuito. There has been no word from Huambo.

— Sapa-AP
LISBON — Fierce battles between Angolan government forces and Unita soldiers have killed more than 50 people around a key Unita-besieged city, according to news reports.

Fighting broke out early on Saturday then slackened off overnight, leaving the government in control of about 80% of Cuito, southwest of the capital Luanda, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported, citing Angolan government sources.

Angola's state radio, monitored by the BBC, said government forces had killed 47 Unita soldiers and taken over some outlying areas that had been under Unita control.

The government said it had decided to attack out of frustration with the course of peace negotiations in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, Lusa said. It said it was concerned that Unita might be preparing an offensive in Cuito, which has been besieged for the past 13 months, Lusa said.

The government also said it was bombing Unita positions in the oil-rich enclave of Soyo, north of Luanda, because of increased Unita activity in the area.

A Unita spokesman in Washington called Angola's claim propaganda and accused it of staging the battle to justify aerial bombardment of Unita positions in Cuito and elsewhere, Lusa reported.

Confirmation of either side's claims is impossible in the war-torn country, where the fighting has driven most independent observers from the field.

Relief workers with the UN World Food Programme in Luanda were evaluating the situation to see if flights would have to be canceled, Lusa reported.

The Angolan civil war claimed about 350,000 lives between 1975 and the peace accord of 1991. In renewed hostilities since then, another 100,000 people are believed to have died.

Humanitarian workers estimate that 3 million Angolans live on the brink of starvation because of war-related scarcity. — AP-DJ.
Go it alone move

by Angolan rebels

Decide a unilateral truce in Cuito.
Unita calls for truce in Cuito, Malange

LISBON. — The Angolan rebel movement Unita said yesterday it will declare a unilateral truce in the central city of Cuito, where fighting flared at the weekend.

Unita's said in a statement that rebels would also stop attacking Malange, a government-held city besieged by Unita in the north.

The ceasefire was called "to allow the peace negotiations in Lusaka to reach a definitive settlement for peaceful coexistence," Unita said. But it said there could be no military solution to the 18-year-old civil war, which has raged since Angola's independence in 1975.

Angolan state radio said on Monday that 175 people had died and 350 had been injured in three days of fighting in Cuito, which has been besieged and by Unita forces for 13 months. — Sapa-Reuters
Unita to halt siege of Cuito

Lisbon — The Angolan rebel movement Unita said yesterday it will declare a unilateral truce in the central city of Cuito, where fighting flared at the weekend.

Unita, said in a statement faxed to Reuters in Lisbon that rebels would also stop attacking Malange, a government-held city in northern Angola.

Unita "will declare yet another unilateral ceasefire, not just in Cuito but also in Malange in order to allow the peace negotiations in Luanda to reach a definitive settlement for peaceful coexistence," it said.

Angolan radio said on Monday that 175 people had died and 350 had been injured in three days of fighting in Cuito, which has been besieged and occupied by Unita forces for 13 months.

The radio accused Unita of pumping 5,000 artillery shells into Cuito on Monday and said the city had become an inferno.

Unita said government forces had temporarily succeeded in dislodging the rebels from some of the positions in Cuito, but these had been recaptured.

There had been an uneasy truce between government and Unita in Cuito since September, when Unita first declared a unilateral ceasefire in the city.

Sporadic clashes have taken place since then, but the airport reopened and aid agencies were able to fly in food and establish field hospitals. — Sapa-Reuters.

— 'New future' turns into a nightmare — Page 15
Angolan civil war 'stupid', says Savimbi

Clive Sawyer
Political Correspondent

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi says the Angolan civil war was stupid and could have been avoided.

Today he recommitted himself and his movement to the Lusaka Agreement, which provides for elections to be held in Angola by February 1997.

Dr Savimbi told a Press conference in Cape Town that the main reason for his visit to South Africa was to learn how this country had achieved national reconciliation.

UNITA's commitment to peace was total.

Dr Savimbi, a guerrilla fighter for 30 years, said there had been three stages to the conflict in his country.

The first was the fight against Portuguese colonialism, and there had been no alternative to an armed struggle. The second phase, involving global superpowers and South Africa, had left no room for negotiations.

But the third, of only Angolans versus Angolans, had been stupid. "We could have avoided it."

Dr Savimbi confirmed he had been approached while in Cape Town by the families of members of Executive Outcomes, the South African mercenary group operating in Angola, about missing relatives.
Angola aid halted amid new fighting

CNA — The Angolan government has suspended aid to areas controlled by the Unita movement amid reports of renewed fighting between the two sides.

Assistant and Social Reintegration Minister Norberto dos Santos said yesterday that the suspension would be lifted only if Unita stopped fighting in the central town of Cuito.

Civilians in Cuito, where heavy fighting broke out last Saturday, were running out of food and medical supplies.

Mr. dos Santos added that Unita had stopped fighting on Wednesday to allow the withdrawal of foreign officials of humanitarian organisations, but the fighting had resumed yesterday.

Four officials of the Irish humanitarian agency Concern, and 38 others working for Belgium's Doctors Without Borders organisation, arrived in Luanda from Cuito yesterday.

Mr. dos Santos dismissed as "propaganda" Unita plans to call a new unilateral ceasefire as it did last September.

At least 300 civilians have been killed and 400 wounded in the Cuito fighting, Angolan radio reports. The figures have not been independently confirmed.

Cuito was the scene of vicious clashes last year when conflict and famine left more than 25,000 dead and the city in ruins in what was viewed as the worst battle in Angola's civil war.

The government and Unita have been holding peace talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka since November. Unita declared a truce at the end of September.

Sapa-APP
Cuito bombed as govt retaliates for shelling

LUANDA. — Unita rebels have shelled government positions in the central Angolan city of Cuito, and Luanda's forces retaliated with bombing raids, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

State-run Jornal de Angola quoted Mr Luis dos Santos, governor of Bié province of which Cuito is the capital, as saying 300 people had been killed in the city since last Saturday.

The paper also reported fighting in Chimbuandi in Cabinda.

Aid flights to Cuito were suspended last Saturday when the fighting started. The government said on Thursday it had suspended permission for aid flights to the Unita-held city of Huambo in central Angola until the rebels allowed aid to be flown to Cuito.

Peace talks in Lusaka have been stalled since the UN mediator Mr Alouane Biondin Beye left last week for Ivory Coast for the funeral of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He has returned but Unita negotiators have not. — Sapa-AFP
Luanda asks France to help stop war

Curbs on Unita arms sought

PARIS. — Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos will ask France to help end Angola's bloody civil war by persuading Zaire to halt arms deliveries to Unita rebels, diplomatic sources say.

Angolan ambassador Boaventura Cardoso said Mr Dos Santos's official visit to Paris next week was intended to "seek the solidarity of France".

He made clear Mr Dos Santos was not asking for military support from France, but for Paris to put pressure on Zaire and Zambia to bring the 19-year war to an end.

"We hope France can intervene with Zaire and contribute to stopping it interfering in the Angolan conflict," Mr Cardoso said.

Diplomatic sources said weapons and ammunition, bought with diamonds mined from Unita-controlled areas, were reaching the rebels through Zaire in spite of an arms embargo.

UNITA and the Luanda government have been locked in civil war since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975. An aid deal signed in 1991 broke down after Unita leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his defeat in 1992 presidential elections.

Mr Savimbi has said he favours continuing the three-month-old peace talks in Lusaka, which resumed this week, as neither side could win the war and the conflict could go on for years.

Mr Cardoso said Angola would make "a symbolic gesture" on its $40 million (R137 million) debt to France in the coming weeks. He did not elaborate, but diplomatic sources said Angola would make a small repayment to France.

The source said Mr Dos Santos would be accompanied to Paris by his ministers of finance, foreign affairs, oil and co-operation and the governor of the central bank.

He was scheduled to meet President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and the heads of French companies in Angola, including oil giants Total and Elf-Aquitaine, and telecommunications companies Alcatel and Thomson-CSF.

Angola talks going well, says Unita

LUSAKA. — Angola's rebel Unita movement said today good progress was being made in UN-mediated talks with the government on national reconciliation.

"The exchange of views between Unita and the government was very friendly," Unita spokesman Jorge Valentim told reporters, referring to talks yesterday.

UN mediators presented 10 general principles on reconciliation.

"We agreed on four of the 10 principles and today we are expecting another document from the mediators because there are amendments to be made," Mr Valentim said, without giving details. "We are finding common ground.

The talks are due to move on to specifics on general principles on issues like government decentralisation and political and ethnic tolerance.

The negotiations are continuing in spite of renewed clashes near the northern town of Mangange, where Unita was reported to have captured a village.

— Sapa-Reuters.
Angola a ‘lesson’ to war mongers

Johannesburg. — A 10-member ANC delegation returned from a three-day visit to Angola to warn the right-wing of the ravages of civil war.

Angola has seen 10 years of civil war in which thousands of people have been killed and the economy has suffered severely.

At a media briefing Mr Tokyo Sexwale advised the right-wing, "both black and white", to reconsider their stand.

Civil war had to be avoided, at all costs or the country could face chaos similar to that in Angola: "In Angola we saw the future according to the right-wing — it does not work."

The recent spate of bomb attacks on ANC offices was a right-wing "terrorist tactic", he said.

Asked whether he thought South Africa was in the initial stages of civil war, Mr Sexwale said: "Thirty bombs have already exploded in two months — I don't know what we should call that."

The delegation met Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, army generals and Members of Parliament and expressed the ANC's support for talks between the MPLA government and Unita.

Mr. Dos Santos had expressed a keen interest in pursuing business in South Africa, Mr Sexwale said, so too had Angolan businessmen.

Returning to the issue of the right-wing threat, Mr Sexwale said negotiations with the Freedom Alliance and other right-wing parties were no longer negotiations. "What the Freedom Alliance is in fact doing is to make demands with a pistol pointed at our heads and that pistol is civil war."

Progress made in peace talks.

Lusaka, Zambia. — Angola's factions agreed yesterday on the main principles for sharing power after their 18-year war ends, participants at the peace talks said.

After three months of haggling, the way was almost clear to a ceasefire, observers said.

The government and Unita did not disclose details of their agreement, saying only they had reached common ground on the involvement of Unita in the "political and economic administration and the decentralisation of power."

Unita has demanded control of some key ministries and provinces reflecting its control of over half the country.

Unita also wants "special status" for Dr Jonas Savimbi. — Sapa-AP.
Angola peace just ‘week or two away’

LUSAKA. — Angola’s Unita and government negotiators have agreed on all but two of 10 general principles on national reconciliation at peace talks here, diplomats said.

The diplomats monitoring the three-month secret talks also said they were progressing well in spite of fresh fighting in Angola’s 18-year civil war.

They said that apart from freedom of the Press and guarantees of individual freedom of expression and association, the two sides agreed on the other principles which were mainly Unita’s political demands.

“Their have reached a common ground to adopt eight of the 10 principles and when they resolve the remaining two, they will go into specifics after which they will discuss the modalities . . . we are talking about a week or two before this issue is closed,” said a source.

Topping the agreements was the principle that Unita should be allowed to take part at various levels in the political, administrative and economic institutions of the future Angolan government.

They also agreed that there would be “an effective decentralisation and deconcentration of power”. — Sapa-AFP.
Angolan mercy flights suspended

LUANDA — Humanitarian aid flights to the northern Angolan town of Malanje have been suspended following an upsurge in fighting in which a UN relief plane was hit by gunfire, Angolan Social Aid Minister Norberto dos Santos said yesterday.

Ten flights due into the town yesterday were called off because of the intensity of the fighting, which the Luanda authorities have blamed on Unita.

The UN had wanted to pursue aid operations to the town — described by Norberto as the “biggest humanitarian operation in Angola” — in spite of Wednesday’s incident.

The UN Boeing 727 was hit during takeoff but was able to make an emergency landing at Luanda.

The UN operation in Angola targets about 36,000 victims of Angola’s 18-year-old civil war, which flared up again more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, it is reported from Windhoek that an airlift of critical food aid to Angola, destined a year ago for Unita-held areas in southeastern Cuando Cubango province, is finally scheduled to leave Namibia.

The MPLA government suspended all food flights from Namibia more than a year ago, saying relief aid had to be channelled through government areas.

This left 2,000 tons of food aid stranded in Rundu on the Namibian border.

Permission was granted last month for a Namibian aviation company to fly the maize, oil and salt into Ngiva, a town situated in the Cunene province in southern Angola.

Chris Schutte said it would take 105 flights in two DC-6 freighters to deliver the food over six weeks.

The food was donated by a German humanitarian organisation, and the airlift was financed by the EC.

Care International, an American emergency food distribution agency operating in Cunene province, would take charge of distribution once the food had landed, he said.

After finally getting flight clearance from Angola, the airlift was delayed yesterday by an expired export permit on the Namibian side.

Schutte was, however, confident that the food flights could start by this morning, at the latest.

The UN estimates that up to 1,000 people are dying daily of starvation, injury and disease in the Angolan civil war.

Hostilities resumed in December 1982 after an 18-month ceasefire when Unita contested the results of the UN-supervised elections which it lost. — Sape-APF.
Unita spells out demands for top government posts

LUSAKA — Unita has demanded immunity for its senior officials and a share in the attribution of ministerial posts as conditions for its agreement to Angola’s national reconciliation plan.

In a position paper handed to UN mediators, Unita said its officials should be granted the same immunities as Angolan members of parliament and that they should hold high positions in the country’s strategic economic industries.

Government posts to be allocated to Unita should be determined at peace talks under way in Lusaka, it said.

“The participation of Unita in central government should ensure that they are ministries of sovereignty, in the productive sector, secretary of state,” Unita also demanded diplomatic representations, special security, diplomatic passports and “appropriate” accommodation for its top officials.

In order to cement national reconciliation, members of Unita should participate in the strategic enterprises of the country, particularly in the organs of management and administration,” the paper said.

The industries in which Unita is demanding participation include oil company Sonangol, diamond concern Endiam, banks, electricity company Sonefe, the national airline TAAG, and the ports of Lobito, Luanda, Namibe and Soyo.

Unita demanded that once political stability returned to Angola, elections be held to fill the posts of “governance at the provincial local levels”.

The paper, under consideration by UN mediators and the government negotiators, made no mention of the fate of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, a topic likely to be dealt with in the next stage of the peace talks.

This stage will consider the holding of the second round of presidential elections, suspended when Unita went back to war after rejecting the results of the 1992 elections.

The Unita paper stressed the need for free, non-partisan media and access to the state media.

The demands came against a background of escalating conflict inside Angola and at a crucial juncture in the three-month peace talks, which both sides have described as the last chance for peace in Angola.

Last week the two sides agreed on the general principles of national reconciliation. — Sapa-AFP.
Unita demands immunity

LUSAKA. — Angola’s rebel Unita movement has demanded immunity for its senior officials and a share in the attribution of ministerial posts as conditions for its agreement to a national reconciliation plan, it said in a position paper issued here.

In the paper handed to United Nations mediators, Unita said its officials should be granted the same immunities as members of parliament and high positions in industry.

Government posts to be allocated to Unita should be determined at the peace talks under way here, it said.

The rebels also demanded diplomatic representations, special security, diplomatic passports and “appropriate” accommodation for its top officials.

The industries in which Unita is demanding participation include the oil company Sonangol, the diamond firm Endiama, banks and the electricity company Sonelco. — Sapa-AFP
Angola's govt battling to quell financial anarchy

LUANDA — The formerly Marxist government of Angola — potentially one of Africa's richest nations — has made halting moves to pull its economy back from disarray.

However, independent economists and diplomats say distortions and financial anarchy still run deep.

Nearly 13 years of civil war and inefficient socialist experiments have devastated the economy and driven most financial transactions outside the formal sector.

Despite being blessed with oil, diamonds and fertile land, Angola's agriculture and industry are virtually paralysed and the government cannot properly feed a third of its 10-million people. Few Angolans use the banks and corruption is rampant.

The government has in the past two months taken a number of seemingly half-hearted steps to liberalise the economy, including allowing commercial banks to change foreign currency at free market rates and devaluing the kwanza twice in the past two weeks.

President José Eduardo dos Santos said this week that more such measures were to come and proposed a series of "adjustments" to cut public spending and a big budget deficit.

However, independent economists and diplomats questioned whether these good intentions would materialise and impose the financial discipline desired by foreign creditors owed about $6bn.

Said a diplomat: "The IMF could not have written a better speech. Who could disagree with budgetary discipline? But they have been talking about these things for years."

Most Angolans use open air markets rather than shops and the streets rather than banks. Inflation is officially just less than 2 000% annually. Large sections of the population live on food handouts.

Authorities recently announced a crackdown on street hawkers lacking licences and black market money changers, threatening a way of life for thousands in Luanda.

Multiple exchange rates have been available as a form of selective subsidy to different sectors of the economy since independence. These "subsidies" made it cheap for the government elite to import flashy foreign cars and other luxuries.

The government has said the subsidies would be phased out and that the two devaluations were part of moves towards a free-market system.

Distortions in Angola's economy mean two litres of petrol cost Luanda motorists the equivalent of one US cent. A return flight to Brazil, before the devaluations, cost an Angolan resident the equivalent of $150. On Monday the same ticket cost just more than $300.

For ordinary Angolans, who lack electricity and running water, the devaluations have limited impact other than the knock-on effect of higher petrol prices, economists say.

The government blames the economic mire on the war. However, one economist said past economic policies were as much to blame.

"This is the story of a catastrophe foretold," he said. — Sapa-Reuters.
Media watchdog a ‘toothless poodle’

Bruce Cohen

SEVENTEEN journalists have either been killed or have vanished without trace since the collapse of the Angolan peace accord in October 1992, according to a report.

The constant threat of death and intimidation is just one aspect of life for Angola’s shackled journalists, says the report, commissioned by the Media Institute of Southern Africa (Misa). "Blatant, as well as more subtle control of the country’s media institutions by the warring factions is another."

The report follows a visit by a Misa task force to Angola recently to assess the impact of the civil war on the country’s media.

The task force found media freedom in ruins. "It is patently clear that both the press and the electronic media are effectively muzzled by the ruling MPLA and the government." In areas controlled by Unita, says the report, conditions are similar if not harsher.

Chief executives of the country’s state-run radio, TV, news agency and the only mass circulation daily newspaper are appointed by the cabinet, and "tend to act more like civil servants than journalists", says the report.

It describes the media council, the country’s media watchdog, as a “toothless poodle”.

The report says that an apparently private and independent media does exist, but even these have close ties with the ruling MPLA. Several private radio stations and a weekly newspaper appeared before the abortive September 1992 elections, and it is widely believed they have been financed by the MPLA.

Another factor highlighted in the report is the poor pay received by journalists (about R200 a month) as well as the lack of job opportunities which gives journalists little choice but to toe the line.

In spite of the enormous problems, the Misa report notes that Angolan media employees have created several initiatives which could be the "seeds of a genuinely independent and pluralistic media". However, the report notes, "these seeds have fallen on a devastated landscape and need a great deal of nurturing."
Angolan offer 'a joke'

LUSAKA. — UNITA rebels yesterday accused Angolan government negotiators of not taking their demands for political power seriously in the long-running peace talks to end nearly two decades of civil war.

UNITA spokesman Mr Jorge Valentim told reporters that the government had offered UNITA only one governorship out of the 18 provinces and insignificant ministerial posts.

"They are not taking the subject of national reconciliation seriously because this is one of the key items..." the response we are getting is a political joke," Mr Valentim said.

UNITA is demanding key government portfolios including defence and information and involvement in the management of strategic economic enterprises specifically in the oil, electricity and diamond sectors.

An Angolan newspaper quoted government sources as saying that the Lusaka talks, which began in November, had been slow but progress had been made. — Sapa-Reuters
A rebel almost without a base

Jonas Savimbi, the rebel leader, smiles down from a giant poster promising “peace and democracy.”

It tells visitors to Huambo that they have reached the “capital” of the other Angola. This is the heart of Unita territory, land held or won by Savimbi’s men since they took to arms again after losing the election in 1992.

Campaigning for votes, Savimbi promised “a new future.” Here is the wretched reality.

None of the crowds, hawkers of cheap imports, traffic jams and rotting rubbish that overwhelm the government’s capital, Luanda. Instead, the charred ruins of homes and offices, flattened first by a bloody 95-day siege that ended a year ago, when Unita won control of the city, and recently by government bombing raids. There is no electricity, and water is short.

Unita tells its supporters they must feed themselves. Empty spaces in the city have been sown with maize.

But a severe drought last year has helped to push hundreds of thousands to the brink.

The swollen bellies of children speak of widespread kwashiorkor, a condition produced by chronic protein deficiency. Until the next harvest in late March and April, things can only get worse.

The International Committee of the Red Cross says 200,000 people around Huambo (out of 1.5 m) risk starvation. Missionaries say they have never seen hunger on this scale in these usually fertile central highlands.

Food is available on the black market — at a price. But few people have paid employment, so few can afford it.

The sprawling Sao Pedro market on the edge of town is strewn with old beds, clothes and electronic gadgets sold by people ready to give up anything for a kilo of maize.

The pharmacy at the central hospital is bare; most medicines end up on the black market. Skin-and-bone children, who need constant feeding, have no milk, sugar or salt, and neither the strength nor drugs to fend off infection or malaria.

The United Nations imposed an embargo on sales of fuel to Unita-controlled areas last year, after the rebels took to arms again. The few cars on the streets belong to Unita officials, aid workers, the Catholic church and a handful of businessmen making handsome profits from hard times.

Yet supplies do come in. Sympathetic traders lead convoys out to neighbouring Zaire and Namibia to fetch basic items (and beer). Unita keeps its own treasury replenished by smuggling diamonds, timber and ivory from territory it controls.

But, busy fighting, Unita has left foreign relief agencies to worry about feeding the people. Their work is uncertain and risky.

Aid flights may be suddenly cut off, and government bombs do not distinguish aid workers from rebels.

Government attacks have intensified in recent weeks — enough to provoke South Africa’s ANC to urge restraint.

The UN’s man in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, says the rising violence will not derail the peace talks that have been trundling slowly along in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, for more than three months.

But Huambo reveals little ground for optimism.

Unita has set up its own “government” there, complete with so-called ministries of education, humanitarian affairs and housing. The rebels do not plan to withdraw from the two-thirds of Angola they have won by force.

Unita’s strategy seems to be to accept a UN peacekeeping force, which would separate the belligerents, and then consolidate control on its side.

Beye’s challenge, if such a force were provided, would be to disarm Unita troops before that happened. That looks difficult.

As if to express the rebels’ view of the UN, the only piece of UN military equipment left in the Huambo camp its people used to monitor the 1992 election — a Russian-built helicopter — has been turned into a public toilet.
UN votes to extend Angola mission

NEW YORK. — The Security Council has voted unanimously to extend until May 31 the mandate of a UN mission in Angola.

The mission comprises about 80 military observers, police and medical personnel.

The council also said it was ready in principle to consider authorising an increase to 490, plus support staff.

That was the original authorised strength of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) when it was set up in 1991 to help monitor an accord ending 16 years of civil war.

The increase will take effect when UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reports that the Angolan government and Unita rebels have reached agreement and that conditions are right to deploy the additional personnel.

UNAVEM was sharply reduced early last year when fierce fighting erupted after Unita refused to accept defeat in elections in September 1992.

Dr Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the council approve UNAVEM's restoration to its original strength so that, once an overall settlement is reached, additional personnel can quickly be deployed. In advance of a fully-fledged peacekeeping force. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angolan refugees flood the Ark

Michel Muller

RELIEF organisations in Cape Town are frantically trying to accommodate an estimated 400 refugees who have fled from Angola, Burundi and Somalia.

"Nobody in the Western Cape has an agenda to pick up refugees," said Father Declan Collins, spokesman for the Don Bosco Hostel for street youths. "There is no specific organisation to take up their cause."

The Ark, formerly a derelict TB hospital which houses the destitute and indigent, is temporarily accommodating 60 Angolans, mainly young men.

"There is nowhere for them to go," said Black Sash advice office co-ordinator Bastienne Klein. "In the past three weeks there have been two, three, sometimes five a day arriving. We're dealing with people with nothing."

The situation is going to become worse and there are no facilities. The problem is, whose responsibility are they?" she said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by virtue of two agreements signed last year, is custodian of refugees in South Africa, along with the Department of Home Affairs, which handles the paperwork.

UNHCR official Philip Karani spent four days in Cape Town last week holding talks with relief organisations and Home Affairs. But UNHCR chief of missions Kallu Kalumya said: "I do not foresee a refugee camp being set up by the UNHCR in the western Cape. We seek to keep refugees in their country of asylum rather than moving them on."

Declan said the UNHCR had attended refugee committee meetings, it could not "come up with cash. It's only advice at the moment. The UN has a certain format, but they are conscious of the problem. They told us to get our act together and get a proposal to them."

Home Affairs media officer Eliza Mathebula confirmed the refugees did not receive support "other than permission to reside temporarily in South Africa."

Declan said the Angolans were avoiding the UN refugee camp in Oshtri, Namibia, where conditions were said to be "bad", and coming to Cape Town. He said the first group of Angolans was referred last October to the Trauma Centre in Croydon House, Woodstock, a former stopover for exiles.

The Angolans at the Ark, fleeing what has been described as the biggest and bloodiest war in the world, said a lot of women get caught by the MPLA or UNITA. They related rumours from Oshtri that it was "going very badly with people there."

"Something nasty is going on up there in Angola and Namibia. We get horrifying stories of women being raped and beaten," said Declan.

Kalumya responded: "The refugee camps are not five-star hotels."

"At least Namibia has put resources aside to handle refugees. Conditions may not be ideal, but we do have monitors there."
Angolan peace talks alarm

LUANDA — Angola's state media said yesterday peace talks between the government and Unita could break down, but diplomats in Luanda played this down.

The Angolan media said the four-month-old talks in Lusaka could collapse unless the two sides broke an impasse over sharing posts in a future government.

The state-owned daily Jornal de Angola said: "Unconfirmed reports in the Zambian capital say the UN could shortly decide on the breaking off or suspension of the negotiations if the sides continue to be inflexible."

But diplomats dismissed the reports.

"As far as we know there have been no indications they may break off the negotiations," one said. "The government would possibly like to put some pressure on Unita."

An African diplomat in Lusaka said last Friday Unita had accepted a government offer of places in a new administration, although bargaining was continuing.

State media reported fighting in different parts of the country since Saturday, but there were no details or independent confirmation.

Jornal de Angola said yesterday Unita had accepted what the government offered but wanted more — including the interior or communications ministries.

It said that Unita also wanted additional governorships, including the western province of Bengo, the central provinces of Huambo and Bie.

If these were combined with the governorships already offered to Unita, the northern province of Uige, the eastern province of of Lunda Sul and the southern province of Cuando Cubango in the south, it would create a continuous strip from the Atlantic coast to the Zambian border in the east.

The two sides have already reached agreement on legal and military issues and the political agenda is seen as the last hurdle to peace after nearly two decades of civil war.

Diplomats said Unita leader João-Savimbi's position remained a thorny issue. "That is an issue they are going to have to work around," said a diplomat. — Sapa-Reuters.
City set for refugee surge

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter
HUNDREDS, possibly thousands, of political refugees from countries including Somalia, Zaire, Mozambique and Angola are streaming to South Africa following an agreement between the United Nations and the government.

And, many of these refugees are making their way to Cape Town because the city is relatively safe compared to other centres and also because word has spread that free accommodation is readily available here to refugees.

Senior immigration official Jaco Duckitt, known as "Mr Refugee" because of the work he does among refugees who arrive in Cape Town, said the numbers of refugees arriving had increased alarmingly.

"More than 10 refugees arrive in Cape Town a day. We already have more than 100 male Angolans — many with children and wives — in Cape Town. Where they previously arrived in dribs and drabs, they are now arriving in groups.

"We have about 35 refugees from Somalia and the number is increasing: Four from the Sudan, 15 from Zaire and we even have one from Liberia."

Mr Duckitt said that an agreement was reached between the government and UN officials in September last year under which the government agreed to allow political refugees into South Africa.

Conditions were also set out under which people would qualify for refugee status.

Home Affairs officials get training from the UN on how to handle and process refugees.

Mr Duckitt said that under this system people first would be questioned as to their reasons for coming to South Africa. If they qualified as political refugees they would be given temporary permits to live and work here.

"We try to encourage political refugees to find work to support themselves and their families as there are no funds available from the government to support these people."

"These political refugees can later apply for political asylum. But, should the situation in their respective countries improve, we would ask them to be voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin. In such cases, we would supply them with some cash and a free ticket."

Mr Duckitt said that if political refugees refused to return voluntarily to their country of origin, steps would be taken against them under the Aliens Act.

Many of the refugees that arrive in Cape Town find a haven at The Ark in Westlake, run by Pastor Greg Grobler. They stay free of charge. The Ark does not get any money from the government and is dependent solely on donations to do its work.

□ NEW HOME: A group of political refugees who fled to Cape Town because of civil war in their respective countries have found a new home at The Ark, a haven run by Christians at Westlake.

At The Ark many refugees learn basic skills such as carpentry, welding, panel-heating to enable them to support themselves.

As the word spread that under the UN agreement with the government political refugees would not be summarily returned to their countries of origin, the number of refugees has increased.

Mr Duckitt said he had been monitoring and processing political refugees under the new system for three weeks now. Since then, there had been a vast increase. Most of them fled their countries of origin because of political strife and war.
Angola prepares for social reconstruction programme

LUANDA — Angola's central bank said on Tuesday it would have enough banknotes by July to cover implementation of its 1994 economic and social programme. (S)

Central Bank vice-governor PaIXAO Junior said in a speech reported by the state daily Jornal de Angola: "We are going to have enough banknotes to cover the government's economic programme. From next July the bank will have enough banknotes... things will have settled down.

A Luanda-based economist commented: "They are saying they will have enough banknotes available for their requirements but not so much as to give an added boost to inflation."

Officially, the annual inflation was calculated in January at about 1,780%, a reduction of about 80% from December.

The economic programme, approved two weeks ago by parliament, has been interpreted by independent economists as a first step towards implementation of a structural adjustment programme.

A "technical team" is scheduled to visit Washington at the beginning of April and an IMF team is due in Luanda in May.

Central Bank governor Generoso de Almeida said on state radio on Monday: "The government will shortly be discussing with international institutions a possible rescheduling of the debt" — about $9.5bn.

PaIXAO Junior said: "A system of cleaning up and making viable the large strategic state enterprises will shortly be implemented as well as (accelerating) privatisation of small- and medium companies."

The economic and social programme sets control of inflation and reduction of the budget deficit as key objectives.

Central to the programme is abolition of differential exchange rates. Four devaluations in two months took the official exchange rate from 6,600 kwanzas a dollar to 35,000 a dollar. The government says it will continue the devaluations until "equilibrium is reached."

A dollar fetches about 130,000 kwanzas on the street and in the banks. The official rate has been available to selected sectors as a form of state subsidy financed with oil. — Sapa-Reuter.
Government in new bid for peace with Unita

Luanda — The Angolan government has made fresh proposals for power-sharing with Unita in a bid to reactivate peace talks on the future of the country, a press report said on Saturday.

A government envoy passed details of the offer on Friday to the UN envoy mediating the talks with Unita to show “flexibility” in an attempt to “prevent the breakdown” of negotiations, the official daily Jornal de Angola said.

The document contained new propositions from Luanda on Unita’s participation in government institutions, the daily said, without giving further details.

It was presented to United Nations mediator Alouine Blondin Beye in the Zambian capital Luanda — where the peace negotiations are taking place — by Carlos Feljo, an envoy of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The talks, which were temporarily suspended last Monday after the two sides became deadlocked over power-sharing arrangements, resumed with a debate on the second round of presidential elections.

Government and Unita delegations agreed that no timetable would be fixed until after an earlier ceasefire accord had been honoured and a “lasting peace” secured in the war-torn south-west African state, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, reports emerged of a downturn in fighting in the north and east of the country. — Sepa-APP.
UNITA knocks out power lines to Luanda

LISBON — Luanda was without electricity and low on drinking water yesterday after UNITA rebels knocked out high-power lines to the Angolan capital.

The attack on the lines between Luanda and a major power station in Cambambe came as peace talks in Zambia appeared stalled and the UN Security Council considered further sanctions against UNITA.

Angolan officials said the rebels had closed in on areas southeast of Luanda at the weekend, sabotaging the lines and occupying two towns.

The rebels last carried out a major sabotage attack against the capital in January 1983, just before both sides abandoned talks and mobilized for war.

Government troops counter-attacked, moving to secure the area around Cambambe. They began heavy bombardment of UNITA positions in Soyo.

Fighting also erupted in the central city of Cuito after months of uneasy calm.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi said recently that he had the arms, money and manpower to wage war for another 10 years.

The UN Security Council was meeting last night to decide on further sanctions, which could include freezing UNITA funds abroad and restricting the movements of UNITA representatives or even expelling them from major capitals. — Sapa-AP.
Luanda in the dark after Unita sabotage

Lisbon — Luanda was without electricity and low on drinking water yesterday after Unita rebels knocked out powerlines to the Angolan capital.

The attack on the lines between Luanda and a major power station in Cambambe to the south-east came as peace talks in Lusaka, Zambia, appeared to have stalled and the UN Security Council prepared to consider further sanctions against Unita.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa reported that rebels had closed in on areas south-east of Luanda at the weekend, sabotaging the lines and occupying the towns of Zenza, de Rombe and Maria Teresia between Luanda and Cambambe.

Government troops counter-attacked immediately after the Unita assault, moving to secure the area around Cambambe.

Government troops also bombarded Unita positions in the northern coastal town of Soyo.

Oil production in Soyo ceased last year after the rebels first took the town. It has since changed hands several times.

Fighting also erupted in the divided central Angolan city of Cuito after months of uneasy calm. — Sapa-AP.
Significant aid pledged on

Savings optimistic on

Unita claims up to 50

Michelle Full of Sapa Reports from Addo a Uriah Strogend in central Angola

We who has the money buys the guns, says Lunda General
NEW YORK. — UNITA says up to 50 South Africans fighting for the Angolan government have been killed.

Reports quoted UNITA's New York information director Mr Malik Chaka saying an ex-member of the SADF Fourth Reconnaissance Regiment was shot dead yesterday.

Pretoria-based security firm Executive Outcomes confirmed an employee died in a UNITA attack. A spokesman would not name the man — the second former SA special forces soldier reported killed in Angola recently.

Another four employees went "missing" during the attack, he said.

*Ex-commander of the now disbanded 32 Battalion, Col Jan Breytenbach, yesterday called on Pretoria to bring home mercenaries from Angola.

Col Breytenbach said 300-400 former special forces members were in northern Angola fighting a "doomed" campaign after being misled into going to Angola by a company run by ex-32 Battalion and CCB members. — Sapa
Prize Unita city almost at peace

Huambo (Angola) — Eighty kilometres from the clash of combat, shouting kids play a spirited soccer game, women pound corn for supper and a man whistles tunelessly as he sweeps a street devastated by jet bombers a year ago.

A year ago Huambo was the worst battlefield in Angola's 19-year war and an estimated 10,000 died in fierce fighting. Now it is the headquarters of Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels.

Savimbi and his 50,000-strong rebel army, out to take over one of Africa's potentially richest countries, no longer bivouac in the bush or hide in this southern African nation's badlands.

Headquarters is in this city of tree-lined boulevards and pastel-painted cottages, where the rebels raised their black rooster banner after a stunning defeat of government troops in a three-month battle.

Huambo is a city of older people, women and thousands and thousands of children. Teenage girls stroll the streets with babies on their hips. "All our men are fighting at the front," they said.

For now, only a handful of armed fighters are visible.

But "minders" and interpreters of Unita, always accompanied a half dozen international reporters, the rebels invited into their territory.

The city became a prize for both sides after Savimbi dashed a 1991 peace treaty by accused the government of rigging his defeat in Angola's first elections in September 1992.

Savimbi fortified a mansion, pulled his troops from the unified army, and called Huambo, where his Ovimbundu people reside, his own.

The guerrillas have since managed to set up a basic administration in Huambo.

"We've reopened schools, got the city cleaned up, but we have to pay teachers and sweepers," said an official. "You know, this is a new experience for us because all our fighters are volunteers."

Relief supplies

Pablo Alveiro, sweeping papers and leaves on October 5 boulevard, said he was paid. "It's not enough to survive, but better than nothing at all," he said.

But thanks to UN relief supplies, no one is dying of hunger in the city as they are elsewhere in the country.

Eight,aneloads of food fly to Huambo every day in an air-lift begun in January by the Red Cross after Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos agreed to allow aid into enemy territory.

Country people are not so fortunate.

"There's no medicine for the kids," said Victorino Nenjini of Kunhinga, 160 km north-east of Huambo. She pointed to children with infected eyes buzzing with flies, with hacking coughs and torn T-shirts giving little protection against a biting dawn cold.

The UN estimates that three million Angolans — a third of the nation — are endangered by a famine that could become as devastating as Somalia's.

But the Unita brass, like the government officials they often call corrupt, lacks little. Despite a fuel embargo imposed by the UN in September, chartered aircraft fly nightly from Kinshasa, Zaire, to dirt strips in rebel territory with fuel and other goods.

At least 500,000 Angolans and probably more have died since a remote African conflict became a proxy Cold War battle. Cuban and Russian troops fought for dos Santos and South African soldiers helped Savimbi, who was armed by the United States.

Today, Unita and the government fight it out alone.

— Sapa-AP.
Angolan peace talks: Large steps

Crush Unita, reports General J.J. of Star Africa Service

The Chibapay in the Angolan government forces now locked in get another bid to
in a bizarre switch of sides soldiers replacing their old enemies.
Angolans sign deal on presidential elections

LONDON. — The Angolan government and Unita rebels signed an agreement in principle for holding a new round of presidential elections, Angolan state television reported.

Yesterday’s agreement was a rare sign of progress in talks to end Angola’s nearly two decades of civil war. There was no sign of a ceasefire in the fighting, however.

Peace talks between the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi’s Unita have been going on for six months, with one setback after another.

The document was signed in the presence of observers and the United Nations special representative in Angola, Alloune Blondin Beye, in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, the television broadcast said.

The accord was on general principles. Negotiations on specific principles concerning election procedures will continue at Lusaka today, the report added.

The broadcast said that the accord covered the “reinstatement of state administration throughout Angola, guarantees of security, freedom of expression for citizens, and resumption of air and ground communications throughout Angola to ensure the free movement of people and goods.”

The United Nations will be responsible for monitoring the situation and for declaring whether the right conditions have been created to hold the second round of presidential elections, it reported.

Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi will be the candidates.

Earlier yesterday, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported that Mr Dos Santos had left Angola for Brazil to attend a secret meeting with Dr Savimbi.

The meeting was to be mediated by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said the report, quoting an unidentified Angolan government source. — Sapa-AP.
Savimbi waits for Angola to fall into his lap

from Humberto
f.refs of Jornal de Angola, 8/5/94

Una, seems concerned of

The Angolan crisis's
gredit by the Cuban
"Send the girls to
fall into his lap"
Vehicles used for recreation banned from SA beaches

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

VEHICLES have been banned from South African beaches in terms of regulations promulgated by Environment Affairs minister Japie van Wyk.

However, exceptions will be allowed in specially demarcated areas under a permit system.

The regulations, gazetted last week in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, could resolve one of South Africa's most hotly-debated and longest-standing environmental problems.

The regulations apply only to vehicles used for recreation and do not affect those being driven on official business, during emergencies or for approved scientific projects and diamond mining activities.

The introduction to the schedule of the regulations says that the use of vehicles for recreation in the coastal zone is increasing.

'This use is often associated with increasing damage to coastal ecosystems and historical and palaeontological sites and it diminishes the quality of the recreational experience of other beachgoers.'

'The use of vehicles on the beach is an emotional as well as an ecological issue. The local community concerned must be consulted before vehicle access to a beach area is permitted.'

Coastal areas which must be closed to vehicles include:

- Bathing areas where facilities have been provided;
- Beach areas adjacent to bathing areas which are used by the public for walking;
- Ecologically sensitive areas such as dunes, estuarine salt marshes adjacent to estuaries, estuarine inter-tidal sand and mud flats, bird and turtle nesting sites, beaches with steep gradients "or any other ecologically sensitive area";
- Protected areas specifically established to conserve the coastal environment such as national parks, nature reserves and wilderness areas; and
- Any historical or palaeontological sites falling outside the above-mentioned areas.

According to the regulations, vehicles permitted to use the coast in terms of a permit will have to display additional tokens to aid law enforcement.

The number of access points to demarcated areas must be limited and vehicles will be restricted to the "wet sand" area between the low and high water marks.

This means all access could be banned for a certain time preceding and following high tides.
UNITA loses fierce battle

LISBON — Unita, the Angolan rebel movement, has acknowledged the loss after fierce fighting of Ndalatando, a provincial capital in northwestern Angola.

It has, however, played down the strategic importance of the battle.

Unita said in a statement from Washington at the weekend that the capital of Cuanza North province, 250km east of Luanda, fell to government forces last Wednesday.

But it quoted Unita’s representative in the United States, Jardo Muekalia, as saying: “Towns have changed hands often in the course of fighting between the two sides... neither side can win a military victory.”

“The government’s taking of Ndalatando does not change the fact that the Angolan conflict can be resolved at the negotiating table,” Muekalia said.

Unita radio reported on Sunday that heavy clashes were still taking place in and around Ndalatando, which government radio said was in army hands.

Unita (National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola) has been fighting a bush war since independence from Portugal in 1975. A 1991 peace agreement fell apart after Unita rejected its defeat in UN-supervised elections a year later.

The United Nations has been mediating fresh peace talks between Unita and the government in Lusaka since last November. — Sapa-Reuters.
Weary and wartorn
Kuito waits on talks

KUITO — Three months after the last bullet was fired across the front line in Kuito’s divided downtown, fighters on both sides still wait for an end to Angola’s 19-year civil war.

Government soldiers and Unita troops chat and joke across the line cutting the city in two. In a few areas cleared of landmines, civilians from both sides organise bicycle races.

Mutual mistrust has snarled peace talks that began last year in Lusaka, Zambia. But in a sign of progress, negotiators for the government and Unita agreed last week to terms for a second round of presidential elections.

Multiparty elections were held in September 1992 as part of a 1991 peace accord, but led to the latest round of fighting. Unita lost the parliamentary ballot and leader Jonas Savimbi trailed incumbent Jose Eduardo dos Santos in the first round of the presidential vote.

Refusing to acknowledge defeat, Savimbi accused the government of fraud and returned to war. International observers said voting was generally fair.

An estimated 100,000 Angolans have died since, bringing the death toll to about half a million since war broke out on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975. Reminders are everywhere of the death and devastation that have marked this one of Africa’s bloodiest conflicts.

In Kuito, mounds of hundreds of makeshift graves rise haphazardly in the backyards of bombed out, once pretty Portuguese colonial houses in the heart of Angola’s fertile central highlands. The jagged facades stand in a landscape of shell, mortar and landmine craters.

"We’re tired of war, we just want peace," said one government fighter as he leaned his AK-47 against a stucco facade on the government side of the front line.

At Unita headquarters, a stone’s throw away across the line, the local commander said: "We want peace, but we don’t want a traitorous peace."

The 34-year-old brigadier became known on the government side as "Sammy the Terrible" for his troops reputedly brutal conduct during Unita’s siege of Kuito that began in January 1985.

When international aid workers first reached the city, they reported 20,000 people killed and 60 dying daily from starvation, wounds or disease. Food had run out and there were even unconfirmed reports of cannibalism.

Aid flights resumed three weeks ago and are reaching the government controlled airport outside the city. But getting the aid to those who need it is difficult. The strategic map of government and Unita controlled areas looks like a leopard’s skin.

All humanitarian food aid reaching the airport is divided in two equal parts. Half leaves the airport in white government vehicles. The other half goes in red Unita vehicles. Government planes continue to drop food, guns and bullets to their troops by parachute. The airdrops often cause sporadic fights when supplies land between lines in more tense areas.

Unita trucks profit from the hub in fighting to roll up to the front line. They broadcast propaganda and urge government troops to surrender.

At the same time, trade between the two sides goes on, albeit clandestinely. Each day peasants carrying precious firewood approach the front line in a long column. Marching in single file to avoid land mines, the women and children sell the wood, scoured from Unita-held territory, to Unita troops who turn around and sell it to government soldiers. - Sipa-AP.
'Solution must be found or no ceasefire'

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

A ceasefire in the Angolan conflict could only be implemented if a political solution could be obtained, the country's president, Eduardo dos Santos said in Pretoria yesterday.

Opening the new Angolan embassy, Dos Santos said that he had not discussed the previous South African government's assistance to Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi when he spoke to President Mandela.

It was hoped that "a government of national reconciliation" could be formed in Angola as soon as possible and that talks towards this were continuing.

The latest round which involved the United Nations, Portugal, Russia, the US and Namibia was taking place in Lusaka.

"But one cannot be over-enthusiastic as far as Unita is concerned because they change their stance at various times," Dos Santos said.

Angola expected relations between itself and South Africa to strengthen considerably and that these would include cooperation in the military field.

He did not expect that Angola would want to purchase weapons but would be looking for peace and co-operation.

Earlier, Dos Santos cut a ribbon at the entrance to the new embassy in the Brooklyn suburb of the city and drank a toast to the new South Africa.
Angolans ducking final solution to weary war

LUSAKA. — Peace talks to end nearly two decades of civil war between the Angolan government and Unita rebels are faltering as both sides dodge a lasting solution, diplomats say.

The talks under way in the Zambian capital for the past six months have made little progress in resolving the main issue of Unita's participation in a future administration of the southern African country.

This, and increased activity by both sides on the battlefront, blocks an end to one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars, which has raged almost continuously since 1975 independence from Portugal and has killed tens of thousands of people.

"These talks have stagnated and need some boosting if progress is to be made. Both sides need to re-examine their positions," said one African diplomat.

"There is need for greater flexibility in the interest of national reconciliation and that has always been lacking in Angola," Political analysts said flexibility was also required from chief UN mediator Alioune Blondin Beye, who has insisted that no ceasefire be signed pending a compromise on all political issues.

"This strategy has proved to be disastrous because there has been continuous fighting inside Angola," said an uncommitted local political observer.

"Maybe it is time the mediation looked at the possibility of having the two sides sign a ceasefire and then continue with national reconciliation."

The war, which has devastated the potentially rich oil-producing country, erupted when the formerly Marxist MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) seized power upon independence.

Accords signed in 1991 brought a brief peace, but fighting resumed after Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) rejected its defeat in UN-supervised elections in late 1992. Various rounds of peace talks since then have all collapsed.

Unita spokesman and negotiator Jorge Valentim said the current problem was that soldiers still wanted to fight.

Western diplomats close to the talks doubt that either side has the political will to negotiate an end to the war.

"The talks are not going anywhere at the moment," said one well-placed diplomat.

"Distrust and hatred run very deep." — Sapa-Reuters.
More landmines than Angolans

ANGOLA has more anti-personnel mines than it has people.
The International Red Cross is so concerned about the
nine million mines in place in the country that it is asking
for a worldwide ban on production of mines or steps to
curb sales.
Angola is not its only worry. There are an estimated
200 million mines throughout the world and at least
half are in place.
The threat to life is serious but the disabling injuries
that the mines cause put a permanent strain on
society and the economy.
They engender a climate of
fear and immobilise large
areas of land, raising the
cost of reconstruction.
In its World Disaster Re
tort 'the International
Committee of the Red
Cross,' says 51 countries
have post-conflict mine
problems.
In Angola, it warns, there is a real potential for a
rapid increase in the impact of mines. Already one
out of every 470 Angolans has had a limb amputated.
This is double the level of Mozambicans and five
times higher than in Viet-
nam.
The report says three clinical patterns emerge
from mine injuries. Mines
set off by foot, pressure
blow away the foot when
the charge is small and the
lower leg or lower legs
with a larger charge.
Amputation is often required.
Other characteristics are:
multiple fragment
wounds and upper limb,
chest and face damage
caused by handling.

By CHERYL HRETON
in London

FRIDAY'S DJ IA CLOSE: 3757.14
FRIDAY'S FT-SE 100
CLOSE: 2966.4
FRIDAY'S NEW YORK
GOLD CLOSE: $384.70
YESTERDAY'S HONG KONG
GOLD CLOSE: $384.83
Angola govt agrees to UN peace plan

New York—The Angolan government, after months of negotiations, has agreed to a key plan on rebel representation in a new administration, said UN officials yesterday.

Blondin Beye, the UN mediator conducting peace talks in Luanda, Zmbia, has received "unconditional acceptance by the Angolan government on the distribution of government offices," one envoy said.

The officials were briefing the Security Council shortly before it was to renew the UN mission in Angola for three months.

The Luanda talks, aimed at ending nearly two decades of fighting, began six months ago and were stalled over the question of representation in a new government by the rebel Unita movement. The power-sharing plan was first submitted to the current government for approval and will now be presented to Unita.


But yesterday, UN planes trying to evacuate relief workers from the bitterest battle zones came under fire from both government and Unita forces as fighting spread in central Angola.

Fierce artillery and bombing attacks since the weekend forced the UN to suspend humanitarian aid operations to the major cities of Malanje, Cuito and Huambo, and to evacuate staff, said World Food Programme spokesman Mercedes Seygues.

Despite granting safe passage, rebel troops controlling government-held Malanje shelled the airport as relief workers sprinted for the clearly marked UN plane.

Hours later, government fighter jets bombed the rebel-held city of Huambo in the central highlands during another evacuation mission.

And rebel artillery has killed 125 people and wounded at least 300 more in a five-day barrage of Cuito.

State radio said Monday's attack on Cuito was as fierce as the worst days of last year's battle for Huambo, which the rebels captured after two months of fighting.

The UN calculates that more than 500,000 Angolans have been killed in all — 150,000 in the past 18 months alone. — Sapa-Reuter-AP.
Bloody battles as UN warns Angola

Luanda — Government forces struck at a key petroleum production centre and at Unita rebel headquarters as an offensive gathered pace despite a warning that the UN is losing patience with the war in Angola, a government military official said yesterday.

Fighter planes bombed rebel positions near Soyo, 350 km north of Luanda, the capital, as the government pushed to retake the city that was a centre of Angola's onshore oil production, the official said.

Fleeing refugees confirmed the report, telling of bloody battles around Soyo.

Bombs also fell on Unita's headquarters city of Huambo, 330 km south-east of Luanda, the official said.

Both the government and rebels are staging major offensives in the bitter civil war in defi-

ance of a strong UN warning and the possibility of reaching peace accords after seven months of peace in Lusaka, Zambia.

On Tuesday, the UN Security Council warned: "The patience of the international community is wearing thin."

The council voted to extend the UN mandate in Angola for another month. Most of the 80 UN personnel there are unarmed military observers.

But the UN, frustrated by nearly two years of fruitless mediation, said it would consider ending its mission in Angola and withdrawing peacekeepers if there was no progress.

The peace talks in Lusaka have resolved all but two issues — rebel representation in the government; and legalisation of the rebels' underground radio station, the Voice of the Black Cock-
erel. — Sapa-AP.
The \footnote{\textit{International Herald Tribune}}
All Unita MPs to take up seats

Lusaka — The Angolan government and rebel Unita movement agreed in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Saturday that Unita would take up all 70 parliamentary seats it had won in the 1992 general election, sources close to the talks said.

"In the context of national reconciliation, all the first 70 deputies elected on the list of Unita candidates in the September 1992 legislative elections shall be installed in their functions in the National Assembly," a document approved by the two warring factions, but obtained from the sources, said.

"All the deputies in the National Assembly shall enjoy the rights, freedoms, guarantees, immunities and privileges provided for by the law," it added.

Unita, which had rejected the results of the 1992 United Nations-supervised election, had taken up only 10 seats in the National Assembly, arguing that this had been forced on it by the government, which had arrested some members of parliament after fighting broke out over the poll results.

There are a total of 220 members of parliament in the two-tier — provincial and national — assembly.

The two sides are expected to continue discussing Unita's participation in the country's administration and the status of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

Furious assault by Unita guns

Angolan city left in flames by barrage

Luanda — Government troops were holding out yesterday against a furious rebel artillery barrage that has killed dozens of people and left the encircled city of Cuito in flames, national radio reported from the city.

Hand-to-hand battles broke out on the city's southern extreme where penned-in government troops were trying to prevent a rebel breakthrough.

"The city is in flames and Unita has not let up on the shelling," said a radio correspondent.

The correspondent estimated 50 civilians had been killed by artillery fire since the weekend.

The rebel onslaught against the city, 870 km south-east of Angola’s capital of Luanda, was reportedly the fiercest since major offensives resumed a month ago.

The World Food Programme announced yesterday that it had suspended all relief flights to Angola earlier this week following the renewed fighting.

This means at least 1,4 million people dependent on food from the WFP are now stranded. The most hard-pressed cities were Cuito, Huambo and Malange. The last relief flights took place on Saturday.

Manuel Aranda da Silva, the UN's humanitarian aid director in Angola, was scheduled to fly to the rebels' central highlands headquarters yesterday to try to win security guarantees from the rebels so that emergency aid flights could resume.

Revenue

Fighting was also reported on six other fronts, one of them a critical oil enclave where rebels had formed an alliance with guerrillas of the Cabinda Liberation Front/Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC/FAC) and attacked government positions in the northern Cabinda enclave, a military official said.

Virtually all the government’s revenue comes from Cabinda, the enclave wedged between Zaire and Congo where American petroleum company Chevron runs a 310 000 barrels-a-day pumping operation.

Unita keeps its own war chest flush with revenue from occupied diamond fields in northern Angola.

The military official said the government military had deployed its top commando unit to reinforce Cabinda.

Although the armed separatist group FLEC/FAC reckons its forces only in the dozens, compared to the rebels' estimated 60 000-strong army, their collaboration gives Unita vital ease of movement through the Cabinda jungles.

Meanwhile, rebel artillery battered the besieged city of Malanje, 350 km south-east of Luanda, and battles flared around rebel territory in diamond-rich Lundu-Sul province, along coastal Benguela, southern Cunene and central Huambo provinces.

The renewed fighting comes as government and rebel negotiators in Lusaka, Zambia, were reportedly making rapid progress towards a settlement to end the war that has been raging since 1975. — Sapa-AP.
Angolan warriors defy UN peace bid

LUANDA. — A United Nations envoy, pursuing peace efforts in Angola, amid a surge in fighting in the nearly 20-year war between the government and Unita rebels.

UN special representative Aloune Blondin Boye was in the capital Luanda to consult government officials after meeting rebel leaders in their central highland headquarters of Huambo on Saturday.

No details were available of either meeting but diplomats in Luanda expressed scepticism about prospects for peace.

Fighting has increased across the country in recent weeks, including renewed government bombing of Huambo.

State-run radio said rebel shelling killed 39 civilians in the besieged government-held town of Cuito, yesterday. It said the situation was critical in the northern city of Ndola and after four days of heavy fighting in which more than 40 civilians were killed.

"It seems surreal," a senior aid official in Luanda said.

"What they are talking about in Lusaka and what I am seeing on the ground here are two different realities."

The two sides have been meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka for seven months.

Some diplomats see the intensified fighting as an attempt by both sides to gain as much ground as possible before a peace deal is signed.

Others believe neither side is truly committed to the peace process and is instead intent on pursuing the military option.

"I just don't see the basis for a smooth agreement," a Western diplomat said.

The government launched an offensive in the north after recapturing Ndola earlier this month, moving slowly towards oil and diamond areas held by Unita. — Reuters
Surge in Angolan fighting

LUANDA. — A UN envoy pursued peace efforts in Angola yesterday amid a surge in fighting in the nearly 20-year war between the government and Unita rebels.

A UN special representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, was in the capital to consult government officials after meeting rebel leaders in their central highland headquarters of Huambo on Saturday.

"It seems surreal," a senior official here said. "What they are talking about in Lusaka and what I am seeing on the ground here are two different realities."

The two sides have been meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka for seven months. Some diplomats see the intensified fighting as an attempt by both sides to gain as much ground as possible before a peace deal is signed.

Others believe neither side is truly committed to the peace process. — Sapa-Reuters
Hopes high for Angola peace talks

Scores die in renewed fighting

LUSAKA — Angolan peace talks resumed with diplomats saying rival negotiators from the ruling MPLA and Unita appear set to resolve the issue of power-sharing still blocking the seven-month peace process.

But as hopes rose for a breakthrough, intensified fighting left civilians in dozens of places across the country without aid and in the firing line.

The fresh round of negotiations began yesterday after UN mediator Aloume Blondin Beye met Unita and government leaders in Luanda and Huambo at the weekend.

A western diplomatic source said: "Mr Beye appears to have received good news and before they went into their meeting both sides looked ready for a positive result."

Unita spokesman Jorge Valentim said the envoy's meeting with rebel leader Jonas Savimbi centred on two issues — Unita participation in government and escalating war.

Mr Valentim said Dr Savimbi told Mr Beye he could expect an answer on power-sharing before the end of the month, after he had consulted fellow leaders.

"Our leader considers the negotiations here positive with only 10 percent left and encourages the finishing of the remaining points as soon as possible," said Mr Valentim.

In principle, the agenda is virtually exhausted, but the two sides still have to deal with the modalities of national reconciliation.

Under pressure from the international community, the foes have little time left to iron out the problems.

The mandate of the UN mission in Angola, UNAVEM II, expires on June 30 and diplomats close to the talks said coming days will be critical.

Meanwhile, official radio said 15 people were killed in Cuito yesterday and 50 more died in the hotly contested provincial capital of Ndaluando, 200km east of Luanda, on Monday and yesterday.

For days, Unita artillery has been pounding Ndaluando

Unita's Radio Vorgan said government forces had shelled the Kapindi-Kamulemba district in the Luanda-Sul diamond field, killing 60 civilians.

It claimed Unita had shot down a government military helicopter and destroyed 10 armoured vehicles near Ndaluando.

The civilian death toll from the bitter civil war is rising. Fierce battles have for almost a month prevented the supply of international food aid to Malanje and Uige in the north, and Cuito and Huambo in the central highlands. Malnutrition is affecting most children in Huambo, said Radio Vorgan. — Sapa-APP-AP.
Angola Peacemakers Call in Mandela

UN Envoy Seeks Special Boost for Talks at Cape Town Talks

"We need to see a solution to the problem."
Mandela for Angolan talks

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

President Nelson Mandela agreed yesterday to meet Angolan leaders in a bid to end that country's 19-year-old civil war.

This surprise move followed a meeting at Typhoons with the UN's chief peace broker on the Angolan conflict, Dr Maitre Beye.

Mr Mandela and Dr Beye told a press conference after their meeting that the end of the Angola conflict could bring significant economic benefits to South Africa and the rest of the sub-continent.

However, Mr Mandela expressed reservations about South Africa becoming intimately involved in the dispute, saying he did not want to appear to be "taking over" peace initiatives launched by other countries.

But after representations from Dr Beye and ambassadors to Zambia from the US, Russia and Portugal, he agreed to throw his weight behind the faltering Lusaka-driven peace initiative.

He said he had agreed to meet Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi for the first time and could send an envoy to liaise with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, with whom he has discussed the Angolan crisis several times.
Mandela for Angolan talks

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela agreed yesterday to meet Angolan leaders in a bid to end that country’s 19-year-old civil war.

This surprise move followed a meeting at Tuynhuys with the UN’s chief peace broker on the Angolan conflict, Dr Mattre Beye.

Mr Mandela and Dr Beye told a press conference after their meeting that the end of the Angola conflict could bring significant economic benefits to South Africa and the rest of the sub-continent.

However, Mr Mandela expressed reservations about South Africa becoming intimately involved in the dispute, saying he did not want to appear to be “taking over” peace initiatives launched by other countries.

But after representations from Dr Beye and ambassadors to Zambia from the US, Russia and Portugal, he agreed to throw his weight behind the faltering Lusaka-driven peace initiative.

He said he had agreed to meet Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi for the first time and could send an envoy to liaise with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, with whom he has discussed the Angolan crisis several times.
Nine Killed as Shells Hit Angolan Village

By Bob Grottel"

A man lies on the ground in a village in Angola, where nine people were killed by shelling. The article discusses the conflict in Angola and the impact on civilians.
Besieged Cuito: Starving, and supplies run short

INTERNATIONAL
Diamond smugglers could foil Angolan reconstruction scheme

The Argus, Thursday June 28, 1990

AFRICA
OL Judge asked to veto TV bid

By the Ministry of Justice, and the Department of Home Affairs, the government has been forced to take action against the broadcast of television programs in certain areas, with the aim of protecting the constitutional rights of the people. The government is committed to ensuring that the rights of every citizen are respected, and that the media is free to operate within the limits of the law.

REFUGE CAMP

The government has moved to protect the grounds of the refugee camp in Kagiso, where the government has decided to establish a camp for refugees. The camp will be located on the outskirts of the city, and will be equipped with all necessary facilities, including security measures.

Lesotho

Leonardo da Vinci

Angola

Plan on crises in South Africa

Polokwane Star
UN to threaten new sanctions against...
Situation in Angola worsens

LUANDA, Angola.—In spite of government military gains and diplomatic efforts to end a brutal civil war, disease and famine are spreading as humanitarian aid to embattled zones in Angola remains suspended.

In a joint statement released yesterday, relief agencies in the Angolan capital, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam and Save the Children, said at least 20 people died daily and more than 500 were wounded in the central highland city of Kuito.

Kuito has not had relief supplies since late May.

In the rebel headquarters of Huambo, an estimated 700,000 people lived without the humanitarian assistance, the release said.

The group called for "respect for the neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian assistance" and "an immediate halt in the shelling which is devastating the civilian population".

A senior official of the World Food Project (WFP), speaking on condition of anonymity, said relief flights to some safe zones have restarted.

The government said yesterday that an air force relief flight was able to land at Malanje airport in spite of coming under fire from Unita.

But hopes for re-establishing the full relief operation were only "guardedly optimistic," said the WFP official.

"In the places we can reach now we are trying to deliver a buffer stock in the event that the flights are again grounded," the official said.

"That might come after July 7."

President Nelson Mandela is scheduled to meet the Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Cape Town on Monday to discuss the war-torn nation's peace process. — Sapa-AP
Mandela leads bid to strike Angolan peace deal

AFRICA

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA.—South Africa dorns its regional power cap here tomorrow when President Mandela steps into the chair and tries to broker a peace deal for Angola.

Officials expect three other presidents besides Mr. Mandela to be at the talks in the Union Buildings.

Angola’s President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique will arrive tomorrow morning. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire has also indicated he will be present.

This South African-led bid to break the stalemate in the Angolan peace talks is at the behest of United Nations mediator Alouine Blondin Beye.

It is understood that a major sticking point in the negotiations involves rebel leader Jonas Savimbi’s desire to become governor of Huambo, which is controlled by his Unita movement.

The Angolan government appears unwilling to grant this.

Dr Savimbi, having seen he lost the 1992 election, appears to have opted for plan B, said a diplomatic source. This push for a regional option is not unlike the stance of Mangosuthu Buthelezi in South Africa.

Tomorrow’s talks are not expected to yield a final solution. After meeting through the morning, the presidents and their delegations will have a working lunch. They might have an opportunity to speak to the media before leaving tomorrow night. There is no plan to extend this session beyond tomorrow.
Angola: Mandela meets presidents

Johannesburg, — President Nelson Mandela will hold meetings in Pretoria today with the presidents of Angola, Zaire and Mozambique before a plenary session aimed at ending Angola's civil war, the president's office said yesterday.

The talks involve Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi will not be present.

Diplomatic sources expect Mr Mobutu to convey the sentiments of Dr Savimbi, who receives substantial support from Zaire.

Mr Mandela's office said the talks were to help find a peaceful settlement to the Angolan conflict, with specific reference to relations between Angola and Zaire. — Sapa
Mandela asks Unita leader to peace talks

PRETORIA. — Unita leader Jonas Savimbi will be invited to South Africa for talks with Nelson Mandela aimed at ending the Angolan civil war, a spokesman for the president, Mr Joel Netshitzenze, said today.

A Unita advance team would be in South Africa next week to prepare for the Unita leader's visit, he added.

Dr Savimbi is not attending a summit today between Mr Mandela, Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The summit started with a meeting between Mr Mandela and Mr Chissano before the other leaders joined them.

Mr Mandela has joined a United Nations-sponsored peace effort aimed at ending the 19-year civil war in Angola.

A draft agreement ending the conflict by offering power sharing to Dr Savimbi is on the table. If it is not accepted by July 31, the UN will impose sanctions on Unita.

This could involve a blockade of Unita supply lines, a development which could have major repercussions for Mr Sese Seko, whose state is Dr Savimbi's staunchest ally and provides him with logistical and military support.

The Pretoria talks are aimed at pressuring Mr Sese Seko — who rules with an iron fist and who has resisted calls to surrender power to a democratic regime — to withdraw his support for Dr Savimbi.

In return, he will avoid the spillover effects of sanctions on Unita and boost his depleted international respectability.

Mr Sese Seko was expected to detail the Unita leader's case at today's summit and convey its conclusions to him.

A diplomatic source said the UN-sponsored draft agreement, which provides for power-sharing, a regionally devolved form of government and shared diplomatic postings, was close to being accepted by Dr Savimbi and Mr Dos Santos.

"All that is lacking is a bit of political will," he said. "The hope is that Mr Mandela can use his personal ability to try to make both parties see the usefulness in the agreement."

The summit is Mr Mandela's first intervention in peace-making efforts in Africa. Sapa.
**Mandela in bid to end Angolan war**

PRETORIA - President Nelson Mandela's first attempt at peacemaking in Africa ended in apparent success yesterday when the Angolan and Zairean governments agreed to meet to discuss an end to the Angolan civil war.

Although Mr Mandela stressed he was not acting alone but in support of the UN peace initiative, he managed to get the Angolan and Zairean leaders to agree to meet after chairing a meeting between them at the Union Buildings here yesterday.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano also attended yesterday's talks.

Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos and Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko will meet after preparations have been made by a joint defence and security commission.

Relations between the MPLA government of Mr Dos Santos and the government of Mr Mobutu have bordered on hostile in the past few years.

The relations have been embittered by the massacre of Zairean refugees by MPLA-aligned militias in Luanda after Angolan elections in September, 1992, and Angolan claims that Zaire was massing its troops on their common border in preparation for an invasion.

In retaliation, Mr Mobutu has openly supported Unita in the Angolan war.

Preparations were being made for Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi to travel to SA and meet Mr Mandela, a spokesman for the president said.

Sapa
Hard work begins on peace in Angola

Leaders’ Pretoria summit ends with tense smiles

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Officials in South Africa, Angola, Zaire and Mozambique knuckle down to the hard work today of forging peace in Angola after their leaders’ successful summit ended with tense smiles in Pretoria.

Immediately in prospect are two sets of talks at official level between Unita and South Africa and between Angola and Zaire. These will lead to further summits.

President Mandela’s peace-brokering debut achieved its limited objective yesterday of getting presidents José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire talking again.

The massacre of Zairean refugees in Angola and Zaire’s support for the rebel Unita movement have soured these relations.

Not only did the Angolan and Zairean leaders sit down face-to-face in Pretoria yesterday, but they agreed to revive meetings of their Joint Defence and Security Commission.

Relevant ministers and officials from these two countries will meet to prepare a summit between Mr dos Santos and Mr Mobutu.

When the Unita officials arrive here next week, they will be preparing the way for Mr Mandela to meet their rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

Unita has joined in support for Mr Mandela’s mediation role, which he insists should be seen as complementing the United Nations peace efforts.

In the longer term, Mr Mandela will have to offer more than hospitality and his miracle touch, diplomatic sources say.

The first pressure point being applied by the UN could well be a blockade of Unita supply lines. The consequences of this would be serious for Zaire.

Mr Mobutu was left in no doubt South Africa would support a blockade to stop the war.

On the other hand, Dr Savimbi’s desire to become governor of Huambo is being seriously considered as an entry point for further negotiations.

Mozambique’s role in this process remains flexible. As a trusted friend of Mr dos Santos, President Joaquim Chissano could also play a mediation role. His presence at yesterday’s summit, officials said, followed Mozambique’s earlier involvement in the initiative. His personal experience gained during the peace process in Mozambique could also be usefully applied.

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER: Presidents dos Santos, Mandela, Mobutu Sese Seko and Chissano in Pretoria.
SA expects Unita by end of week

JOHANNESBURG — Representatives of Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi are expected in South Africa towards the end of this week, a foreign affairs official in Pretoria said today.

The representatives from Hamaambo, where Unita has its headquarters, will prepare for a meeting between Dr Savimbi and President Mandela on peace in Angola.

"We have sent a message to Unita representatives in Washington who informed us that the representatives will arrive in South Africa at the end of this week," the foreign affairs official said.

Dr Savimbi was expected to meet Mr Mandela "within the next two weeks", he said.

Hopes for an end to nearly 20 years of civil war were raised by talks in Pretoria last week between Mr Mandela, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

Mr Mobutu and Mr Dos Santos agreed to revive meetings of the Defence and Security Commission which include ministers from both Zaire and Angola.

But Mr Mandela said after the talks that peace could not be found in Angola without Dr Savimbi's participation.

The foreign affairs official said the next meeting between Mr Dos Santos and Mr Mobutu would take place today or tomorrow.
Nzo meets Unita negotiator in bid to broker peace

DALE LAUTENBACH
Foreign Editor

PRETORIA. - Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo met the chief Unita negotiator in the first follow-up to President Mandela's efforts to assist the Angolan peace process.

Dr Jorge Valentin, who has led the Unita delegation to the Lusaka peace talks for eight months, spent about two and a half hours with Mr Nzo, his deputy, Aziz Athib and senior officials of the department yesterday.

A statement released by Mr Nzo after the meeting revealed little other than that it had happened.

The peculiar sensitivities surrounding the talks have seen Mr Mandela at pains to appear supportive of the agreements already reached in Lusaka at the United Nations-sponsored talks rather than sweeping in with a new initiative.

Parties to the Lusaka talks have insisted that the agreement is almost done between Unita and the Angolan government but the outstanding matters, including the governorship of the central province of Huambo, are of such an explosive nature that their resolution is not merely a matter of time.

Moreover, with little change in the pattern of fighting in Angola, most observers have questioned the political will of both sides to reach a settlement.

The international community and certainly the UN, was enthusiastic about Mr Mandela entering the Angolan fray.

His intervention began on a careful note when he brokered a face-to-face between presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Mobuto Sese Seko, of Angola and Zaire respectively, in Pretoria the week before last.
Nzo meets Unita negotiator in bid to broker peace

DALE LAUTENBACH
Foreign Editor
PRETORIA. — Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo met the chief Unita negotiator in the first follow-up to President Mandela's efforts to assist the Angolan peace process.

Dr Jorge Valentin, who has led the Unita delegation to the Lusaka peace talks for eight months, spent about two and a half hours with Mr Nzo, his deputy Aziz Pahad and senior officials of the department yesterday.

A statement released by Mr Nzo after the meeting revealed little other than that it had happened.

The peculiar sensitivities surrounding the talks have seen Mr Mandela at pains to appear supportive of the agreements already reached in Lusaka at the United Nations-sponsored talks rather than sweeping in with a new initiative.

Parties to the Lusaka talks have insisted that the agreement is almost done between Unita and the Angolan government but the outstanding matters, including the governorship of the central province of Huambo, are of such an explosive nature that their resolution is not merely a matter of time.

Moreover, with little change in the pattern of fighting in Angola, most observers have questioned the political will of both sides to reach a settlement.

The international community and certainly the UN, was enthusiastic about Mr Mandela entering the Angolan fray.

His intervention began on a careful note when he brokered a face-to-face between presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Mobutu Sese Seko, of Angola and Zaire respectively, in Pretoria the week before last.

Relief flights to the rebel-seigeled city of Malange remained suspended as UN officials investigated an attack on a World Food Programme plane. Though some food got in last week to Malange, the situation could become critical if the full flight schedule is not restored within two weeks.
Nzo meets Unita negotiator in bid to broker peace

DALE LAUTENBACH
Foreign Editor

PRETORIA. — Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo met the chief Unita negotiator in the first follow-up to President Mandela's efforts to assist the Angolan peace process.

Dr Jorge Valentim, who has led the Unita delegation to the Lusaka peace talks for eight months, spent about two and a half hours with Mr Nzo, his deputy Aziz Pahad and senior officials of the department yesterday.

A statement released by Mr Nzo after the meeting revealed little other than that it had happened.

The peculiar sensitivities surrounding the talks have seen Mr Mandela at pains to appear supportive of the agreements already reached in Lusaka at the United Nations-sponsored talks rather than sweeping in with a new initiative.

Parties to the Lusaka talks have insisted that the agreement is almost done between Unita and the Angolan government but the outstanding matters, including the governorship of the central province of Huambo, are of such an explosive nature that their resolution is not merely a matter of time.

Moreover, with little change in the pattern of fighting in Angola, most observers have questioned the political will of both sides to reach a settlement.

The international community and certainly the UN, was enthusiastic about Mr Mandela entering the Angolan fray.

His intervention began on a careful note when he brokered a face-to-face between presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Mobutu Sese Seko, of Angola and Zaire respectively, in Pretoria the week before last.
Mandela, Savimbi set to meet

SA steps up bid for Angola peace drive

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

A South African government team led by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo yesterday laid the groundwork for a potential peace initiative in Angola.

It could lead to a meeting as early as next week between President Mandela and Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's Unita rebel movement, in a bid to find a peaceful settlement to the civil war raging in that country.

Conduit

Nzo met Unita negotiator Dr J Valentin as a follow-up to a four-nation summit in Pretoria last week at which Mandela held talks with his counterparts from Zaire, Mozambique and Angola as part of a joint United Nations and Organisation of African Unity drive to end the 19-year-long war.

One important outcome of that meeting was that Angola and Zaire agreed to hold further talks about claims by Angola that the Zairean government was acting as a conduit for matériel which had been shipped to the rebels.

The MPLA, led by Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, officially won the Angolan general election almost two years ago.

However, after initially accepting the result, Unita decided to resume the war.

South African troops, under the previous SA government, were involved in the Angolan conflict on the side of Unita.

They withdrew as part of the negotiations which resulted in the independence of the former South West Africa, now known as Namibia.

Nzo's office said yesterday's Pretoria meeting had taken place "in the context of efforts to reach a settlement in the Angolan conflict."

"The United Nations initiative undertaken in Luanda, together with observers from the United States, Portugal and the Russian Federation, has, after eight months, reached an advanced stage and South Africa is anxious that they have a positive outcome," he said.

While there is no indication as yet whether Mandela will meet Savimbi, it is believed in Pretoria diplomatic circles that this meeting could take place next week.

State visit

Nzo will then have returned to South Africa from an official visit to London, where he is to attend celebrations marking South Africa's return to the Commonwealth.

Mandela is expected to hold further discussions on the initiative with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique during a three-day state visit he is making to Maputo, starting from tomorrow.
S Africans in Angola ‘as long as wanted’

JOHANNESBURG. — A Pretoria company sending South Africans to aid the Angolan government military has said its men will remain there as long as the Luanda authorities want them to.

"We will withdraw only when the Angolan government tells us to," said Eebeen Barlow, head of Executive Outcomes.

Up to 12 specially trained South Africans aiding the Angolan military have been killed while working there this year guarding strategic installations or training troops, the company said.

In the latest incident, two South African men were captured by Unita rebels in the north-eastern diamond region after their Swiss-built Pilatus PC-7 was shot down.

The rebels threatened to execute the South Africans in public. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angola: SA is ‘morally obliged to act’

DALE LAUTENBACH

SOUTH Africans operating as mercenaries in Angola will have to be acted against if South Africa’s efforts to assist its neighbour in finding a peaceful solution are to be credible.

There is a sense that we are morally obliged to take action to clamp down,” said Foreign Affairs director general Fifty Evans yesterday.

He said it had become very clear that the South Africans in Angola were involved in more than the “oil security guard” mantle of the operation — known to be run by the Pretoria-based company Executive Outcomes.

President Mandela’s cautious but sincere efforts to broker a peace between Unita and the MPLA government run the danger of appearing ludicrous if citizens from his country are involved in the intensification of hostilities.

While Mr Mandela has been careful not to appear the peacemaker for Angola and has stressed that his involvement does not represent a new initiative but one strictly supportive of the United Nations-brokered peace talks, his moral authority on the continent carries a huge burden of expectation.

Furthermore, the bringing together of Angolan President José Eduard dos Santos and Zairean Pres. Mobutu Sese-Seke was the first time Zaire’s crucial role in the Angolan conflict was brought into the spotlight at summit level.

Mr Evans said his department had also instructed its mission to the UN to back a move by UN special representative to Angola, Alison Blundell-Bey, that a Security Council resolution threatening further sanctions against Unita and due for debate tomorrow be postponed by a month “to give current initiatives a chance”.

Mr Evans said he expected a communication from Unita leader Jonas Savimbi soon and that a visit by him to Mr Mandela had not been ruled out.

South Africa would urge that the postponement be granted to allow consultation to continue, Mr Evans said South Africa would also recommend a ceasefire for the period of the postponement to enable talks to continue “in a positive spirit”.

South Africa would urge also that “all other parties desist from doing anything to contribute to hostilities”.

Clearly, that is a message in part to Zaire — whose territory is reportedly used as a transit point for supplies to Unita. By the same token, South Africa will have to be seen to tackle the problem of its citizens perpetuating a war on foreign soil.
Unita offers compromise at peace talks

Hopes of Angolan settlement

LUSAKA. — Unita, which is negotiating to beat a United Nations deadline for acceptance of a peace package, has offered a partial compromise on its demand for control of its Huambo province.

A Unita source said yesterday that it had rejected a Zambian compromise proposal at Angolan peace talks in Lusaka that a politically neutral governor should be found for Huambo province.

But he said Unita would swap the governorship of another province in which Unita leader Jonas Savimbi was strong, for control of Huambo.

There were two proposals by the Zambian government. These were the neutral governorship of Huambo or an exchange of Huambo for another province where Unita has support, said the source.

"Unita is not keen on neutral governorship of Huambo because it does not trust that arrangement. It would rather exchange with another province."

The United Nations had given Unita a deadline of yesterday for acceptance of a peace deal already approved by the government to end more than 18 years of civil war.

The package included a proposal that Unita would govern three of Angola's 18 provinces — Cuando-Cubango, Uige and Luanda South — and appoint vice-governors in five others.

Unita had insisted at UN-led peace talks in Zambia that Huambo should be added to the list of provinces it controlled.

The rebel source said Unita had now offered to accept Huambo instead of one of the others where it did well in the 1992 election, rather than in addition to the other three.

Until now, it had not been clear what proposals Zambia, which sent an envoy to meet Dr Savimbi, had put forward. Diplomatic sources had repeatedly mentioned the option of a neutral governor in Huambo.

Earlier yesterday, UN chief negotiator Alfonso Blondin Beye denied radio reports from Angola saying the Lusaka talks had broken down.

"That information is not right and I am not aware of anything like that," he said.

Asked what would happen about the UN Security Council's to Unita to accept the peace package by yesterday, Mr Beye replied: "The meeting of the Security Council is not obligatory and it is better for us to verify the position first."

Youths make a clean sweep in Guguletu

VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

MORE than 150 youths using plastic bags, spades and rakes launched a clean-up campaign in 12 polluted Guguletu streets.

The enthusiastic youths, who were recruited from schools and youth clubs, were helped by a refuse removal truck from Ikapa Town Council.

The weekend clean-up campaign was organised by Work to Win, a township-based environment group, and had the blessing of the provincial department of environment.

In the past few weeks, the group had consulted various target committees, political organisations and parents about the campaign and was given the green light.

Co-ordinator of Work to Win, Zamanda Biyana, said the clean-up was a first step to make environment issues more visible.

"Instead of holding workshops and delivering speeches, we think this hands-on approach is the most viable strategy.

"We also wanted to encourage people to have high regard for clean areas."

Mr Biyana said the next project would be to restore parks in the townships.

"We are going to negotiate with Ikapa about restoring our parks so that children have places to play."

Before the clean-up, African National Congress provincial MP Mampile Ramotsamai said subjects dealing with the environment and tourism should be included in school curriculums.

Miss Ramotsamai said it was important that township residents should take a keen interest in these issues which were no longer white preserves.

The clean-up should be successful so that it could serve as a "test-case" for other township residents, she said.
Lagos paralysed as all-out strike begins

LAGOS.—Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos, was at a standstill today, the first day of a general strike called to press the military government to free opposition leader Moshood Abiola.

Many government offices in the city, including the federal secretariat, where most officials work, were deserted.

"Workers have not come in today, maybe because of the strike," said a security man at the secretariat.

Mr Abiola, undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential vote, was due to appear in court in the capital, Abuja today on charges of treason for proclaiming himself president.

The general strike, called by the umbrella Nigeria Labour Congress, adds to pressure on the government brought by oil workers who are now in the fifth week of a strike.

It was not immediately clear if the strike was being observed in the north, where some local chapters of the NLC have dissociated themselves from the action as politically motivated.

In Lagos, youths stopped vehicles from moving about.

Banks and many other businesses have long closed in Nigeria because of a fuel shortage caused by the oil strike, and there is bound to be further misery if the general strike lasts for long.

Yesterday, General Sani Abacha, the military ruler, presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces Consultative Assembly, the ruling junta, to discuss the growing political and economic crisis. No statement was issued after the talks.

The oil strike was begun by Nupeng, the blue-collar oil-workers' union, on July 4 and it was later joined by white-collar workers from the sister union, Pengassan. The production of Shell, which extracts half the country's oil, has fallen by one third.

Nupeng president Wariibe Agomana warned those who intended to carry on working: "If they don't stop their treacherous activities, the next option will involve bodybags. We are prepared to deal with these people violently."

A Shell spokesman said local workers but not expatriates had been intimidated so far.

The economy is being suffocated by the strike and more and more investors and traders are being frightened off by the possibility of a catastrophic political explosion. — Sapa-Reuters-The Independent.

Debate over Angolan 'mercenaries'

LEGAL action was being considered against Executive Outcomes, a Pretoria-based company which hires former defence force soldiers out to the Angolan government, Department of Foreign Affairs acting director-general Rusty Evans said today.

Although the Angolan government insists the 500 Executive Outcomes employees are utilised as guards and instructors, UNDIA alleges they are in Angola as mercenaries.

Addressing the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Dr Evans said the matter had been referred to the Department of Justice.

"There is prima facie evidence that that particular operation is transgressing South African law and that steps must be taken against them," he said.

Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Azz Pahad told the committee the government had intervened to save the lives of four South Africans employed by Executive Outcomes who had been captured by Unita, which had threatened to execute them.

Although it was not clear whether the execution had gone ahead, there had been no news and it was presumed they were still alive.

Mr Pahad said the government opposed mercenaries being recruited from South Africa.

"We are trying to ensure that South Africans do not get involved as mercenaries."

Mr Pahad said South Africa was approaching the Angolan question within the framework of the United Nations peace initiative. However, an invitation had been extended to UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to visit South Africa. — Sapa.
Debate over Angolan 'mercenaries'

LEGAL action was being considered against Executive Outcomes, a Pretoria-based company which hires former defence force soldiers out to the Angolan government, the Department of Foreign Affairs acting director-general Rusty Evans said today.

Although the Angolan government insists the 500 Executive Outcomes employees are utilised as guards and instructors, Unita alleges they are in Angola as mercenaries.

Addressing the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Dr Evans said, "The matter had been referred to the Department of Justice. "There is prima facie evidence that that particular operation is transgressing South African law and that steps must be taken against them," he said.

Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad told the committee the government had intervened to save the lives of four South Africans employed by Executive Outcomes who had been captured by Unita, which had threatened to execute the men.

Although it was not clear whether the execution had gone ahead, there had been no news and it was presumed they were still alive.

Mr Pahad said the government opposed mercenaries being recruited from South Africa.

"We are trying to ensure that South Africans do not get involved as mercenaries."

Mr Pahad said South Africa was approaching the Angolan question within the framework of the United Nations peace initiative. However, an invitation had been extended to Unita leader Jonas Savimbi to visit South Africa. — Sapa.
Angola poised on verge of peace

LUSAKA. — Angola's government and Unita rebels are tantalisingly close to completing their peace talks, but an end to almost 20 years of civil war is still snared on who will govern Huambo province.

Frustration is growing among diplomats on the sidelines of the negotiations, which began nine months ago in the Zambian capital, Lusaká, because of the failure to break the deadlock over the future of the Unita stronghold.

Negotiators and international mediators, led by UN special representative in Angola Aloune Blondin Beye, have postponed discussions on power sharing until the issue can be resolved.

The government, which offered Unita the governorships of Lunda Sul, Uige and Cuando-Cubango provinces, has ruled out Huambo as a topic of discussion.

It believes the rebels should relinquish the province because they occupied it by force when, after a brief lull, they resumed fighting following their refusal to accept their defeat in 1992 UN-supervised elections.

The ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) accuses Unita of using Huambo to wreck the talks and only wanting to govern the province for tribal reasons.

"There is no question of us not getting Huambo. The solution for positive results is to give us Huambo," Unita spokesman Jorge Valentim said last week.

Unita attaches great importance to Huambo, where it won more than 80 percent of the vote in 1992 and where leader Jonas Savimbi's Ovimbundo tribe is based.

The province has strategic significance with its location in the central highlands.

"Unita recognise that if they do not put their foot down politically they will crumble," one African diplomat said. "Basically Unita feels that if they capitulate on this issue at this time, there will be no future opportunity to have it addressed as a fundamental political issue." — Reuters.
Angolan pact ‘just days away’

An agreement ending Angola’s civil war could be signed within days, says US special envoy Paul Hare.

Speaking from Washington yesterday, Hare said Angolan government and Unita negotiators in Lusaka had reached the last issue on their agenda, the relatively uncontroversial subject of the UN’s future mandate in the country. He said:

"It could be days, not weeks or months", before agreement was reached, he said.

The fact that both parties had continued to negotiate for more than eight months indicated good faith on both sides, but potential problems could still arise, he told journalists at a teleconference arranged by the US Information Service.

Some key elements of the agreement, including the disputed right to nominate the governor of Huambo, the allocation of civil service jobs as well as the future role in a government of national unity, had been set aside for inclusion in an agreement annex.

"I don't think any of the remaining issues are beyond the wit of man or diplomats to overcome — if there is an interest in reaching a solution,“ President Nelson Mandela's agreement to become involved in the Angolan mediation process at the request of the UN had been a wise, positive and courageous decision.

There was a risk, however, that Mandela's involvement would have little effect on ending the civil war as nobody could force the two parties to overcome their problems.

But the risk was worth taking, Hare said.

He added the UN was likely to employ substantially more resources in peacekeeping, demobilisation and election preparation than was the case during the last Angolan election in September 1992.

The UN security council would decide on the logistics for the next phase only once an agreement had been signed.

Meanwhile, the 10-year civil war in Angola continued to ravage the country and its populace, exacting a 'devastating cost', Hare said.

In this Mandela could help by pushing Savimbi at their imminent meeting for a commitment to peace.
Battered Angolan civilians now face starvation

The Argus, Friday August 1984

AFRICA
US threatens Unita sanctions

LUSAKA. The US has threatened additional sanctions against Angola's Unita rebels if they reject power-sharing proposals to end nearly two decades of civil war, according to a letter obtained on Saturday.

The letter, seen by journalists, was sent to Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi on August 17 by US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr George Moose.

It warned Unita international patience was running out with the deadlocked peace talks and unless demonstrable progress was made on outstanding issues the US would support a trade ban and slap travel restrictions on key Unita members. — Sapa-Reuters
Umtata threat to pull out of talks if sanctions are tightened

AFRICA

The Argus, Wednesday, August 31, 1994

3
Police investigate ‘MI aid to Unita’

South African operatives are allegedly still assisting Unita rebels in Angola, reports Stefaans Brümmer.

Claim is being investigated by police but renegade military intelligence operatives are still supplying Angola’s rebel Unita forces, and waging an undercover campaign against a Pretoria company backing Angolan government forces.

SAPS spokesman Major Burger von Ruyen said this week: “We can confirm that certain information has been given to the SAPS. We are in the process of verifying it.”

Details of the alleged web of operations — some run “from within a state agency” and some by “splitter groups on the periphery of that agency” — were revealed this week by Eben Barlow, managing director of Executive Outcomes, the Pretoria-based company that says it trains Angolan government troops, but is widely regarded as recruiting “mercenary” who actively engage Unita.

The state agency against which the allegations are being made is reportedly understood to be Military Intelligence.

Barlow claimed to have information on groups within the state agency and on its periphery, who “help Unita with propaganda, the supply of equipment and smuggling diamonds and ivory.”

Executive action ... Executive Outcomes members assist MPLA forces in Angola

PHOTO: JOHN LIEBENBERG

The company’s managing director, Eben Barlow, said this week the downed aircraft was a Swiss Pilatus turbo-trainer, which carries only two people. He said it had been shot down while on a routine flight to a training camp, and the Angolan government and Executive Outcomes had launched a massive search. “If we find them, we will get them out.”

Fear for the men’s safety were based on previous statements by Unita that it would “publicly execute” any South African mercenaries it captured.

After Mbeki’s appeal Unita’s Lisbon representative Jaarna Bento told the Mail & Guardian this week: “They will not be executed if the South African government accedes to get them (Executive Outcomes personnel) all out of Angola.”

Based on Mbeki’s appeal, he conceded: “He (Mbeki) asked for it. We have already said we will not kill them.”

Bento would not reveal the captives’ whereabouts, but said he believed they were well. He said their release would be subject to negotiations and that “as far as I know” his was the first time Unita had captured Executive Outcomes personnel.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Jacques Malan sketched a less rosy scenario. “We did make contact with Unita, but to get that information filtered down to the ground where they are being held can be difficult, even for Unita.”

“It is hellishly difficult to assist these people: that’s why we previously warned them, ‘If you get into trouble, you’re on your own’.”

He said Foreign Affairs was awaiting feedback from Unita after a high-level meeting of its leaders in Huambo, the rebel headquarters, this week.

Meanwhile, Unita radio claimed this week to have killed 50 Executive Outcome personnel in battles in Lunda Norte between July 18 and 25, and a total of more than 125 foreign mercenaries in the past 15 months.

Barlow dismissed this as propaganda and said that only 15 of his employees had died — of malaria, in training accidents and in Unita attacks.

Two Cape Town diamond divers were released by Unita on Tuesday after 10 days’ captivity. Douglas van der Merwe and Rian Richter were captured by the rebel movement apparently while working a riverbed on the border between Zaire and Angola.

Van der Merwe’s father, CP van der Merwe, said a “private person” had secured their release after the families were advised “it’s best to do it the African way”. He said the two men were safe in Zaire.

MPLA ‘mercenaries’ will not be executed

Stefaaans Brümmer

ANGOLA’s rebel Unita movement has given a qualified assurance it will not execute captured South African “mercenaries” after an appeal for clemency by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

At least two South Africans working for the Pretoria-based company Executive Outcomes — whose personnel ostensibly train soldiers of the MPLA government — fell into Unita hands in Angola’s northern diamond-rich province Lunda Norte on July 15 when their Angolan government aircraft was shot down by the rebels.

Executive Outcomes has refused to name the captured men — a pilot and an administrator — saying their families did not want their identities known. It disputes Unita claims that “about five” men were travelling in the light aircraft and that three survivors were being held.

The company’s managing director, Eben Barlow, said this week the downed aircraft was a Swiss Pilatus turbo-trainer, which carries only two people. He said it had been shot down while on a routine flight to a training camp, and the Angolan government and Executive Outcomes had launched a massive search. “If we find them, we will get them out.”

Fear for the men’s safety were based on previous statements by Unita that it would “publicly execute” any South African mercenaries it captured.

After Mbeki’s appeal Unita’s Lisbon representative Jaarna Bento told the Mail & Guardian this week: “They will not be executed if the South African government accedes to get them (Executive Outcomes personnel) all out of Angola.”

Based on Mbeki’s appeal, he conceded: “He (Mbeki) asked for it. We have already said we will not kill them.”

Bento would not reveal the captives’ whereabouts, but said he believed they were well. He said their release would be subject to negotiations and that “as far as I know” his was the first time Unita had captured Executive Outcomes personnel.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Jacques Malan sketched a less rosy scenario. “We did make contact with Unita, but to get that information filtered down to the ground where they are being held can be difficult, even for Unita.”

“It is hellishly difficult to assist these people: that’s why we previously warned them, ‘If you get into trouble, you’re on your own’.”

He said Foreign Affairs was awaiting feedback from Unita after a high-level meeting of its leaders in Huambo, the rebel headquarters, this week.

Meanwhile, Unita radio claimed this week to have killed 50 Executive Outcome personnel in battles in Lunda Norte between July 18 and 25, and a total of more than 125 foreign mercenaries in the past 15 months.

Barlow dismissed this as propaganda and said that only 15 of his employees had died — of malaria, in training accidents and in Unita attacks.

Two Cape Town diamond divers were released by Unita on Tuesday after 10 days’ captivity. Douglas van der Merwe and Rian Richter were captured by the rebel movement apparently while working a riverbed on the border between Zaire and Angola.

Van der Merwe’s father, CP van der Merwe, said a “private person” had secured their release after the families were advised “it’s best to do it the African way”. He said the two men were safe in Zaire.
Proposals by Unita rejected

LUANDA. — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has rejected the latest Unita proposals on governing Huambo province.

He told the Council of the Republic yesterday that "the government cannot depend — on this question of sovereignty — on the agreement of an opposition party." (≡) 13/04/94

Unita has said there will be no agreement unless it governs the province.

It accepted this week that the government could choose the governor, but said Unita must first agree on his nomination.

Mr Dos Santos said the Angolan government must have "the capacity to assert its authority".

He said the army would force Unita "to negotiate an end to the armed conflict." — Sapa-AFP
LUANDA. — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has rejected the latest Unita proposals on governing Huambo province.

He told the Council of the Republic yesterday that “the government cannot depend — on this question of sovereignty — on the agreement of an opposition party.”

Unita has said there will be no agreement unless it governs the province.

It accepted this week that the government could choose the governor, but said Unita must first agree on his nomination.

Mr Dos Santos said the Angolan government must have “the capacity to assert its authority”.

He said the army would force Unita “to negotiate an end to the armed conflict.” — Sapa-AFP
Angolan talks stall over raid

Lusaka — Talks aimed at ending Angola’s 20-year civil war have hit another snag but diplomats say troubles for Unita rebels make it unlikely they will collapse.

Unita last week boycotted the 10-month-old UN-mediated talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka after a government bombing raid on the rebels’ central headquarters, Huambo.

Diplomats said Unita could use the strike, which by some estimates killed four people and according to others killed 28, to reverse the offer of a compromise to end an impasse over who will govern Huambo province.

The government has been cool towards Unita’s proposal that the Luanda administration be allowed to name the governor of Huambo if rebels had veto power over the decision.

Diplomats said Unita was being obstructive — but it had little power to derail talks completely due to shrunken foreign military support and growing impatience within the international community, particularly

Savimbi...Unita leader.

its former US backers.

“Unita are in a difficult situation. The military balance is in the government’s favour and their former military backers have abandoned them,” said a Zambian government official.

“One can’t be overly optimistic about Angola but we remain cautiously optimistic that for the first time they (Unita) will feel disadvantaged and take the offer for peace.”

Unita seems to respond to threats of UN sanctions. A ban imposed by the Security Council a year ago on arms and fuel sales forced it back to the negotiating table.

Threats of further sanctions if no progress was made by the end of August seemed to have pushed Jonas Savimbi’s rebels to stand down on its past refusal to allow the government to appoint Huambo’s governor.

“It has always been felt that Unita and the government will exercise their military muscle to the last day of the talks, but it is hoped that the government’s bombing of Huambo will not be taken as a challenge for Unita to reconsider its position or retaliate militarily,” one foreign observer said.

Huambo, which is part of the crucial national reconciliation question, is one of the last points on the agenda before a ceasefire can be reached.

The two foes agreed in December that Unita would disarm before taking up the administrative positions on offer. — Sape-Reuter.
Efforts to ease the war in Angola have reached a deadlock following the recent bombing of Unita’s headquarters in Huambo. But diplomats are cautiously optimistic that peace may finally be achieved.

Chimbano reports:

A ban imposed by the Security Council a year ago on arms and fuel sales forced Unita back to the negotiating table. Threats of further sanctions if no progress was made by the end of August, seemed to have pushed Jonas Savimbi’s rebels to stand down on its past refusal to allow the government to appoint Huambo’s governor.

“It has always been felt that Unita and the government will exercise their military muscle to the last day of the talks, but it is hoped that government’s bombing of Huambo will not be taken as a challenge for Unita to reconsider its position or retaliate militarily,” one foreign observer said.

Huambo, which is part of the crucial national reconciliation question, is one of the last points on the agenda before a ceasefire can be reached.

The two foes agreed last December that Unita would disarm before taking up the administrative positions on offer.

These included four ministerial, seven deputy ministerial, six ambassadorial and three provincial governorships.

UNITA, which has been fighting nearly continuously since the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) seized power after 1975 independence from Angola, has been largely blamed for the breakdown of the brief-lived 1991 peace accords.

The movement returned to the bush after rejecting its defeat in the September 1992 UN-sponsored elections.

Tens of thousands of people have since died in fighting which various rounds of peace accords have failed to resolve.

With the government gaining strength militarily, foreign observers believe an accord reached in Lusaka would stand a better chance compared to past agreements.

But they are sceptical about the political will on both sides after decades of hatred and distrust.

“The talks are nearing conclusion. The government's action takes away the little political will by either side to see this peace process through,” an African diplomat said.

“Angolans should learn a lesson from what happened in Somalia... The UN will only go so far in trying to help. If the political will is not there, they will pull out.” Sapa-Reuters
Impasse in talks ended by Unita

LUSAKA. — Angola's Unita rebels have definitely dropped demands to govern their stronghold province of Huambo, breaking an impasse in talks to end nearly 20 years of civil war.

A letter handed to United Nations mediators said Unita had agreed to all points proposed by them for a power-sharing arrangement, including allowing the government to name the governor of the strategic province.

The letter made no mention of previous demands, rejected by the Angolan government, that Unita have a veto over who was named to govern Huambo.

"The Unita delegation to the Lusaka negotiations has appreciated the mediation's suggestions and is in agreement with the proposals," read the letter.

Unita was offered the mayorship of Huambo city, governors in Lundala Sul, Cuando-Cubango and Uige and vice-governors in Huila, Lunda, Bengo, Kwanza Sul and Benguela provinces.

The rebels were also offered four ministerial, seven deputy ministerial and six ambassadorial posts in addition to municipal and local posts.

Sources close to the talks said it appeared Unita felt it was under pressure because of UN threats to impose more sanctions on top of a year-old oil and arms embargo if the rebels did not accept the proposed power-sharing package.

The sources said the Angolan government was not entirely happy with the letter. But the mediators felt it was sufficient to move forward the peace talks, which have been under way in Lusaka for 10 months. — Reuters.
Angolan govt and Unita agree on UN policing

LUSAKA — The Angolan government and Unita took another step towards peace yesterday, agreeing on how the UN would police a truce.

The agreement signed was part of a peace plan expected to be completed by the end of the month. But the two sides still have to discuss the delicate issue of how they will share power in post-war Angola.

Under yesterday’s agreement, UN peacekeepers are to monitor a ceasefire and oversee the demobilisation of fighters. The two sides asked the UN Security Council to determine how many troops should be sent. The government had proposed 7,000 and Unita 10,000.

Fewer than 1,000 UN peacekeepers were in Angola to police a 1991 ceasefire that led to the country’s first democratic elections in 1992. Unita lost and, charging election fraud, resumed fighting. Unita had refused to disarm during the 1991 truce, claiming the government was building up special police forces.

With the agreement on the UN role concluded yesterday, only a few issues remain on the agenda of peace talks that have dragged on in Zambia for nearly a year.

The most important of the remaining issues is the role of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi. Unita insists Savimbi is one of the nation’s top leaders, but the government has insisted promising Savimbi a significant post in a post-war coalition government. Former allies like the US have softened support for Savimbi since his 1992 election loss and his decision to return to battle. — Sapa-AP.
White Paper on agriculture

Proposals for a new look agricultural marketing system, with strictly limited government intervention, were outlined in a draft White Paper released yesterday.

The document also called for affirmative action programmes focused on people previously denied access to farming opportunities, stricter control over drought aid, and recognition of the role of farm labourers in agricultural production.

Deputy Director-General of Agriculture Dr Chris Bilgaut said it was hoped the document would soon be ready.

The department was already holding back draft legislation to ensure it fitted in with principles of the White Paper.
Angola peace accord remains elusive

Luanda — Angola’s government has dampened hopes that it is close to reaching an accord with Unita rebels on ending the civil war, a state newspaper said yesterday.

Jornal de Angola quoted Prime Minister Marcolino Moco and a senior negotiator as saying there were still obstacles impeding an immediate conclusion of peace talks in Zambia.

Neither Moco nor General Higino Carneiro, head of the government negotiating team at the Lusaka peace talks with Unita, could say whether a deal would be signed this month in line with a UN Security Council deadline.

"There are some obstacles still blocking a ceasefire agreement," Moco told Jornal de Angola.

An editorial by the daily also held out little hope for an accord this month — a prospect raised by delegates last week. "Peace is not as near as the progress at Lusaka would have us believe," the paper said.

Angolan negotiators, saying a peace deal was close, left the Zambian capital on Friday for consultations with their leaders.

Sources close to the talks said the trips to Luanda and Huanbo by government and rebel delegations were a clear indication that an accord would be signed this month.

UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali requested the government and Unita to complete peace talks by September 30.

The Lusaka talks have dragged on for 10 months.

A political analyst in Luanda who declined to be identified said Unita leader Jonas Savimbi would sign anything put before him, but an agreement would not be easily implemented.

Diplomats said it would also be difficult to disarm the warring factions after an accord had been signed.

A negotiator who declined to be named said talks had progressed smoothly in the past two weeks after the capitulation of Unita rebels over the governorship of Huanbo province and the reported offer of the post of vice-president to Savimbi.

At least 70 people were killed and 74 injured when a train was derailed in an accident in southern Angola on Thursday, Jornal de Angola reported yesterday. — Sapa-Reuters.
Urgent summit on Angola

DALE LAUTEMBACH
The Argus Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Southern Africa’s heads of state have earmarked Saturday for an emergency summit to address the deepening Angolan crisis.

The gathering, in Harare under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community, has yet to be finally confirmed.

Foreign Ministers of the region recommended a summit 10 days ago and since then the situation in Angola has worsened.

Yesterday the United Nations military chief in Angola, Chris Garuba, said both Unita rebels and the government army were failing to keep to the November agreements for withdrawing forces.

General Garuba also accused the government army of occupying territory previously occupied by Unita and said the conditions necessary for peace to be truly declared had not yet been met.

The Angolan government yesterday denied it had invaded UN buffer zones in northern Uige province in defiance of the November agreement.

"The government is not occupying any areas in northern Uige province," said government representative Higino Carneiro on state radio.

He was responding to a claim by General Garuba on Monday that government troops were violating the accord by moving into areas left by Unita.

The clock is ticking fast for Angola. UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that if there is not a demonstrable peace between the two sides by March 25, the UN will delay its decision to deploy 7,000 peacekeepers to the country in May.

The timetable is already falling behind as the logistical support for these blue helmets is supposed to be on the ground by the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the SADC heads of state are consulting as to how best they might intervene. The parties in Mozambique at the time of the election in October, most particularly rebel chief Afonso Dhlakama, took seriously a strongly worded communiqué from the SADC leaders and stepped back into line.

It is unlikely the Angolans will respond similarly.

One of the greatest challenges for the regional leadership is to involve Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in attempts to find a solution.

So far Mr Savimbi has been completely isolated, his only interlocutor being UN special envoy to Angola, Atoine Blondin Beye.

Known for his unflinching optimism about reaching a peace in Angola, even Mr Blondin Beye has been sounding doubtful recently. He called this week for an urgent increase in the UN monitoring of arms supplies to both sides in a 30-year conflict. — Sapa-Reuters.
Unita rebels offered an olive branch

□ Urged to ‘live in democracy’

NEW YORK — The Angolan government has offered Unita rebels an olive branch to breaking the deadlock over how to share power after two decades of civil war.

"We want Unita to become a political party, to live in democracy," Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura told the United Nations General Assembly.

"It is not our intention to destroy Unita militarily," he said, calling for the rebels to work with the government to "put an end definitively to the war and restore peace".

The UN Security Council has pleaded with the two sides to conclude their protracted negotiations in the Zambian capital of Lusaka by the end of the month.

Rebel spokesman Joaquin Valentim said yesterday that his leader, Jonas Savimbi, had given them a mandate to complete the truce during weekend talks in Angola. Government negotiators also consulted their leaders in Angola over the weekend, and returned yesterday to Lusaka.

The nearly year-long talks have repeatedly stalled over procedural matters and minor issues, keeping the negotiators from tackling the power-sharing question.

The rebels have insisted that Dr Savimbi be given a major role in any post-war administration, and the government is reported to be willing to make Dr Savimbi a vice president if Unita gives up its demands for the governorship of a crucial province it controls.

Unita has been at war with the government since 1975, when the fight for independence from Portugal turned into an armed power struggle between two anti-colonial guerrilla groups.

After 16 years of war in which more than 350,000 Angolans have been killed, the two sides signed a peace treaty in 1991. But fighting resumed 18 months later when Dr Savimbi accused the government of rigging Unita’s defeat in the country’s first democratic elections.

Yesterday, Mr De Moura pleaded for an end to the violence and for the rebels to accept a package re-establishing peace and national reconciliation.

Otherwise, Mr De Moura told the UN delegates, Angola faced "a sombre future". — Sapa-AP.
Angola hopes to sign peace pact soon

LUANDA. — The Angolan government has said it hopes to sign a peace agreement with the Unita rebel movement before the end of the month.

In a statement issued in Luanda, Zambia, a government spokesman said he thought the accord would be signed even though "important" decisions on national reconciliation had still to be taken.

The government and Unita have been taking part in peace negotiations in Lusaka since November 1993.

Civil war broke out in the former Portuguese colony soon after independence in 1975. A peace accord was signed in 1991, but the two sides plunged back into war in 1992 after Unita rejected the results of United Nations-sponsored elections which it lost.

The key question still to be settled before a peace agreement could be signed was the future political status of Unita chief Jonas Savimbi, said the government spokesman, Higino Carneiro. On June 27, the two sides agreed to leave aside the question of Dr Savimbi's status to allow progress on other questions. — Sapa-APP.
Unita awaits government response

Halt in Angolan peace indaba

Lusaka (Zambia) — Unita rebels said yesterday that talks to end Angola's 20-year civil war were far from concluded, and negotiations had been suspended until the middle of the week while the government delegation consulted its leaders in Luanda.

Unita's spokesman Jorge Valentim said the rebels' negotiating team had postponed travelling to its own headquarters in Huambo, central Angola, for a meeting that was originally scheduled for October 10-13 to ratify peace proposals.

"We cannot go to Huambo because we have to wait for the government to come back from consultations in Luanda," he said. "We can only resume the negotiations on Wednesday." Sources close to the UN-mediated talks say the two sides, which have been meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka since November, were close to completing a protocol for a peace accord and that an agreement could be signed before the end of the month.

But the sources stressed that distrust was rife between the foes after nearly 20 years of civil war, and last-minute snags could emerge.

Valentim said the government delegation, which left Lusaka for Luanda on Friday and was expected back tomorrow, had not fully informed Unita of its position on the remaining 11 municipalities to be allocated to the rebels under a power-sharing formula.

"There has been a lot of confusion. We think we have done what we had to do. If only the government side can tell us their position on the remaining municipalities, we would know how to respond. Now we are just waiting," he said.

Unita has, under the agreed power-sharing deal, been allocated 30 municipalities. — Sapa-Reuters
Unita awaits government response

Halt in Angolan peace indaba

Lusaka (Zambia) — Unita rebels said yesterday that talks to end Angola’s 20-year civil war were far from concluded, and negotiations had been suspended until the middle of the week while the government delegation consulted its leaders in Luanda.

Unita’s spokesman Jorge Valentim said the rebels’ negotiating team had postponed travelling to its own headquarters in Huambo, central Angola, for a meeting that was originally scheduled for October 10-13 to ratify peace proposals.

“We cannot go to Huambo because we have to wait for the government to come back from consultations in Luanda,” he said. “We can only resume the negotiations on Wednesday.”

Sources close to the UN-mediated talks say the two sides, which have been meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka since November, were close to completing a protocol for a peace accord and that an agreement could be signed before the end of the month.

But the sources stressed that distrust was rife between the foes after nearly 20 years of civil war, and last-minute snags could emerge.

Valentim said the government delegation, which left Lusaka for Luanda on Friday and was expected back tomorrow, had not fully informed Unita of its position on the remaining 11 municipalities to be allocated to the rebels under a power-sharing formula.

“There has been a lot of confusion. We think we have done what we had to do. If only the government side can tell us their position on the remaining municipalities, we would know how to respond. Now we are just waiting,” he said.

Unita has, under the agreed power-sharing deal, been allocated 30 municipalities. — Sapu-Reuters.
Angolan govt, Unita agree on peace treaty

LUSAKA. — Angola's government and Unita rebels have agreed on a peace treaty, the chief UN negotiator announced yesterday.

The pact would try to end a civil war that has survived despite previous peace treaties, a national election and international pressure.

The agreement covered 10 points, including a ceasefire, the withdrawal and disarming of rebel forces and creating a new national army with fighters from both sides. — Sapa-AP.
Treatment
for wounded
Unita leader

Sao Tome — Angolan rebel
leader Jonas Savimbi, who has
not appeared in public for
three months, received emer-
gency medical treatment in the
island state of Sao Tome and
Principe two weeks ago, a
source in the medical team
that treated him said.

The source said Savimbi had
been seriously wounded, ap-
parently from an explosion, on
his right side but had not lost
the use of his limbs and ap-
peared mentally sound.

Undisclosed

Sao Tome President Miguel
Tromnida called in the medical
team to treat Savimbi for what
appeared to be fresh wounds,
the source said.

He said Savimbi flew into
Sao Tome on the night of Octo-
ber 24 in a large aircraft with
US markings. Savimbi was
treated on the island before
leaving a few hours later for an
undisclosed destination, he
added. — Reuters.

► Fresh clashes — Page 8
Foot-dragging Angola incurs wrath of region

Waiting for peace ... while the bloodshed continues, life goes on, and the ordinary people are longing for their country to join the southern African sub-continent's move away from war.

P. ROMAN-BODHIG

From the Zambian capital last week came the news that Angolan peace talks had failed, while on the battlefield of Angola the blood of new offenders flowed.

Expressing an impatience with the Angolan crisis, executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community Dr Kaspar Mundaende, told the press that if the leadership of the warring sides did not ratify the agreement, the region would have to rally and act.

States, he said, have ratified the agreement, are possible — and not just states of war against the Angolan government, but also, a diplomatic initiative able to bring the two sides to the table. The solution to the problem, he said, was to have a new government in Angola, and this new government should be able to ratify the agreement. The region would have to rally and act.

Mundaende said the region would have to rally and act. The region would have to rally and act.

G provincial capital Luanda, which has been called the main center of the Angolan government, remains a stronghold of the rebel National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

Infighting in the government has led to the formation of a new government, which has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). The new government has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

Infighting in the government has led to the formation of a new government, which has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). The new government has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

Infighting in the government has led to the formation of a new government, which has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). The new government has been called the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).
Angola all set to sign peace accord

But 143 die as battles rage

LUANDA. — A senior Angolan negotiator says the government has told him to initial a peace accord with Unita rebels to end nearly 20 years of civil war.

Both sides at the same time reported continuing fighting in Angola, with Unita saying yesterday that 143 people, including a Spanish priest, had died in two days of heavy battles in the southern province of Huila.

"We have received the mandate to initial the protocol," said Higino Carneiro.

Government and Unita negotiators are to initial the agreement in the Zambian capital Lusaka, where peace talks have been dragging on since November last year.

Mr. Carneiro said some issues still remained to be resolved.

"If our worries are addressed in the coming days, particularly the calendar of implementation of the Lusaka protocol and the security status of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, we will be obliged to initial the protocol," he said.

The two sides, meanwhile, reported continued scattered fighting in Angola, where civil war has raged with only a brief break since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Unita radio, monitored in the nearby island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said the 143 died over the last 48 hours in heavy fighting around the towns of Cacoma and Caluquembe in Huila province on the southern fringe of the central highlands.

The radio said government troops were attacking Unita positions and destroying entire villages.

It also accused them of killing a Spanish Catholic priest, whom it did not name, in Caluquembe.

The radio said in a commentary that the fighting endangered the signing of the peace accord, agreed in principle this month.

UN mediator Alioune Blondin Beye said in a statement on Tuesday the peace teams were expected to initial the accord soon after they returned to Zambia before October 31.

He said the formal signing would take place in Lusaka 15 days after the parties initialled the agreement.

Unita and the ruling MPLA signed an earlier peace accord in 1991. — Reuters.
These were allegations of one of two employees who were fired after a report that they had been involved in a breach of company policy. The report stated that the employees had been accused of stealing company property. The employees denied the allegations, saying they had been framed. The company conducted an investigation and found no evidence to support the allegations. The employees were reinstated and the company paid them back wages and benefits.
Angolan foes endorse accord to end conflict

LUSAKA. — Angola's civil war enemies have endorsed a pact to end one of the continent's bloodiest conflicts three years after a similar accord fell apart within months.

The pact, mediated by United Nations envoy Alionne Blondin Beye, was initiated last night in the Zambian capital, where delegations from the Luanda government and the Unita rebel movement had negotiated for 12 months.

"Peace to Angola, thank you Zambia, viva President Dos Santos, viva Dr Savimbi," Mr Beye said after he and representatives of the two sides had initialed the six-page document.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi are expected to sign the pact formally later this month.

Faustino Muteka, leader of the government delegation, shook hands with his Unita counterpart, Eugenio Manuva-
kola, after the ceremony, which was attended by representatives of the United States, Russia and Portugal, the guar- antors of the pact.

The initialling was delayed for several hours by a last-minute dispute over security arrangements for Dr Savimbi, who launched his guerrilla war against the MPLA government in 1975 when Angola gained independence from Portugal.

 Asked if the security issue had been settled, Mr Beye replied: "All the questions have been resolved. That is why we have initialed the document."

Military leaders of the two sides are due to meet on Thursday to discuss details of a ceasefire.

But in Luanda, diplomats, aid workers and ordinary people have expressed caution about whether the pact will hold.

An Angolan businessman said mistrust between the two sides would impede implementation of an agreement.

A diplomat said he thought Unita would avoid laying down arms.

"They do not want to accept in reality what they have got out of Lusaka," he said.

"They will keep holding the process up because they do not want to disarm. They do not trust the other side."

In New York, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali praised the combatants in Angola for initialing the peace accord.

Dr Boutros-Ghali said he hoped talks between Angolan military delegates would be brought to a speedy conclusion so a formal agreement could be signed in mid-November.

"A long-lasting peace in Angola will be possible only on the basis of compromise, genuine national reconciliation, tolerance and security for all Angolans," — Sapa-Reuters.
Peace deal for Angola

LUSAKA — Angolan government and rebel negotiators yesterday initialled a peace agreement to end 20 years of civil war, a UN spokesman said.

Mr Joao Albuquerque said a formal announcement of the long-awaited accord would be made by UN mediator Mr Alioune Blondin Beye.

Peace talks here have dragged on since November.

The formal signing and proclamation of a ceasefire is expected by November 15.

A last-minute row over Unita’s overseas missions and the number of bodyguards Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi would be permitted to retain, had threatened to wreck the process.

"The government argued Unita could have an unnecessarily big number of armed men in the name of Savimbi’s bodyguards," said one source close to the negotiators.

Unita and government leaders ratified the peace pact at their meetings in Huambo and Luanda respectively last week. — Sapa-AFP
1975 — January 15: Angola's three main guerrilla groups — Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the Marxist Movement for the Popular Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) — take equal shares in transitional government.
August 29: Transitional government collapses.
1976 — MPLA crushes FNLA and drives back Unita.
1979 — MPLA leader Agostinho Neto dies, replaced by Soviet-trained Jose Eduardo dos Santos.
1987 — South African force enters south-east Angola to thwart MPLA and Cuban offensive against Unita.
1988 — August: South Africans withdraw after United States mediation.
December: Angola, South Africa and Cuba sign accord linking Namibian independence from South Africa with withdrawal of Cuba's 50,000 troops from Angola by mid-1991.
1989 — June 22: At an African summit in Zaire, Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi agree on ceasefire which collapses in August.
1990 — April 28: Portugal announces first direct "exploratory contacts" between Unita and MPLA.
October 20: MPLA Central Committee approves multi-party democracy after 15 years of one-party rule.
1991 — April 28: MPLA ditches Marxism-Lenism for social democracy to prepare for general elections.
May 1: MPLA and Unita initial peace pact in Portugal providing for elections between September and November 1992, a de facto end to fighting and formal ceasefire.
May 31: Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi sign peace accord in Lisbon.
October 6: Unita withdraws from the newly unified armed forces accusing government of election fraud.
October 17: MPLA wins 53.7 percent and Unita 36.1 percent of national assembly vote. Mr Dos Santos takes 40.6 percent and Dr Savimbi 34.9 percent of presidential vote, forcing second round.
UN certifies polls generally free and fair.
October-November: Fighting flares, more than 300 people killed in Luanda as Unita refuses to accept election results.
1993 — January: MPLA offensive against Unita in major cities with heavy casualties. Fighting continues through year.
November: UN-sponsored peace talks between Luanda government and Unita open in Zambian capital, Lusaka.
1994 — June 23: UN asks South Africa's President Mandela to help end war.

PRESIDENT MANDELA ... was asked to help end the war.

July 7: Mr Mandela, Mr Dos Santos and presidents Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique meet in Pretoria to discuss ways to end war.
August 29: Southern African Development Community (SADC) says government and Unita agree on 7,000-member UN peacekeeping force for Angola.
Fighting in Angola continues through October.
October 5: Unita rejects government claim that rebel leader Jonas Savimbi seriously wounded in assassination attempt.
October 18: UN mediator Aloune Blondin-Baye announces agreement in principle between government and Unita to end war.
October 31: Government and Unita negotiators initial peace accord in Lusaka.
He was remembered the Civil War for 19 years.

War and peace

Ronald Reagan
Angolan forces retake oilfields centre from Unita

□ UN mediator urges peace accord be implemented

LUANDA. — Angolan government forces have recaptured the country’s main onshore oil centre from Unita rebels in heavy fighting, state media reported fewer than 24 hours after the two sides initialled a peace accord.

Unita General Paulo Lukamba Gato reported that government planes bombed Caala, 30 km southwest of Huambo, and said such attacks threatened implementation of the pact. The Caala attack could not be independently confirmed.

In Lusaka, United Nations peace mediator Alloune Blondin Beye said at a ceremony marking the accord: "The time for fighting is over and time for peace has come. I urge the government and Unita to show military restraint to alleviate the suffering of the people.

"My wish is that starting today we will see the delivery of Angola from war," he said in the Zambian capital where the pact was hammered out during a year of talks.

Initiated by both sides on Monday night, it is intended to end the civil war that began on independence from Portugal in 1975.

Diplomats said they expected a surge in fighting as the two sides tried to gain territory before the ceasefire which is due to start 48 hours after a formal signing of a peace agreement, expected around November 15.

Angolan newspapers reported yesterday the army had retaken the northwestern oil town of Soyo, captured by Unita last year.

"Heavy fighting is going on in the municipality of Soyo after its re-occupation by the Angolan army," it said.

It said government troops were also advancing on Unita’s headquarters at Huambo in the highlands of central Angola.

A government source said fighting took place on several central fronts on Monday as troops advanced towards Huambo.

He said a government thrust from Benguela was only 40 km from Huambo, but was being held up by Unita minefields. — Reuters.
'Huambo has been taken by Angolan govt'

LUANDA. — Angolan government troops have taken control of the rebel UNITA headquarters and stronghold of Huambo, a government military source said late last night.

The source said the country's second city fell to government troops after a morning air raid in which UNITA retaliated, destroying a MIG fighter jet.

State radio reported that the northern oil-rich town of Soyo has also fallen to government troops.

No independent confirmation of the recapture could be obtained.

Earlier, one aid source in radio contact with staff in Huambo said UNITA reported capturing the pilot of a government MIG shot down in the morning.

Fifty foreign aid staff trapped in the city were reported to be in high spirits.

The government, which initiated a peace accord with UNITA last month to end nearly 20 years of civil war, said earlier it did not intend to capture Huambo itself but to take adjacent positions.

The two sides are due to sign the accord formally on November 15 and a ceasefire would follow two days later.
'Peace still on course in Angola'

Biarritz (France) — Angolan Prime Minister Marcelino Moco insisted yesterday that the peace process was still on course despite his government army's claim to have captured Huambo, stronghold of the Unita rebels.

Moco made contradictory statements at a news conference in south-west France when asked whether government forces had or had not captured Huambo, as the Luanda army spokesman had claimed earlier yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the Franco-African summit, Moco said the MPLA government was "totally committed to peace" despite fighting which he said was raging throughout the central African country.

He said he had brought invitations to several African leaders coming to Biarritz to attend the planned signing of the peace accord in Lusaka on November 15.

The ceremony, scheduled after 11 months of negotiations with Unita in the Zambian capital, appeared in grave jeopardy because of the latest fighting.

Aid sources in Luanda, quoting foreign aid workers in Huambo, said yesterday that government forces were still thought to be about 10 km from the devastated city in the central highlands.

Moco, speaking Portuguese, said at one point that the army controlled Huambo.

He added: "At the moment government forces are recording successes at Huambo but Unita is doing the same in other regions."

Earlier, at the same news conference, he said he had no specific information about particular war fronts.

"The war is generalised," Moco said.

He said he was unaware of reported threats by Unita to withdraw from the peace process if Huambo fell.

"Threats are the common currency of those who make war," he said, adding that government forces were merely defending themselves from Unita attacks. — Reuters.
From thriving city to war-torn, shattered shell

**Huambo.** The embattled headquarters of Angola's Unita rebels, was once a prosperous city. Now it is a shattered shell.

Almost every building has been hit by fighting and by air strikes. Thousands of citizens have fled. Those who remain are ragged and starving.

By Monday, government troops had advanced close to the western outskirts of the city and heavy combat was taking place.

Huambo has been one of the most potent symbols produced by the two decades of civil war. The rebels have controlled it since they seized it from the government in March 1988 after months of street fighting.

Rebel chief Jonas Savimbi set up his headquarters in the city, in the heartland of his Owambo tribe.

His colonial-style white villa has since been bombed to rubble. He and his aides operate from bunkers in the basement of the few intact buildings.

Lying on a plateau in the central highlands, Huambo is surrounded by some of Angola's most fertile land.

It was the breadbasket of the nation during the years of Portuguese colonial rule.

But fighting since independence in 1975 has wrecked the main thoroughfare, where walls are pock-marked with shrapnel, shop windows have been blown out and blasted buildings have folded in on themselves.

Shells have punched big holes in tile roofs and modern blocks of flats. Not a pane of glass is intact.

**Huambo** was once the centre of a region that was Angola's prosperous breadbasket, writes Nicholas Shaxson

Jonas Savimbi... his villa has been bombed to rubble.

President José de São... his forces are on the attack.

Huambo has been the centre-piece of the war which broke out again after Savimbi bridled at his defeat in the United Nations-sponsored elections and withdrew to the city to set up his headquarters.

The population, once numbering 500,000, has over the past two years shrunk by more than half. Aid workers say thousands of civilians fled on foot over the past two weeks to escape renewed shelling and air raids by government forces.

Those who remained hide when government fighter planes pass overhead, venturing out to till their small plots of land during lulls in attacks.

The city is almost empty of vehicles. Most shops are closed and after sunset residents disappear from the untidy streets. Huambo becomes a ghost town and only armed men venture out.

Aid workers who visited the city recently reported rampant malnutrition and disease among the ragged population who survive on air drops by international aid organisations.

The government in Luanda has been putting the squeeze on Unita by periodically suspending emergency aid flights to rebel-held areas following renewed fighting around the city.

— Sapa-Reuters.
Savimbi's appeal

UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi appealed over rebel radio yesterday for foreign intervention to halt an Angolan government assault on Unita's stronghold of Huambo.

A broadcast statement from Savimbi, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, indicated that continued fighting would wreck peace accords due to have been signed on November 15.

The Voice of the Black Cockerel Radio, accusing the Luanda government of "inhuman genocide", said:

"Our president has already solemnly called on the United States, the Zambian president (Frederick Chiluba) and United Nations special representative Aloune Blondin Beye to intervene to stop the offensive on Huambo."

"If there is a definitive battle for the occupation of Huambo, the international community will have to understand us, because the violation of the protocol initial in Lusaka on October 31 is neither acceptable nor tolerable."

Unita said on Tuesday that government shelling of the central highlands city had killed hundreds of civilians. The government said it had killed 1,500 Unita soldiers. There was no independent confirmation of either claim.

Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos were due to sign a peace accord initial by representatives of the two sides in Lusaka on October 31 after 11 months of negotiations in the Zambian capital. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angola peace deal is off, says Unita

LUANDA — Saying “all is lost” as government troops overran their headquarters, Unita rebels announced yesterday that a peace deal to end 19 years of war was off and leader Jonas Savimbi would not sign a truce next week as scheduled.

In its morning broadcast, Unita’s Radio Vorgan announced that rebel military leaders would not attend today’s scheduled meeting with UN mediators and government officials in Lusaka, Zambia.

“All is lost ... the government has plunged us back into war,” said the radio.

It said Savimbi would not sign a UN-brokered truce on November 15 unless government troops withdrew from Huambo, the rebels’ central Angolan base.

But far from retreating, government troops were consolidating control of the city of 400,000, about 500km southeast of Luanda, the media and diplomats said.

There was no confirmation of the government claims from the UN mission in Angola. But Western diplomats and aid workers said the government appeared to have effective control of Huambo.

There was no indication of the whereabouts of the rebel leadership, which until early on Wednesday had been contacting Unita offices abroad from Huambo.

Meanwhile, Paul Hare, US President Bill Clinton’s special representative to the 11-month peace talks in Lusaka, said he still expected the rebels to turn up for a military meeting to finalise details of the peace treaty.

Since war erupted on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975, fighting has killed more than half a million Angolans and millions are threatened by starvation and disease.

The latest treaty was to be signed on November 15 in Lusaka by Savimbi and President José Eduardo dos Santos. A ceasefire was to kick in two days later.

The government, distrustful of Unita and determined to negotiate from strength, has ignored several appeals by the UN, the Pope, the US and other countries to call off the Huambo assault.

Rebel radio said UN representative Alioune Blondin Beye was no longer considered a trusted mediator and blamed SA, Russia, Portugal and Brazil for arming the government troops.

Beye, who suddenly postponed his departure for Lusaka on Wednesday, was still in Luanda yesterday. But UN sources said he was ready to return to the peace talks at any time.

A group of six aid workers trapped in Red Cross headquarters outside Huambo since the building was looted by marauding troops on Tuesday were reported safe but still stranded yesterday. — Sapa-AP.
On Jambu claimed
Build-up for attack
Soldiers mass

[Image of a newspaper page]
Unita to sign treaty

ANGOLAN rebel leader Jonas Savimbi reportedly assured US diplomat that he would sign a treaty ending 19 years of war despite a government offensive that overran his headquarters.

Savimbi met US ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, in Lusaka, Zambia, for the treaty signing on Tuesday, Albright said.

Asked whether Savimbi would sign the document, Albright declined comment. But a US military spokesman said Savimbi had assured Albright he would sign the treaty.

Angola's war-ravaged rivals were expected to hold talks in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, yesterday to prepare for a ceasefire, a Zambian government official said.

The Zambian official said a Unita military delegation was due from Zaire for talks with the Zambian government on technical details of a ceasefire.

The UN said it had definite word that the Unita delegation would arrive yesterday. It had been due on Thursday, but said it could not talk peace while the government was trying to wipe it out on the battlefield.

The treaty, to be co-signed by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, caps 11 months of painstaking negotiations.

A nationwide ceasefire was to come two days later, followed by a power-sharing deal between the government and Unita.

Unita had called off the deal as government troops overran Savimbi's stronghold of Huambo, 530 km southeast of the capital, Luanda, in a huge assault this week. The rebels had demanded government troops pull back from the city.

-Safa-Reuters
‘Military intervention’ if peace bid crumbles

LUSAKA. — African leaders meet in Zambia today in an urgent attempt to keep Angola’s faltering peace accord on track.

The meeting of southern Africa’s frontline states followed a last-minute postponement to Sunday of the signing of the accord, painstakingly negotiated by UN mediators over 11 months.

The leaders were drafting a tough statement telling Angola’s warring sides to stop the bloodletting, conference officials said.

“The message is that enough is enough. Angolans want peace and the leaders will do all they can to ensure this is done,” one official said.

“I think after this meeting anyone standing in the way of peace will be viewed and treated as Enemy Number One.”

South Africa’s Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has already warned that the leaders will take action — widely seen as including military intervention — should the latest Angola peace bid crumble as others before it.

Although UN officials declined to give reasons for putting off the signing ceremony from today, conference sources said it was because Angola’s Unita rebels had refused to sign while the government intensified the war.

In the past two weeks, after both the government and Unita had initiated the pact, Angolan army troops overran Unita’s stronghold of Huambo in central Angola, throwing the peace process into doubt.

Unita, Jonas Savimbi’s National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has accused the government of violating the tentative accord by launching the offensive. The government says the war is yet over, although it is prepared to declare a truce ahead of the actual accord.

UN officials said military panels of both Angolan sides met in Lusaka yesterday to work out the details of implementing the truce and when it would take effect.

The delegations were later joined by UN mediator Alcione Blondin Beye, chairman of the Angola peace talks, apparently after some disagreements between them.

The original plan was to have the truce in force from November 17, two days after formal signature of the pact.

“The two delegations have agreed to discuss, as a priority, the cessation of hostilities, especially by fixing the date and the time for the implementation of the ceasefire,” UN spokesman Joao Albuquerque said.

President Mandela was notified of a postponement in the signing of the peace pact ahead of his departure for the Zambian capital Lusaka yesterday, his spokesman said.

“He left on schedule at 6 pm. Before he left the indication was that the signing would not take place today but later in the week,” Parks Mankahana said by telephone.

“In that event, the president received word that the meeting of the heads of state of southern Africa would take place.

“It is impossible to force the parties to sign but the heads of state will meet to confer or find ways to persuade them to sign,” Mr Mankahana said.

The spokesman said M. Mandela was due back in South Africa at 8pm today.
'100,000 civilians killed in past two years'

LISBON.—About 100,000 civilians have been killed in Angola since the country’s civil war resumed two years ago, Human Rights Watch has said.

The New York-based organisation said in a report that both sides had been guilty of torture, summary executions and the recruitment of child soldiers.

It urged the United Nations to enforce an arms embargo against the two sides.

The report, released on the same day as the Angolan government and the rebel movement Unita had been due to sign a new peace agreement, also demanded that the United Nations deploy human rights monitors throughout the country.

An upsurge in fighting since the peace accord was initialled on October 31 has meant that the planned signing in Lusaka has been delayed until Sunday.

The report, entitled “Angola: Arms Trade and Violations of the Law since the 1992 Elections,” said the Angolan government had become the biggest arms importer in Sub-Saharan Africa, buying more than $3.5 billion (R11.5bn) of military equipment over the past two years.

“The government is believed to have mortgaged the next seven years of oil production to finance this huge build-up of weaponry,” it said.

The report named the government’s main military suppliers as Russia, Brazil, North Korea, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Uzbekistan.
LUANDA. — Unita rebels returned to peace talks yesterday, to hammer out with the government's military final details of an accord to end 19 years of civil war, but said the treaty would only be signed next Sunday.

A Unita military delegation, headed by secretary-general Mr Eugenio Manuvakola, arrived in Lusaka, Zambia, where preparations were still continuing for the signing, originally scheduled for today.

But Unita spokesman Mr Marcus Samondo said Unita and government delegations had agreed yesterday with UN mediator Mr Aloune Blondin Beye, to postpone the signing until November 20.

President José Eduardo dos Santos and rebel chief Dr Jonas Savimbi are to sign the document. It is to lead, two days later, to a nationwide ceasefire and the start of a power-sharing agreement brokered painstakingly by Mr Beye in nearly a year of talks.

The rebels had called the deal off after government troops overran their stronghold of Huambo last week, but they later agreed to sign, apparently seeing the treaty as the best way to salvage some power.

Mr Samondo said by telephone that Unita and government delegations were meeting yesterday evening in Lusaka to finalise details of a ceasefire and details of security to be provided for Dr Savimbi under the accord.

After the last, failed peace accords of 1991, Dr Savimbi arrived in Luanda with a mini-army of bodyguards.

PRETORIA. — President Nelson Mandela left Waterkloof air force base shortly after 6pm yesterday for talks with Frontline leaders in Lusaka on the Angolan situation.

A spokesman for his office confirmed that the signing of a peace accord between the Angolan government and Unita, initially scheduled for today, had been postponed to next week.

He said Mr Mandela would meet Frontline leaders today to help facilitate the Angolan peace process.

The accord is the result of 11 months of negotiations in the Zambian capital.

— Sapa

This time, the government wants to limit the number of and integrate Unita security into the national police.

But Mr Samondo said he thought all problems could be resolved by November 20. "Then there's the signing — the invitations are in the mail."

US Assistant Secretary of State Mr George Moose told reporters here the US was "deeply concerned" by continuing offensive by government troops, and particularly by the capture of Huambo.

Western diplomats say the government is risking US sanctions by continuing the offensive. — Sapa-AP
Angola government, Unita sign a pre-ceasefire truce

The Argus Foreign Service

LUSAKA. — The Angolan government and Unita have finally signed a truce in Lusaka, giving the country fresh hope of ending 20 years of war that previous peace efforts have failed to stop.

It will come into effect at 8pm Angolan time (9pm SA time) today.

The truce will last until midnight on Tuesday by which time the ceasefire, to be signed on Sunday, will have come into effect.

"I see this as the beginning of a light at the end of a long tunnel and I hope that this historic event will mark a significant milestone in our quest for peace in Angola," said Chris Abutu Garuba, chief military observer for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

It is hoped that by 9pm today all Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and Unita military units on the ground in Angola will have had orders to refrain from carrying out attacks on each other.

"This period of truce will significantly benefit the environment in which the general staff will hold their meeting to discuss other issues which precede the signing of the Lusaka protocol and the consequent re-establishment of the ceasefire, as envisaged and agreed upon under the protocol," the agreement read.

General Pedro De Morais Neto signed on behalf of the Angolan government and General Eugenio Ngolo "Manuvakola" for Unita.

Unita has suffered militarily in the past 16 days during which the FAA launched a massive offensive, taking the town of Huambo, Unita's central highlands stronghold.

The government drive recovered much of the ground it lost when Unita resumed the war in September 1992 after its leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his loss at the polls.

It was agreed in October that the ceasefire agreement would be signed yesterday.

But after Unita pulled out of the deal in protest against the government offensive, it was postponed to Sunday.

Approached for comment all government negotiator General Neto would say was: "Am I happy? Any other attitude would be incorrect."

NEWS OF PEACE? Angolan government soldiers recovering from war amputations listen for news of a truce agreement between the government and Unita.
Fears of Huambo massacre

LUANDA. — Fighting rages on in Angola amid fears that more than 200 people may have been killed by Unita rebels as they fled their Huambo stronghold, state radio said.

"More than 200 people died in a massacre in Huambo. The bodies were found in wells."

"Yesterday a campaign began to pull the bodies out. The number of dead could rise."

A television cameraman said he saw bodies being pulled from wells and residents told him they had been supporters of the ruling MPLA who had remained in Huambo when Unita captured the city early last year.

A government offensive against Huambo, which started more than two weeks ago, has cast a shadow over peace accords between the two sides already initialled and due to be signed on Sunday.

"The military situation in Huambo is stationary. The FAA (Angolan armed forces) are in control," the radio said.

It reported fighting near the town of Chingua, 75km east of Huambo.

Camaraman John Liebenberg, in a letter from Huambo, said: "Huambo is eerie and quiet. Yesterday there were still many shots fired around the city."

He said the shots were all fired by FAA soldiers.

"No sign of Unita, but there are some Unita prisoners in our camp, barefoot and hungry. The military is all around the city."

Aid workers who stayed in a Red Cross compound east of Huambo during its capture reported a flood of civilians moving eastwards as the government army advanced through Caala, some 20km south-east of Huambo, and then into the city itself.

"Few of the original 250,000 civilians have remained in Huambo."

United Nations and Red Cross officials said they feared for the newly-displaced civilians.

"We do not know exactly where they all are and how we can reach them now," Ursula Eugster of the Red Cross said.

Liebenberg said he saw bodies in the streets.

"Many civilian dead lying around town, seemingly 'executed' at the last moment by Unita. A strong smell of death around."

"I witnessed three bodies being taken out of a water hole, three people executed three days ago by hanging, detained last week when the FAA were in Caala," Liebenberg said.

"There is no real new damage in town. The locals here were expecting a heavy fight, but Unita just withdrew. They seemingly did not expect such a rapid response from the FAA."

"They blew the bridge to Huambo," Liebenberg said.

The bridge is over the Cunhongâma River, some 10km east of Huambo.

"The FAA put down an army bridge and came across with tanks and artillery. This morning I inspected captured Unita weapons, tons of ammunition and rockets plus two American-made rocket launchers." — Reuter.
Embattled Savimbi holds key to peace in Angola

JOHANNESBURG. — Veteran guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi, who has eluded his enemies for 30 years, holds the key to war or peace in Angola.

Military analysts said Dr Savimbi almost certainly engineered a delay in the signing of an historic peace pact in the Zambian capital Lusaka this week after government forces launched a push against, and overran, his headquarters at Huambo in central Angola.

A truce took effect last night and the peace pact signing was now scheduled for Sunday but unless Dr Savimbi gave the nod the war would continue, they said.

“He so overshadows everybody else in the public eye that he is an essential element of it,” said analyst Helmoed Rohmer Heitmann.

He said 60-year-old Dr Savimbi was under severe military pressure and needed to buy time.

“Something can happen without him but I don’t think the process will really function well without him,” said Rohmer Heitmann, Southern African correspondent of Jane’s Defence Weekly.

The bearded and burly Dr Savimbi is a veteran of guerrilla warfare and has been fighting for over 30 years, first against Portuguese colonial rule and then against the formerly Marxist MPLA government in power in Luanda since 1975 independence from Portugal.

For much of the civil war, Dr Savimbi directed his forces from his remote bush headquarters at Jamba in south-eastern Angola and was reported to have returned there since the fall of Huambo.

Jamba, a complex of thatched huts and underground bunkers about 120km north of Angola’s southern border with Namibia, is remote and Dr Savimbi’s safest bet, Romer Heitmann said, describing the Jamba move as an interim measure “to get him out of the line of fire”.

Dr Savimbi was believed to have been treated in a hospital on the island state of Sao Tome earlier this year for wounds to his right side received during government bombing of Huambo.

But when UN officials visited him in Huambo in October they saw no sign of any wounds.

UNITA has frequently accused the MPLA government of trying to assassinate Dr Savimbi.

Military analyst Willem Steenkamp said Dr Savimbi had suffered a “psychological setback” through the loss of Huambo.

“The one direction he can move into is to make a deal with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos,” said Mr Steenkamp, the author of several books on South Africa’s involvement in the Angolan conflict during the 1970s and 1980s.

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced in the war which erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975.

The war was briefly halted by 1991 peace accords but resumed with greater ferocity after Dr Savimbi rejected his defeat in UN-sponsored elections in 1992. — Reuter.
Army expected to enforce nationwide truce

LUANDA. — Angola’s army was today expected to enforce a nationwide truce reached in its victorious war with Unita rebels to allow the signing of a peace treaty ending 19 years of civil war.

Mistrustful Unita rebels appealed for the rapid deployment of UN observers to monitor the ceasefire.

Chief of Staff General Joao de Matos yesterday ordered his troops to lay down their guns and respect the ceasefire “scrupulously.”

As the ceasefire deadline passed, the government commander of the main, southern front, said his men were holding their fire as ordered.

“We are maintaining our positions and not advancing,” said Brigadier Macedo Amarel.

He said there was no sign of rebel troop movement but warned: “We are on our guard.”

The truce was the first step in disengaging the warring armies. Rebel and government delegations were meeting in Lusaka to finalise details before Sunday’s signing.

The ceasefire agreement was reached on Tuesday and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi are to sign the treaty in Lusaka, Zambia.

Meanwhile, military officials said the northern city of Uige, the last provincial capital under Unita control, had fallen to government forces. There was no independent confirmation.

Fighting raged around Uige in the hours before the truce.

Observers have been guarded about whether the truce will hold. Previous efforts have failed to stop the war, which erupted on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975.

Unita, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, said the government ceasefire order was meaningless unless the United Nations guaranteed that the guns remained silent.

A rebel statement released in Lisbon urged the rapid deployment of UN military observers to Uige and the central highlands around Huambo, the rebel base seized in a huge government assault last week.

In Cape Town, Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki has ruled out Southern African military intervention to enforce the peace process in Angola.

Responding to questions in parliament, Mr Mbeki dismissed reports that the South African government had considered joining a regional force to enter Angola when it appeared that a peace accord would not be signed.

Mr Mbeki said President Mandela and fellow leaders from the region who met in Lusaka on Tuesday had not discussed military intervention.

“The statement that was made was that the South African government, with other governments in southern Africa, would take all the necessary steps to persuade the parties in the conflict in Angola to sign the peace agreement.” — Sapa-Reuters-AP.
Angola orders its troops to cease fire

LUANDA — Close to military victory over Unitas rebels, Angola's army yesterday ordered its troops to hold fire so a peace treaty could be signed to end 19 years of war.

But with their forces pressed in the war-torn north, the mistrustful rebels appealed for a rapid deployment of UN observers to monitor the truce.

Chief of Staff General Joao de Matos, in a statement broadcast on state radio, called on his troops to lay down their guns at 5pm and respect the truce "scrupulously".

The ceasefire was called to allow President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel chief Dr Jonas Savimbi to sign a formal peace treaty on Sunday in Lusaka, Zambia.

In the hours leading up to yesterday's deadline, fighting raged on around the northern city of Uige, the last provincial capital still in rebel hands, military officials said.

A permanent ceasefire is due to take effect two days after the signing.

- There was no truth in press reports that South Africa would intervene militarily in Angola if the peace agreement between the "MFA" and Unita was not signed on Sunday, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said.
After the war... A shattered peace

The Angola "story" achieved some prominence again this week, in a strangely disoriented way. The rest of the world, alerted by the trigger-word "peace", finally sat up and took notice, but that didn't seem to be remarked that another war was underway.

Last week I walked among the rubbles of Cuito, a provincial capital east of Huambo in Angola’s central highlands. A vast area is disturbed. The governments of the world are aching for a semblance of quiet and the inhabitants of the land are the poorest and unhappiest in the world. Indeed, it was not until after a certain point that...
Savimbi 'won't make signing'

HUAMBO. — Unita rebels, claiming their forces were under government air attack in Angola, said yesterday their leader Dr Jonas Savimbi could not leave to sign a treaty to end Angola's 19-year war as planned tomorrow.

The government's chief negotiator at the talks in Lusaka, Zambia, warned the rebels not to miss "the greatest, last opportunity for peace".

The rebels stayed away from the talks for the second straight day, claiming government troops were violating a truce called on Wednesday.

Unita General Eugenio Manavukola said communications between Lusaka and Dr Savimbi had broken down. The delegation would not return to talks until they heard from Dr Savimbi.

Unita representative in Brussels, Mr Acides Sakala, said Unita forces in Angola were under their third day of bombardment. "We maintain our good intentions (to sign), but we don't have the conditions to leave the country," he said.

Capping nearly a year of UN-brokered negotiations, the pact was to have ended fighting that has killed more than half-a-million Angolans since 1975 and led to a power-sharing deal between government and rebels.

The United States expressed displeasure over reports that the government was still fighting despite the truce agreement.

General Pedro Neto, the Air Force chief heading the government delegation, said Unita "should not make an issue of the truce because there was no legal ceasefire".

The truce was called on Wednesday night to allow tomorrow's ceremony to go ahead. But a permanent, formal ceasefire was to take effect only two days after the signing.

The official Journal de Angola accused the rebels of bombing the airport of Cañarafa on Thursday and of attacking the outskirts of Menongue, capital of southern Cuando Cubango province. — Sapa-AP
War-weary civilians fear talks won't end 19-year struggle

DUNCAN GUY
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LUSAKA. — If history can repeat itself in pleasant ways — unlike the habit Angolan peace efforts have of backfiring — the Frontline States (FLS) meeting in Lusaka could bring back hopes for peace in Angola.

But it might be very difficult to return the optimism expressed by FLS chairman Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, President Mandela and others last week when Unita and the Angolan government substituted their intended ceasefire agreement with a truce. The ceasefire was postponed until tomorrow.

"They will have to come prepared for setbacks," a diplomatic source said yesterday in the Zambian capital.

where negotiations for a ceasefire agreement during the truce lasted only a day this week.

If FLS and other international community efforts fail to make this round of talks a success, Angola's 19-year war that has wrecked the country since independence from Portugal in 1975, is set to linger on.

People in the streets of Lusaka were filled with cynicism about the prospect of peace.

"Unita leader Jonas Savimbi will always go back to war," said a Lusaka resident.

"And Unita will carry on raiding villages in the west of Zambia for food," Others believed it suited illegal diamond buyers who represented a cross-section of Zambian, Zairean and Angolan society, crossing barriers of political office and class. Since Unita accused the government of continuing the offensive it launched last week — having agreed to sign the ceasefire on Tuesday — the rebels have given meetings at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre a miss.

"They are not receiving calls from the Press," said the receptionist at Lusaka's luxury Pamodzi Hotel yesterday, refusing to put calls through to Unita secretary-general Eugenio Ngolo Manuvakola.

"They are communicating only with their headquarters in Angola." The headquarters and leader Dr Savimbi, are presently "somewhere in the province of Huambo".

Unita's loss of the provincial capital, with the same name, was a heavy setback during the government offensive.

By yesterday, both sides were accusing one another of breaking the truce.

General Manuvakola's government counterpart, General Pedro de Morais Neto, said it appeared that Unita, instead of giving orders for its combatants to engage in a truce, "told them to do the opposite, to intensify the war".

He accused Unita's military delegation, which arrived in Lusaka only on Monday, of not having any intention of signing the ceasefire.
Savimbi
trapped
in Angola
— Unita

HUAMBO, Angola. — Unita rebels, claiming their forces were under government air attack in Angola, said yesterday their leader, Jonas Savimbi, could not leave to sign a treaty to end Angola’s 19-year war as planned tomorrow.

The government’s chief negotiator at the talks in Lusaka, Zambia, warned the rebels not to miss “the greatest, last opportunity for peace.”

The rebels stayed away from the talks for the second consecutive day, claiming government troops were violating a truce called on Wednesday.

General Eugenio Manavukola said his delegation had received no instructions from Dr Savimbi that there would be a signing tomorrow.

He said communications between Lusaka and undisclosed Unita positions in Angola where Dr Savimbi was staying had broken down. The delegation would not return to talks until they heard from Dr Savimbi, he said.

Unita’s representative in Brussels, Alcides Sakeda, said Unita was under their third day of heavy bombardment by the government air force.

“We maintain our good intentions (to sign), but we don’t have the conditions to leave the country,” he said.

Capping nearly a year of United Nations-brokered negotiations, the pact was to end fighting and lead to a power-sharing deal between government and rebels.

It was to be signed by Dr Savimbi and President José Eduardo dos Santos tomorrow before a host of African leaders.

But, Unita delegates walked out of the talks on Thursday, accusing government forces of violating a truce, before the ink had dried, with offensives in central and northern Angola.

The United States expressed displeasure over reports that the government was still fighting, in spite of the truce agreement.

“The signing of the Lusaka protocol is therefore again very much in question,” said State Department Press officer David Johnson in Washington.

The government blamed Unita for the talks’ collapse, possibly setting the stage for a final assault against the rebels.

General Pedro Neto, the air force chief heading the government delegation, said Unita “should not make an issue of the truce because there was no legal ceasefire”.

The truce was called on Wednesday to allow tomorrow’s ceremony to go ahead. But, a permanent, formal ceasefire was to take effect only two days after the signing.

“This is the greatest, last opportunity for peace,” said General Neto. “The action Unita has taken is unjustified.”

He said it was up to the international community to force the rebels back to the negotiating table.

Unita on Thursday alleged the government was attacking the northern city of Uige, the last provincial capital in Unita hands. The government claimed it captured Uige before Wednesday’s ceasefire kicked in.

Artillery fire was heard around Huambo on Thursday, but local commanders insisted they were observing the ceasefire.

With their foes weaker than ever, hawks in the government military are said to be pressing Mr Dos Santos to allow them to finish the rebels off. Observers say they are gambling on world opinion blaming Unita for the talks’ collapse.

Diplomats think Dr Savimbi left the combat area well before Huambo’s fall, but acknowledge he could be trapped in central Angola near the key rebel airstrip of Andulo.

Mr Dos Santos, however, insists he will sign the accord and was expected to leave for Lusaka today for a possible summit of frontline states.

But, with hardliners ascendant in the military command, it is not clear whether Mr Dos Santos has the clout to stop his generals. — Sapa-AP.
Peace accord

But Savimbi's absence alarms

LUSAKA. — The Angolan government and Unita rebels signed an accord yesterday to end one of the world's longest and deadliest conflicts.

But diplomats and ordinary Angolans remained sceptical about the prospects for peace, particularly as Unita chief Jonas Savimbi failed to attend the signing ceremony here.

Dr Savimbi is expected to become deputy president as a result of the agreement. He said he would sign the document and that the accord had already been accepted by Angolan law, accompanied by various presidential decrees granting amnesty and promoting reconciliation.

Mr Mbeki was confident the peace would hold.

In addition to appointing Dr Savimbi deputy president, the accord also calls for:

- A formal ceasefire to take effect within 48 hours.
- A second-round vote to complete the 1992 presidential election, in which Mr Dos Santos fell short of the 50% needed for outright election. Dr Savimbi took just 44% of the vote.
- The appointment of Unita representatives to the cabinet and in virtually all government institutions.
- The integration of Unita forces into Angola's armed forces.
- An expanded UN role in supervising, monitoring and verifying implementation of the ceasefire.
- The establishment of a commission to oversee implementation of the political and military accords.

Dunhill proud

A new dimension in a special Me

BRIEF APPEARANCE ... Superstar Whitney Houston, who made a disastrous debut in Cape Town at the weekend, had to rely on husband Bobby Brown and mother Clive Houston to help her. She kept the thousands of fans waiting for 20 minutes before appearing, apparently upset. Whitney was unable to complete her show and left before the end of the finale. I'm Every Woman.
MAPUTO. — Fears of renewed war in Mozambique have receded with former rebel leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama’s acceptance of defeat for his Renamo movement in last month’s first multi-party general elections.

Mr Dhlakama said on Saturday he accepted the results which gave victory in the October 27-29 poll to his civil war foes, President Joaquim Chissano and the Frelimo party, which has ruled since 1976 independence from Portugal.

But he insisted that final results announced by the independent National Electoral Commission on Saturday contained irregularities and were not free and fair as declared by international observers.

Fears of renewed war fade

“We accept the election results. But they were not fair,” Mr Dhlakama told reporters in the garden of his Maputo residence.

He added however that he would play a constructive role as head of the opposition in parliament, adding: “I send a message of peace to the Mozambican people.”

The results gave Mr Chissano 53.3% and Mr Dhlakama 33.73% of the 5.4 million votes cast in the presidential election.

UN representative Mr Aldo Ajello, who has been overseeing an October 1992 peace accord that ended 16 years of civil war between Renamo and the formerly Marxist government, gave his seal of approval. So did the Organisation of African Unity and the European Union.

The UN spent $1 million (about R3.5m) a day overseeing the poll. Diplomats said the risk of fresh conflict now seemed remote.

“Dhlakama had to say there were irregularities to save his pride. But Mozambicans are tired of war. He knows there is no point going back to the bush,” said a Western diplomat. — Sapu-Reuter
LUSAKA — The Angolan government and Unita yesterday signed a peace treaty although their leaders did not put their names to the document — heightening fears that it would fail to end 19 years of civil war.

The agreement was signed by Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and Unita secretary-general Mr Eugenio Manuvakola before representatives from 29 countries.

"With the spirit of national reconciliation, all Angolans should forgive and forget the suffering from the conflict," said Manuvakola, who hugged Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos after the signing ceremony.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi’s failure to show up in Lusaka, despite pleas from world leaders, was seen by Angolan and other African officials as a snub.

Savimbi, citing security concerns, on Saturday decided not to attend the signing in person. He sent Manuvakola, one of Unita’s top generals in the war which he claimed had killed one million people, maimed 100,000 and displaced five-million others.

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr George Moose said Savimbi’s absence did not mean Unita was not committed. “But obviously we would have all preferred that he be here.”

Unita Radio reported that fighting continued in southern Angola, saying government forces had suffered heavy casualties in clashes around the cities of Cuito Cuanavale and Menongue in southern Cuando Cubango province.

Unita said it had agreed to sign the accord despite the fighting as a demonstration of its goodwill.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

Peacemakers, including UN chief negotiator Alioune Blondin Beye, could barely hide their anger at Savimbi.

"This protocol can’t stop the fighting," one Angolan state negotiator said. "It has no value because Savimbi has not signed it."

But a Zambian official told Reuters the accord could still end Angola’s war, which has been fought since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Peace efforts

Beye, who negotiated the accord in Zambia over the past year, praised Savimbi and Dos Santos for their peace efforts.

Beye warned, however, that there would be peace only if the two sides really wanted to end the war.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba told delegates, including Zaire’s President Mobutu Sese Seko, who has been accused of backing Unita, that the occasion was a landmark.

"What we are here to witness is no doubt an epoch mark of a peace agreement between the MPLA and Unita," he said.

Yesterday’s accord is the climax of tortuous negotiations to stop a war that has brought the oil- and diamond-rich southern African country to its knees.

The peace accord was to have been signed last Tuesday but the ceremony was postponed after Unita accused the Angolan government of violating a November 15 truce with a military offensive against rebel strongholds. — Sapa-Reuter.
SANDF may help to monitor accord

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE “form and content” of involvement by the frontline states in UN-sponsored Angolan peacekeeping operations will be discussed at an envisaged meeting of Southern African foreign ministers soon.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s spokesman Mr Thami Ntuneni emphasised yesterday that no decision had yet been taken to send SA soldiers to Angola.

If SA forces were sent to Angola, they would fulfil peacekeeping and monitoring roles and not go into battle, he said.

The proposed meeting of the frontline foreign ministers comes against the background of an approach from UN secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali to South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to assist in a new UN initiative to implement the Lusaka peace agreement signed by the Angolan government and Unita at the weekend.

SA Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise yesterday played down the prospect of any bold new thrust by the SANDF outside the country’s borders.

However, he said South Africa might be prepared to send soldiers to Angola as part of a regional peacekeeping force.

“Such possible involvement would hinge on developments in recently troubled Lesotho and South Africa’s own internal stability,” he said.

Earlier Mr Ntuneni said: “There is a perception that South Africa has unlimited resources, but we have our own problems to resolve. We have obligations to Africa, but we also have obligations to our own people.”
LUANDA. — Unita rebels launched a wave of attacks against government forces, Angolan military and civilian authorities said last night.

The reported attacks came a day after the two sides signed a peace pact to end their long-running civil war.

In a statement issued here on the eve of the scheduled implementation of a ceasefire under the terms of the pact, Luanda authorities accused Unita of sparking artillery duels by mounting an offensive to re-take the northern town of Ulje, which government troops occupied five days ago.

Unita soldiers also attacked Cacolo in eastern Angola on Sunday, the government added.

The government called on the international community to pressure Unita into ending hostilities that "are endangering the implementation of the peace accord".

In a separate report, the government armed forces' chief of staff Mr Joao Baptista de Matos said four soldiers had died after their vehicle was blown up by mines laid by Unita on a road linking Monokimbundo and Cacangu in the east of the country.

Regular troops repulsed a Unita attack in the central town of Vista-Alegre, while others were ambushed at Queuua in the north and at Caala in the same sector, where four civilians and one soldier died, Mr De Matos said.

Eight more civilians died in an attack at Quimpaxi in the south-west, while Unita troop movements were spotted in the eastern diamond-producing region of Kwango, he added.

Meanwhile, the army's local command reported a Unita offensive at Longo, near Balombo, also south-west Angola.

Sunday's peace accord follows almost 20 years of armed conflict.

Earlier yesterday, as the countdown to a formal ceasefire was continuing, hospital sources said at least 27 people died and 187 were injured by bullets while Luandans celebrated the newly-signed pact.

Civilians were reportedly killed by random shots in the shabby port capital.

Police put the death toll at 24, with 60 wounded, and said 30 soldiers and armed civilians had been arrested for opening fire.

Angolan state radio and Unita station Vorgan both broadcast appeals for peace and reconciliation. — Sapa-AFP
LUANDA. — One of the world’s longest and cruelest civil wars ended in Angola at 1pm yesterday when the government said it had ordered its troops to cease fire against Unita rebels.

Or the conflict was still on. The UN was not sure, and nor were the Americans, the British or the Angolan people, the primary casualties in the 19 years of strife.

The foreign affairs ministry told Jornal de Angola yesterday the historic ceasefire agreed to in Lusaka on Sunday would come into effect at “zero hours today.”

This was variously interpreted as being midnight Monday or midnight yesterday, before being contradicted on state radio by an army spokesman who said the guns would fall silent at 1pm yesterday.

Did the ceasefire happen?

“Perhaps after 19 years of civil war, a few hours here or there don’t matter that much,” said a Western diplomat in Luanda.

“In any case we will not know for days whether the ceasefire has in fact taken effect.”

A common refrain among diplomats and officials here yesterday was: “It is very difficult.”

Colonel Tsuyoshi Harada of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) said he had “no information” on how the UN would monitor the ceasefire with a total of 80 observers scattered around five non-combat areas in a country twice the size of France.

In Lusaka, the capital of neighbouring Zambia, military chiefs from the government and the rebel Unita were still discussing details of the ceasefire.

Unita said the ceasefire provided for in the peace protocol could take effect before the talks were completed, but the government delegation was not so sure. Rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi did not turn up to sign the Lusaka protocol, which was penned by Unita secretary-general Mr Eugenio Manuvakola.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who went to Lusaka, accordingly delegated his foreign minister to sign the pact. — Sapa-AFP
LUANDA. — One of the world's longest and cruellest civil wars ended in Angola at 1pm yesterday when the government said it had ordered its troops to cease fire against Unita rebels.

Or the conflict was still on. The UN was not sure, and nor were the Americans, the British or the Angolan people, the primary casualties in the 19 years of strife.

The foreign affairs ministry told Jornal de Angola yesterday that the historic ceasefire agreed to in Lusaka on Sunday would come into effect at "zero hours today".

This was variously interpreted as being midnight Monday or midnight yesterday, before being contradicted on state radio by an army spokesman who said the guns would fall silent at 1pm yesterday.

"Perhaps after 19 years of civil war, a few hours here or there don't matter that much," said a Western diplomat in Luanda.

"In any case we will not know for days whether the ceasefire has in fact taken effect."

A common refrain among diplomats and officials here yesterday was: "It is very difficult."

Colonel Tsyoshi Harada of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) said he had "no information" on how the UN would monitor the ceasefire with a total of 80 observers scattered around five non-combat areas in a country twice the size of France.

In Lusaka, the capital of neighbouring Zambia, military chiefs from the government and the rebel Unita were still discussing details of the ceasefire.

Unita said the ceasefire provided for in the peace protocol could take effect before the talks were completed, but the government delegation was not so sure.

Rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi did not turn up to sign the Lusaka protocol, which was penned by Unita secretary-general Mr Eugenio Manuvaoka.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who went to Lusaka, accordingly delegated his foreign minister to sign the pact. — Sapa-AFP
Angolan war is over... maybe.

LUANDA — One of the world's longest and cruellest civil wars ended in Angola at 1pm yesterday, when the government said it had ordered its troops to cease fire against Unita rebels.

Or the conflict was still on. The UN was not sure, nor were the Americans, the British or the Angolan people, the primary casualties in the 19 years of strife.

The foreign ministry's statement that the historic ceasefire agreed to in Lusaka on Sunday would come into effect "at zero hours" yesterday was interpreted variously as midnight on Monday or midnight on Tuesday before being contradicted by an army spokesman who said the guns would fall silent at 1pm.

"Perhaps after 19 years of civil war, a few hours here or there don't matter that much," said a Western diplomat in Luanda. "In any case... we will not know for days whether the ceasefire has taken effect."

Col Tsuyoshi Harada of the UN Angola Verification Mission said he had no information on how the UN would monitor the ceasefire with 99 observers scattered around five non-combat areas in a country twice the size of France.

In Lusaka, Zambia, military chiefs from the government and Unita discussed the ceasefire's details. One delegate said Unita leader Jonas Savimbi should personally make the ceasefire declaration "to create public confidence". —Sapa/APP.
SA troops poised for Angola
Savimbi endorses peace deal

Although Unita's chief of staff orders all rebel forces to respect the ceasefire, government troops allege violations

Sao Tome — Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's rebel movement Unita, has given his backing to the latest peace agreement with the government and agreed to meet President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Unita radio said yesterday.

Savimbi, who failed to attend the signing of the accord in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Sunday, announced his endorsement of the pact and his willingness to meet Dos Santos in a letter to Madeleine Albright, US ambassador at the UN and this month's president of the Security Council, the station said. It was Savimbi's first public comment on the UN-brokered peace accord since it was signed.

The radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, also broadcast a communiqué by Unita chief of staff Arlindo Chenda Fena "Ben Ben" ordering all rebel forces to respect a ceasefire which came into effect on Tuesday.

Meanwhile in Luanda, the Angolan military general staff yesterday accused Unita of violating the ceasefire.

In a statement broadcast on official radio, the army said the rebels had attacked the small town of Catingue in the southwestern Benguela province after the ceasefire took effect.

The military also claimed that a government soldier was killed.

although troops attacked Sassaunga in the eastern Mexico province.

A joint commission established by the government and Unita to oversee the implementation of the peace accord will hold its first meeting in Luanda on Tuesday, the government spokesman at the Lusaka talks said yesterday.

General Higinio Carneiro also said the two sides had agreed when Unita should have 150 bodyguards during a transition period before the establishment of a government of national unity including Unita members.

The peace protocol published in Lusaka on Tuesday gives Unita four Cabinet portfolios — mining, trade, health and tourism — and the governorships of three of Angola's 18 provinces: Lunda-Sul in the north-east, Cuando-Cubango in the south-east and Uige in the north.

The 70 Unita deputies returned to parliament in 1992 in national and provincial polls — against 129 for the MPLA and 21 for small parties — will take up their seats in Luanda and a second round of presidential elections will finally be held under the accord.

Demobilisation

Dos Santos defeated Savimbi in the first round of the poll, but at 49.57 percent fell just short of the half of all votes cast needed to avoid a second, run-off round.

The Lusaka protocol says Unita should furnish 5,000 men to join a national police force of 25,000 and provides for demobilisation and the formation of a joint new army with matching numbers of men from both sides.

— Reuter, Sapa-AFP.
Unita expected in Luanda in days

LUANDA. — A top government official said yesterday he expected Unita rebel leaders to return here next week for the first time in two years to start implementing a power-sharing agreement.

Battle fronts remained quiet but tense following a truce that took effect on Tuesday. Unita's Radio Vorgan accused government troops of several military actions across the country but said rebel troops were still respecting the ceasefire.

Unita radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said the Joint Political and Military Commission, set up to oversee implementation of last Sunday's peace accord, would meet in Luanda next week.

There were no claims of truce violations from the government side, nor any verification of Unita claims by the UN mission, which plans to deploy a 7,000-strong peacekeeping force only once the truce is seen to be holding.

Peacekeeping 'risk'

PORT ELIEZABETH. — Deputy President F W de Klerk warned yesterday South Africa would be taking a risk if it sent peacekeeping troops into Angola but said he did not oppose the idea.

The Democratic Party, however, said it was filled with alarm at the prospect and warned strongly against sending troops.

Mr De Klerk said there was a risk because of SA's previous military involvement in the country.

DP foreign affairs spokesman Mr Colin Eglin said the police and security forces had to combat lawlessness in South Africa before setting off on foreign ventures. — Own Correspondent, Political Staff

Chief government negotiator Gen Pedro Neto said the first item at next week's talks would be establishing military regroupment centres around the country for rebel soldiers to surrender their arms and be demobilised or integrated into the army or police.

Talks in Luanda should be a step toward allowing Unita's leadership, including rebel chief Dr Jonas Savimbi, back into the capital. — Sapa-AP
Unita will meet government in spite of ceasefire violation claim

LUSAKA — Angola’s rebel Unita movement said it planned to meet government representatives in Luanda next week in spite of its claims that government forces have violated the latest ceasefire agreement.

Unita radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said yesterday that the Joint Political and Military Commission, set up to oversee implementation of last Sunday’s peace accord to end 19 years of civil war, would meet next week.

The radio accused government troops of attacking Unita forces in the northern province of Uige, the southern province of Huila, Bié province in the central highlands, the western province of Benguela, and the diamond-mining provinces of Lunda North and Lunda South in north-eastern Angola.

Unita reported three separate incidents near Cuito, the capital of Bié province, on Wednesday and said two civilians were killed in one of them.

The radio said a Swiss-made PC-7 spotter plane and a Russian-built Antonov transport plane dropped leaflets on the Unita-controlled town of Angola announcing government plans to enter the town.

There was no immediate government reaction to the Unita statements. Each side has accused the other of ceasefire violations.

On Wednesday Unita radio said rebel leader Jonas Savimbi backed the new peace deal, thrashed out over 11 months in the Zambian capital Lusaka, and agreed to meet Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. No date has yet been set.

Mr Savimbi, who has not been seen or heard in public since mid-year, failed to attend the Lusaka peace accord signing on Sunday.

The radio also broadcast a statement from rebel chief of staff Arlindo Chenda Pena “Ben Ben” ordering all Unita forces to respect the ceasefire.

In Lusaka, sources close to the UN-mediated peace talks said yesterday that negotiators had been unable to agree on where to house Unita guerrillas under terms of the accords.

Unita was also unhappy about the government’s placing of paramilitary riot police in the cities of Uige and Huambo, which government forces seized in an offensive launched just before the October 31 initialing of the accords.

The Lusaka talks on technical aspects of the ceasefire, among them the security of Dr Savimbi, wound up on Wednesday with broad agreement on issues including the demobilisation of the rival forces and the incorporation of Unita fighters into a unified police force.

The UN, which plans to send 8,000 peacekeepers to Angola, expects the accords to take up to a year to implement and a joint commission overseeing them will meet in Luanda next Tuesday. — Reuter.
Cabinet to discuss troops for Angola

DUNCAN GUY  
The Argus Foreign Service

CABINET is to meet this week to discuss how South Africa might assist peacekeeping efforts in Angola following a United Nations request to provide troops.

The UN Security Council is expected to pass a resolution allowing for the dispatch of an international peacekeeping force of up to 7,500 once there is convincing evidence of peace holding in the country.

Yesterday Chris Streeter, spokesman for Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, confirmed that the matter was "absolutely on the agenda" when Cabinet meets on Wednesday.

He backed a SA National Defence Force denial that troops were already on standby, as was reported yesterday.

"You cannot have a force on standby before a decision has been made by Cabinet," he said.

Mr Streeter said if SANDF troops went into Angola, specific details would first have to be worked out.

"Nobody doubts that it will be a fragile operation and one would have to look very carefully into how it would be done."

Army spokesman Colonel John Rolt said the SANDF had done "some contingency planning pending a decision from the government of national unity about South Africa's possible involvement in Angola."

"Contingency planning is a routine part of the SANDF's normal process," added Colonel Rolt.

Meanwhile in Angola, Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi has indicated his willingness to meet with President Eduardo dos Santos.

Dr Savimbi was not present at the signing ceremony having claimed it would have been difficult for him to leave Angola because the airfield from which he would have left had been destroyed by fighting.

Both sides have been claiming that the other has broken the ceasefire, the latest report being from the government claiming Unita shot down a helicopter on Saturday, killing 22 people and holding four hostages.

Reuters reports that the Angolan government is demanding the release of the four.
Angola — army waits for decision

JOHANNESBURG. — The SA National Defence Force yesterday denied it had soldiers on standby for Angolan peace-keeping duty.

Chief Director of Communication Lieutenant-Colonel Margie Neethling, reacting to a Sunday newspaper report, said the force had done some contingency planning pending a government decision on South Africa's possible involvement.

"There are, however, no troops on standby," she said, adding the front-page report was "pure speculation".

"Involvement in Angola will be decided by the government and not the SANDF. Contingency planning is part of the SANDF's normal process."

The cabinet will on Wednesday discuss a United Nations request that South Africa join the peace-keeping force to prop up the peace accord signed in Lusaka a week ago.

Explosions and artillery fire shook part of central Angola at the weekend, battering the fragile truce.

Government soldiers in Huambo, from where UNita forces were driven earlier this month, identified one large blast on Saturday as a bomb dropped by one of their own aircraft — in violation of the ceasefire.

Civilians and aid workers said the explosions were the first sounds of battle since the ceasefire was signed.

Yesterday the air force threatened Unita with retaliation if it did not free four crewmen it said Unitas captured after a helicopter was downed with the loss of 22 lives.

The government said the helicopter was ferrying wounded from a battle-ground near the rebel-held town of Cuito-Cuanavale. Unita denied shooting it down and said it must have crashed.

Unita accused the government of attacking civilians in villages and massacring 200 of them in central Bi agon province for supporting Unita.

Rebel radio also said that in Huambo province Luanda's soldiers were killing and robbing rebel sympathizers.

The government retook Huambo earlier this month after a brief battle, ending an almost 19-month Unita occupation.

Denial

But the colonial-style city that was Angolas second biggest under Portuguese rule is devastated by two years of almost constant battle.

Rustling tanks line streets pocked with shellholes and almost every home has been looted, first by fleeing rebels, then by vandals and most recently by returning government troops.

The Portuguese government on Saturday denied selling arms to Angola but said the head of an aircraft repair firm that had assisted Angolan armed forces would resign. — Sapa-Reuters
Namibia ‘harassing Angolans’

SHITEMO, Northern Namibia. — Angolans trying to cross the now-closed Namibian border have been harassed, shot at and even killed, witnesses allege.

Thousands of Angolans are reportedly facing starvation since their main source of food from Namibia has been shut off.

President Sam Nujoma recently ordered police and soldiers to open fire on anybody crossing the Kavango River illegally.

The border was closed along a 550km length of mainly Unita-controlled territory at the end of September after an attack, blamed on Unita, on Namibian soil that left three dead. (S) CT 5/12/94

Malnourished and dressed in rags, Angolans who survived the crossing said it was better to brave the river than starve at home.

They and local Namibians alleged that a number of Angolans had been shot dead in or near the river.

And hundreds of people have been arrested since the border was closed.

Randu shopkeepers and Kavango tour operators said the border closure and troop presence had affected business. — Sapa
**Angola Africa’s top arms buyer**

**LUANDA**

A joint commission tasked with implementing the Angolan peace accords held a belated first meeting yesterday after the arrival of UNITA envoy. UN officials said the two sides would discuss a timetable for implementing the November 20 Lusaka protocol.

The leader of the three-member UNITA team, Mr. Ismael Samakuva, said the military situation in Angola was “still tense.”

But UN special envoy Mr. Alioune Blondin Boye said the arrival of the UNITA team was proof the peace agreement was being implemented. — Sapa-AP-APP

LONDON — Angola was Africa’s largest arms market for the past two years and would be paying off its arms bill for the foreseeable future, says the latest issue of the journal Africa Confidential.

Military analysts estimated that the Angolan government bought weapons worth $2.5bn (R2.7bn) in 1993 and purchases from January to July this year were estimated at a further $1bn (R1.2bn).

“Government arms purchases have been mortgaged against future oil production,” the journal said, adding that the Angolan government drew on annual oil earnings of about $3bn (R3.3bn).

Russia and Brazil were thought to be the biggest arms suppliers to the Angolan government.

UNITA, it said, drew on diamond smuggling income of $500m (R1.75bn) a year after its capture of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. It also relied heavily on foreign sources for armaments, much of which were from private sources rather than governments.

The journal alleged that “the De Beers diamond cartel and other international dealers bought diamonds mined in violation of Angolan law in UNITA-held territory.”
Cabinet ‘agrees’ to UN request

PRETORIA. — The cabinet agreed in general to a UN request that South Africa assist in Angolan peacekeeping operations, but had taken no final decision cabinet secretary Professor Jakes Gerwel said yesterday.

It was said at the Union Buildings the cabinet committee examining the issue had not finished consultations and would report to President Nelson Mandela and the two deputy-presidents, Mr Thabo Mbeki and Mr F W de Klerk.

The committee, comprising Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo, Finance Minister Mr Chris Liebenberg and Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise, was to have reported to the cabinet at its final meeting for the year yesterday.

The UN has asked South Africa to assist in the peacekeeping process in Angola after the recent signing of a peace agreement between the Angolan government and rebel Unita movement.

Prof Gerwel said there was “general agreement that the UN should get a positive response” and that South Africa should consult its neighbours.

The cabinet had a lengthy discussion on the draft Budget and Budget priorities and Mr Mandela made some “inclusive and decisive” contributions, Prof Gerwel said.
LUANDA. — The Angolan government and the rebel Unita movement reported renewed clashes across the country yesterday and Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi said he would not attend a summit unless the government called off its military operations.

Radio Vorgan, the Unita station, reported government offensives and troop deployments in several parts of the country in spite of a ceasefire agreement signed by Unita and the government of President José Eduardo dos Santos in Lusaka last month.

The truce called for UN observers to be sent to the area concerned. The United Nations has only 30 observers in Angola.

The government claimed Unita had carried out raids in a number of places in recent days, leading to the deaths of seven civilians at one town.

UN sources said on Wednesday that the clashes did not call into question the survival of the ceasefire. Once it is firmly established 330 UN observers will arrive in the country.

Radio Vorgan said Dr Savimbi would only agree to a meeting with Mr Dos Santos if the government “ended its military operations” against Unita. It also quoted him as setting as a second condition the withdrawal of South African mercenaries Unita accuses the government of using.

Mr Dos Santos said on Monday he was ready to meet Dr Savimbi “at any moment”. — Sapa-AFP
Both sides accused of treaty violations

‘Blue helmets vital for peace in Angola’

Luanda — As accusations of peace treaty violations mounted yesterday, both the government and Unita rebels warned that Angola would soon be back at war if UN peacekeepers were not deployed soon.

Government and rebel troops stationed just kilometres apart throughout the country have engaged in dozens of firefightes over the past few days, according to rebel Vorgan radio.

Unita also claimed the government army was massing troops to attack the rebel-held military airstrip in Nguage in defiance of the UN-brokered ceasefire.

"These operations are a danger to military restraint and should show that UN intervention is needed at once," the rebels said.

Brigadier Jacques Raul of the government army said roving rebel squads were raiding coastal refugee camps and diamond fields near the Zaire border.

He said seven people had died in a Unita ambush in Lunda Norte province on Saturday and eight in Huila province.

"Three weeks have passed since the ceasefire began but not a single blue helmet (UN peacekeeper) has arrived," said an editorial in the state-run Jornal de Angola. "It is a dangerous situation that could threaten the accord."

The ceasefire went into effect on November 22, two days after Unita and the government signed a treaty in Zambia agreeing to end 19 years of civil war.

But about 500,000 government and rebel soldiers are still armed and at battle posts throughout the country. The UN has not been able to pull together a peacekeeping force to interpose between the lines and ultimately demobilise both armies.

The UN special mission to Angola has dispatched military observers to eight locations across the country. The unarmed observers, who are trying to avoid provoking either side, have refused to lay blame for violations and have issued only general reports about levels of military tension. — Sapa-AP.
‘Sanctions’ if war in Angola goes on

LUANDA. — The United Nations has threatened sanctions if both sides in the Angolan conflict do not honour their commitment to the ceasefire.

Persistent combat is still threatening to scuttle the recent peace treaty signed by the Angolan government and Unita rebels.

UN spokesman in Angola Mr Joao Lins Albuquerque said at the weekend: “The United Nations will not sit with its arms folded as information about ceasefire violations mounts.”

Unita and the government have accused each other of continuing to fight in violation of the treaty they signed on November 20 in Lusaka.

With hostility and mistrust still running high, Unita and the government have kept their troops at battle positions, often only kilometres apart.

On Wednesday unarmoured UN military observers were trapped for hours in crossfire after a battle erupted between government and rebel patrols in central Angola. “Those patrols should not have been near each other,” Mr Albuquerque said. “Only resupply and medical missions are permitted, and those must be UN-supervised.”

UN special envoy Mr Alouine Blondin Beye has asked for a 7,000-strong force of armed peacekeepers to supervise Angola’s return to peace.

But the UN is reportedly having trouble mustering support for an operation that could cost an estimated $100 million (about £350m) and require at least a two-year peacekeeper presence.

Angola has been at war for more than 30 years. An anti-colonial battle against Portugal turned into a civil war between rival guerrilla armies after independence in 1975.

Civilians are so desperate for food that after a Red Cross plane crashed on Thursday, relief aid was looted while the wreckage was still smouldering, aid workers said. — Sapa-AP
LUANDA. — The United Nations has threatened sanctions if both sides in the Angolan conflict do not honour their commitment to the ceasefire.

Persistent combat is still threatening to scuttle the recent peace treaty signed by the Angolan government and Unita rebels.

UN spokesman in Angola Mr Joao Lis Albuquerque said at the weekend: “The United Nations will not sit with its arms folded as information about ceasefire violations mounts.” Unita and the government have accused each other of continuing to fight in violation of the treaty the two sides signed on November 20 in Lusaka.

With hostility and mistrust still running high, Unita and the government have kept their troops at battle positions, often only kilometres apart.

On Wednesday unarmed UN military observers were trapped for hours in crossfire after a battle erupted between government and rebel patrols in central Angola. “Those patrols should not have been near each other,” Mr Albuquerque said. “Only resupply and medical missions are permitted, and those must be UN-supervised.”

UN special envoy Mr Alouine Blondin Beye has asked for a 7,000-strong force of armed peacekeepers to supervise Angola’s return to peace.

But the UN is reportedly having trouble mustering support for an operation that could cost an estimated $100 million (about R350m) and require at least a two-year peacekeeper presence.

Angola has been at war for more than 30 years. An anti-colonial battle against Portugal turned into a civil war between rival guerrilla armies after independence in 1975.

Civilians are so desperate for food that after a Red Cross plane crashed on Thursday, relief aid was looted while the wreckage was still smouldering, aid workers said. — Sapa-AF
Angolan army still pursuing civil war

PARIS — Unitas rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi yesterday accused the Angolan army of pursuing civil war and waging an offensive against Unitas in breach of a ceasefire.

Dr Savimbi cast serious doubt on the ceasefire and political settlement signed last month by the government and Unitas, saying pieces of paper were not enough to bring peace.

"Across the country, in the south-east and in the north, government forces are 'on the offensive,'" Dr Savimbi said in an interview.

"The desire of the government to make peace is in question. The MPLA has not changed its philosophy: it is still reconciliation through force."

On the peace accord signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka on November 20 he said: "First, of all the government must show it is committed to agreements that have been made. It is not enough to sign a piece of paper." — Sapa/AP
ANGOLA - GENERAL

1995
Savimbi says Unita is divided and humiliated

Sao Tome — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said in a New Year message on Sunday that his Unita movement was divided, humiliated and going through its worst crisis ever.

Speaking on Unita radio for the first time since June, Savimbi said he remained committed to a peace agreement signed with the government on November 20, but warned that it could easily collapse.

"Unita does not just have one opinion, but is a current of opinions," he said, admitting there were splits within the movement that has seen two earlier attempts to make peace with the government collapse.

Savimbi accused the Angolan government and the international community of trying to humiliate Unita and warned President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to moderate his tough approach to the rebel movement if he wanted the peace agreement to work.

Savimbi did not mention any plans for an early meeting between the military chiefs of the government and Unita, which UN peace mediator Allonne Biondini Baye has been trying to arrange to shore up the shaky ceasefire.

Neither did he mention any plans to meet Dos Santos. The two were due to meet in Luanda for the signing of the latest peace accord but Savimbi failed to turn up.
Savimbi casts shadow over Angola's peace

BY NICHOLAS SHAXSON
Luanda

ANGOLA'S charismatic and unpredictable rebel leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, has emerged from six months of silence, ending widespread rumours of his death.

But his end-of-year speech, broadcast on Unita's Voice of the Black Cockatoo radio, and an interview given to the French newspaper Liberation have cast a shadow over the Lusaka peace agreement "now that the government" signed with the government on November 20.

"Jonas Savimbi abandoned the labyrinth of silence he was buried in and revealed his principles about the future," the government radio station in Luanda reported.

The Unita leader described the result of the Lusaka agreement as ephemeral and warned: "I'm not obliged to follow the wrong path when my conscience tells me that the path is wrong".

His words appear to be out of touch with a joint government and Unita commission which has started preparing the ground for demobilisation and the eventual creation of a unified Angolan army.

But Dr. Savimbi warned he was not prepared to demobilise his forces, saying the UN could not control the Luanda government which wanted to kill him and destroy Unita.

"By now, the Angolans, who still clearly remember the collapse of the 1989 accord, have reason" to think Dr. Savimbi started a new, more brutal, phase of the country's civil war after being defeated in UN-sponsored elections in September 1992.

But Dr. Savimbi's power to influence events has begun to fade.

Unita has lost its central highland stronghold of Huambo, there are desertions and a split in the rebel movement, and Dr Savimbi faces fiercely armed government forces which are continuing to rearm and which could retaliate more territory if war broke out again.

Dr. Savimbi admitted to Liberation that his movement was divided — "There is not only one opinion in Unita," he said.

Three generals: Lukamba Gato, Vicenza and Democristo Chilungui, are now gaining a special influence.

"During Dr. Savimbi's long silence last year — caused he said, by his fear — the government was trying to assassinate him — General Chilungui began to appear more frequently as the public face of Unita.

But General Gato and others are currently not a direct threat to the man they called "the president".

Dr. Savimbi has been reduced to telling it in 1989 and they know that without him, Unita would lose its coherence and identity.

The rising stars are considered, hardliners; and, along with Dr. Savimbi, have often expressed their dismay at the government, the UN and the peace process itself.

But Unita cannot afford to pull out (and in the past year of starvation wages, cluster bombings and massacres, the movement leaders have been offered every excuse to do so) because a renewed war would be worse.

The government also knows that Unita, despite its current weakness, cannot be fully beaten should Dr. Savimbi decide to return to the bush for a new guerrilla war, so now would be as good a time as any to stop. But there are those on both sides who have risen to positions of influence through the fighting. It is by no means clear that they are ready to see the end of the war.
Reviving Angola's coffee growing

UGE — The Angolan army commander pointed down a slope to a dark mass of vegetation 300 metres away on the muddy outskirts of the northern city of Uige.

"See those plants under the tall trees? That was all coffee," he said. "But we can't get to it."

Uige once lay at the heart of an industry that made Angola the world's fourth largest coffee producer. But 19 years of civil war between the government and Unita rebels cut production to a tiny fraction of its former output.

Before independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola produced more than 20,000 tons of coffee annually. Latest figures from the National Institute of Statistics put that closer to 7,000 tons today.

Robusta coffee, grown mainly by Portuguese landowners, was regarded as second only to Brazil's coffee due to its consistent quality.

"The land around Uige now is like a forest," said Vicky Mateusso, country director of Angola's National Coffee Institute. "The trees are all old, most of them more than 30 years. They have not had attention since the war started. There is a lot of work to do."

Mateusso said that if a peace agreement signed last November worked, Angolan coffee could be rehabilitated. "We want to rehabilitate 120,000 hectares of the old land. I would like to see 40,000 to 50,000 tons produced annually by Angola in three years," he told Radio France Internationale.

But the cereals are fragile and expensive and ordinary Angolans have expressed pessimism over the prospects for lasting peace.

Uige itself, a government-held town surrounded by Jonas Savimbi's Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), has been described by UN peace monitors as a potential flashpoint.

"We are still in a position to know exactly what has happened to the coffee around Uige. Nobody from our side is able to cross the lines yet," Mateusso said.

"I know some of the coffee was burned while Unita was here, partly to make charcoal, partly to make way for food crops."

"But I do not think more than seven or eight percent has been destroyed around Uige. The rest is intact, and it will be reasonably easy to rehabilitate."

The Marxist-Leninist MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government, which took power at independence, nationalised all the farms and coffee production rapidly declined as smallholders turned from cash to food crops.

Local people in Uige said that since 1975, a few traders had continued to buy small amounts of coffee from peasant farmers in the area, taking it north to Zaire for sale.

"We want to organise these rural markets so they are working again," Mateusso said. "This will of course be a priority not just in Uige, but all over Angola, as well as in the northern enclave of Cabinda."

Coffee was also produced in the provinces neighbouring Uige — Malenge, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul and Zaire, as well as Zaire's Cabinda, separated from the rest of the country by Zaire's outlet to the Atlantic.

Mateusso said these lowland areas used to produce robusta coffee, accounting for 98 percent of national production. The remaining two percent came from the central highlands in the provinces of Huambo, Benguela and Bié. They produced arabica coffee, more sought after today on world markets.

Mateusso said the rehabilitation would mainly cover robusta coffee. "I cannot see arabica making up more than five percent of Angola's production," he said.

The long-term plan, he said, was to introduce largescale commercial coffee production, but that was a few years away.

"Private enterprise now can buy coffee from the producers if they want, but they have to respect the minimum price set by the National Coffee Institute. These minimum prices are for the defence of the producer."

"But the whole infrastructure has been destroyed. We need electrification, water. This will take a long time," Mateusso said. — Sapa-Readier.
Angola military chiefs agree to end long war

The World Today
Angola's finance minister sacked

LUANDA — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has sacked his finance minister and replaced him with a provincial governor, state media reported yesterday.

No reason was given for the sacking of minister Alvaro Craveliro and his replacement by Cabinda governor Augusto Tomas, although Dos Santos has been heavily critical of the poor performance of the war-burdened Angolan economy.

In a speech last month Dos Santos blamed his economic team for the country's woes, but economists say the huge cost of the two-decade long Angolan civil war and continuing military spending has done irreparable harm to the economy.

Despite a shaky November 20 peace pact between the Luanda government and Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels, military analysts say the Angolan military is still bolstering its stocks of arms and other military equipment, mostly paid for in hard currency. The government's economic reform programme, launched last March, has made little headway and month-on-month inflation is soaring.

Unofficial figures quoted in Angolan media put monthly inflation at 58 percent in December, more than double the latest official figures which quote the October rate at 28.35 percent.

Annual accumulated inflation in October was 813.07 percent compared to 831.67 percent for the year to September, according to the National Institute of Statistics. Later figures are not available. — Sapa-Reuter.
SA's military help needed in Angola

HARARE — Zimbabwe feels that South Africa must participate fully in any peacekeeping operation in Angola.

This was made clear yesterday by Zimbabwean Defence Minister Mr Moven Mahachi, speaking to reporters at the start of a joint workshop to examine peacekeeping operations in Africa.

Mahachi said Zimbabwe was prepared to send troops to Angola but felt it essential that South Africa, as a regional power, also participate and send men and materials as part of a peacekeeping force.

Brigadier Tobie van Schalkwyk, director of operations in the South African National Defence Force, is heading the two-man South African delegation to the workshop. His colleague is Colonel Vusi Nkabinde.

Van Schalkwyk told reporters that despite Mahachi's call, Angola had made it clear it did not want the participation of South Africa. He said South Africa had offered to send a battalion to southeastern Angola and logistical support but Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos had vetoed this proposal.

Mahachi, however, said the United Nations — not parties in Angola — should decide who should take part in the force.

The workshop, being attended by 19 African states, is to examine the conduct, practices and principles of peacekeeping and peace support operations. It is being hosted jointly by Zimbabwe and the British government.

Chief of the defence staff of Britain, Field-Marshall Sir Peter Inge, said the workshop was intended to be a concrete exercise to establish practical military lessons and proposals that should be drawn on for future peacekeeping operations.

Both Inge and Mahachi ruled out any suggestion of a permanent peacekeeping force, saying this would be too expensive to maintain. — Argus Foreign Service.
Thanks, but no thanks, SA

Reports Star Reporter Editor Dale Bunchbank

Angola has refused to let South African

Edited by Mike Stuma

THE STAR / THURSDAY APRIL 26 1995

BRIEFING

\[c2d2cb\]

\[\text{Image to be read}

\]
Crucial congress for Unita

LUSANZA - Angola's Unita movement opens a crucial congress today to discuss the country's fragile peace accord and unify different factions within the rebel group, a senior official said yesterday.

Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi will open the five-day congress which will be held in the central highlands town of Bailundo.

Both Unita and the Angolan government have accused each other of violating the most recent ceasefire.

A government source said yesterday Angolan police in the northern oil rich enclave of Cabinda had de-activated two bombs at the weekend. - Reuters
Can this really be the end?

Exhausted Angolans ask:

 Angola reports John Daniszewski

(3) Here we all cried, says the grapple's

Victry... after the ordeal of mine's displaced people are forced to live in camps.

Sympathy

The country

Anadolu Agency report

Testimony to the actual war that has raged.

Figure 12/198
But offer to help lift millions of landmines UN force in Angola

NO SA troops for

1979/10/21
But offer to help lift millions of landmines in Angola

UN force in Angola

NO SA troops for
SA will help in Angola peace

NEW YORK. - South Africa is prepared in principle to play a role in maintaining peace in Angola, Foreign Minister Mr Alfred Nzo told the UN Security Council yesterday.

Declining that the peace process had entered a crucial phase, he said: "It urgently needs to be consolidated and strengthened."

One of 11 foreign ministers in New York for a day-long debate on proposals to deploy 7,000 UN peacekeepers in Angola, Mr Nzo said only an expanded UN force with a broadened mandate would be able to bring the necessary support to a process that remained fragile.

A peaceful settlement of the Angolan civil conflict was not only essential for Angolans, but also of major importance for the political stability and economic development of Southern Africa.

While praising the pivotal role of UN special representative Mr Alioune Blondin Beya, Zambia, the host for negotiations and the "troika" of Portugal, the US and Russia, Mr Nzo said it was the Angolan government and Unita that deserved particular congratulations on reaching a truce.

"We must accept that the durability of the peace process in Angola is largely dependent on the political will of the Angolans themselves," he said.

South Africa was encouraged by the prospects for a meeting between President Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, which would further enhance the peace process.

Meanwhile in Angola, Dr Savimbi yesterday gave a qualified endorsement to the latest peace accord between the government and Unita. He denied being "humiliated" by recent military defeats.

In a rare interview at his headquarters in the refugee-crammed, bomb-ed town of Ballundo, where his guerrilla army retreated in November, Dr Savimbi said he wanted peace.

And, he said, he would acknowledge the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos under conditions of mutual respect.

The agreement, signed on November 20 in Lusaka, came after a year of UN-brokered negotiations. Dr Savimbi didn't appear for the signing ceremony, implying he did not fully support it.

Throughout the 40-minute interview, Dr Savimbi seemed to hedge about the peace accord, suggesting it would be hard for him to persuade Unita's followers to accept it.

War was ignited in Angola in late 1992 after Unita lost the first round of national elections brought about and supervised by the UN.

The UN said the vote was free and fair, but Dr Savimbi said it was rigged with fraud. The two sides disagree over who started the hostilities again, but the international community largely blamed Unita. — Sapa-AP
UN forces set for Angola

In principle to play a role in maintaining the peace in Angola. In his opening address to the Security Council, Foreign Minister Alfred North told the UN Security Council that the UN force would be able to bring the necessary support. A force of up to 10,000 peacekeepers, authorized by the UN, is ready to play a role. The operation goes well, the Security Council was informed, referring particularly to Namibia. The force would be able to bring the necessary support. An expanded UN force of up to 10,000 peacekeepers, authorized by the UN, is ready to play a role.
Nzo in OAU group to push for Angola peace
Angolans
S.A. to help
Landmines:

PTPHRA — THE HOUSES OF

© 10/21/98
Govt and Unita forces disengage

LUANDA — Angolan government forces and Unita rebels have begun their military disengagement, UN's General Chris Garuba said yesterday following UN's decision on Wednesday to deploy more than 7,000 peacekeepers.

Government and Unita troops have started pulling back from confrontation lines at Huanbo in the centre and Uije in the north under the terms of a ceasefire agreed last week by military leaders from both sides.

Garuba, a Nigerian general heading the operation, said the disengagement was running smoothly.

The Security Council gave the green light for the immediate implementation of the operation, dubbed Unavem III. The infantry units will not be deployed until the Angolan government and Unita accomplish certain essential tasks — chiefly the continuation of an effective ceasefire, inventory of all relevant military material and the designation of all barracks zones.

A spokesman for President Eduardo Dos Santos said the government welcomed the decision to deploy peacekeepers. The deployment was also welcomed by leader of the Angolan Democratic Party, Alberto Neto, who came third in the aborted 1992 presidential elections. The peacekeepers' mission over a three-month period is to monitor the peace agreement.

The UN has maintained a presence in Angola since 1988 but withdrew most of its forces in late 1992 after Unita leader, Jonas Savimbi, rejected results of the general elections.

Clashes between both sides have left hundreds of civilians and dozens of soldiers dead since last November's peace agreement.

However, a tentative ceasefire is holding between the government and Unita. — Sapa-AFP.
Angolan forces disembarge as UN arrives

WORLD
Unita agrees to lay down arms and endorse peace pact

BAILUNDO (Angola).—Unita has approved recent peace plans and its leader Jonas Savimbi says they are ready to become a political party and lay down their weapons.

Unita formally endorsed the Lusaka Agreement to end nearly 20 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony on the final day of its eighth congress, and welcomed the proposed deployment of UN peacekeeping troops to support it.

Unita generals retreated from an earlier position of rejection of the November 20 peace accords signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka, providing certain conditions are met.

Dr Savimbi said in an interview yesterday that Unita demanded a general amnesty for the whole of the 19-year civil war and wanted guarantees that its soldiers would not suffer.

The congress, which agreed to encourage a meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Dr Savimbi when conditions were right, issued a statement of approval.

"The eighth congress approves all the peace plans for Angola," read the final document.

The 21-point document also approved "all steps towards national reconciliation".

"This is Unita's final position," said Dr Savimbi.

The congress, at Unita's central highlands headquarters of Bailundo, also welcomed last week's approval by the UN Security Council to send 7,000 peacekeeping troops to Angola.

Unita will abide by peace accord

LUANDA. - Angola's Unita rebel movement agreed at its national congress yesterday to keep to a peace accord it signed with the government three months ago aimed at ending Africa's longest and most costly civil war.

Unita, led by Dr Jonas Savimbi, said it adopted resolutions backing the peace process on the last day of its congress held in its central highlands headquarters of Bailundo.

The peace accord had been in doubt because of Dr Savimbi's failure to attend its signing in the Zambian capital of Lusaka in November and subsequent accusations by both sides of ceasefire violations.

Dr Savimbi, under pressure from hardline elements in Unita, had previously declined to express full support for the agreement or to reject it outright.

"Following an exhaustive debate, the congress adopted the following resolutions. The congress approves all plans for peace in Angola; the congress approves all steps towards national reconciliation," a Unita statement said.

The congress gave its backing to a meeting between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Dr Savimbi when the conditions were right. The two men have not met for several years.

Unita has welcomed last week's approval by the UN Security Council of the deployment of 7,000 peacekeeping troops in Angola.

But it said it would have to be consulted over which countries took part in the peacekeeping operation. - Sapa-Reuter
AFRICA

Unita officials back shaky peace accords

LISBON — The national congress of Angola’s Unita movement overruled military hardliners on Saturday by confirming its acceptance of shaky peace accords to end 19 years of civil war against the government.

Unita Radio Vorgan said 2,000 delegates meeting in the central Angolan town of Bailundo approved 21 resolutions backing the peace deal signed in November in Lusaka, Zambia, and welcoming the impending dispatch of 7,000 UN peacekeepers.

But the report said military hardliners in Unita ranks had gone along with the plan only after "declative persuasion" from Unita chief Jonas Savimbi.

Savimbi spoke out on Friday for rejection of the accords and a return to war. The truce that followed the accords has been tenuous but observers judged his belligerent stance to be mostly political bluff.

Unita has never been militarily weaker and the accords, while not perfect for Unita, offer the possibility of power-sharing with the government.

The UN-brokered accords have eased fighting but both sides have said the truce could be cemented only by blue-helmeted UN troops.

The security council approved the 7,000-strong force last week but did not say when troops could start arriving in Angola.

Announcing the eighth national congress’ decision on Radio Vorgan, top Unita general Paulo Lukamba Gato also said delegates had approved a meeting between Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Unita was willing to participate in a transitional government but that if "a shared platform" could not be agreed, Unita would prefer to go into opposition.

The congress voted to expel all Unita members who had agreed to enter the national assembly in Luanda and demand the readmission of other deputies who had remained loyal to the leadership.

Unita considers the assembly government-controlled. Some Unita moderates and some held prisoners by the government agreed to take their seats in parliament following September 1992 elections that they lost.

Then Savimbi ordered his troops back to war. Government police and armed civilian bands staged a witch hunt in Luanda, killing top Unita leaders and thousands of suspected Unita supporters.

The congress, which was scheduled to close yesterday, also voted to demand a general amnesty throughout the once-prosperous African country to promote national reconciliation. — Sané, AP.
Peace deal won’t feed the starving Angolans

MALANGE (Angola). - The heat in the warehouse-cum-refugee centre on the outskirts of this eastern Angolan city is merciless.

In spite of the stifling temperatures, dozens of men, women and children cluster half-naked around cooking fires, preparing their first maize rations of the day.

"People are not so hungry any more. But the situation may worsen as the roads open. We have new people every day," said Antonio Francisco, a primary school teacher who acts as spokesman for the 1,613 refugees living in the camp.

Unlike feeding centres run by international organisations such as Irish Concern and Belgian Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), here there are no toilet facilities or running water. The smell of unwashed bodies is overwhelming.

"But at least we have a place to come to," said Mr Francisco, who left Sanga, a village about 150 km away, in October.

His is a story heard time and again in the war-weary region: "When the government troops came, the enemy (Unita rebels) ran to the jungle. They killed those... who would not come with them, and forced us to work with no food," he recollects.

Crouched by a fire, a halo of black smoke surrounding her head, Engracia Domingo tastes a spoonful of maize porridge. "Everyone left the town. We had no more food, so we finally came here," she said.

"Peace? There is no peace. People are still getting killed all over, and especially in Sanga," said Mrs Domingo, scoffing at the ceasefire accord, signed in Lusaka in November.

Many agree with her. Everywhere there is news of hostilities: new mines, gun battles, and accusations of murder.

"So far, we have had no contact with Unita," said Andrews Dickerboom, the Norwegian regional commander of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

Mr Dickerboom is one of 50 international observers sent to Angola in recent weeks to assure the world the Lusaka protocol is underway.

Part of his job is to supervise the opening of the road to the capital, Luanda, 300 km away.

"The bridges are completely bombed out. Also, the roads are heavily mined. I say it will take at least a month before we are able to move small traffic up to Luanda," he predicted.

The peace accord may have brought some hope but it has not brought food.

Optimistic that the government will demobilise funds from the war to feed its starving populace, some aid agencies have already closed feeding centres.

As the news of the peace agreement reaches the interior, people make their way into the larger urban centres.

In January alone, Mr Caculo’s office saw 700 new refugees from Cacuco and Kibunda, former Unita strongholds.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced since the Angolan civil war erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975. — Sapa-Reuters.
Savimbi prepared to head Angola opposition

Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's rebel movement, declared yesterday that the parliamentary council would not meet unless the government accepted the resignation of its leader, who is accused of undermining national unity.

Mr. Savimbi said that a joint meeting of the parliamentary council and the executive would be called to discuss the situation.

The government has rejected the demands of the opposition, which is led by Mr. Savimbi, and the opposition has called for a general strike to protest against the government's refusal to accept the resignation of its leader.

Yesterday, an armed group of the opposition staged a demonstration in the streets of Luanda, the capital of Angola, demanding the resignation of the government.

The government has sent reinforcements to the area to prevent further disturbances.

If the opposition continues to demand the resignation of its leader, there will be no national unity government, Mr. Savimbi said. The current government is composed of members of the opposition.
Angolan peace holding

Chris Simpson in Luanda

The Lusaka Protocol cleared a big hurdle with its endorsement at Unita’s eighth congress despite reports that military bosses of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) had serious reservations about the three-month old peace pact.

The congress, which ended on Sunday in the town of Badondo, backed “all the Lusaka peace plans” and “all steps leading to national reconciliation.”

It also encouraged a meeting between Unita boss Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos when all the right conditions were in place and explicitly welcomed the sending of Blue Helmets, the only caveat being that the Unita leadership should be consulted on which countries would send troops.

But Unita “condemned vehemently the culture of violence and exclusion” in Luanda and demanded the immediate disarmament of the civilian population in the capital and other cities in the country under the supervision of a mixed commission.

Unita parliamentarians who had stayed on in the capital to take their places in the national assembly after the rebel group rejected the results of UN-supervised general elections in 1992 were summarily expelled.

The congress also demanded the liberation of the bodies of Unita leaders killed in Luanda in late 1992.

The overall tone and content of the final resolutions are likely to be a relief to the United Nations and others involved in bringing peace to Angola. Said one senior member of a joint commission overseeing the peace process: “We were looking for a strong, positive signal, and it seems to have gone ok.”

He expressed relief that Unita had not jettisoned its chief of staff, General Arlindo Chenda Pena Ben Ben. However, other senior Unita posts changed hands.

Savimbi, inevitably, stays firmly in charge of the movement he founded in 1966, in a three-hour speech opening the congress and in subsequent remarks to journalists, he stepped boldly back into the public eye. — IPS
UNITO. — Government and Unita forces have disengaged successfully in central Angola, scene of bitter fighting in the run-up to the November peace accords.

Army chief General Ingles Neto said yesterday the warring parties had pulled back in the Huambo region, where Unita has its headquarters.

He said the army would now turn its hand to clearing mines sown by the two sides during 18 years of civil war. The troop disengagement is part of the Lusaka peace accords signed in the Zambian capital last November.

Huambo city had served as Unita's headquarters, but the movement was driven out in a government offensive days before the peace accords.

Unita then moved its headquarters to Bailundo, 65km north of Huambo. Military leaders from the two sides agreed three weeks ago to set Wednesday as the deadline for disengagement, but the process appeared to be delayed in some other areas.

A government spokesman said on Wednesday that Unita was continuing attacks in the northern province of Uige bordering Zaire.

He expressed scepticism about Unita's commitment to the peace process.

A Unita congress at Bailundo last weekend said the movement accepted the Lusaka accords.

Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi said he was committed to peace, but he voiced certain conditions for its implementation.

The UN's special representative in Angola, Mr Alouine Blondin Beye, said, however, he was "not worried about the violence reports in Uige".

Diplomatic sources have blamed some of the continuing violence on communications problems between commanders and the men in the field. — Sapa-Reuters
Angola comes back to life

Cuito — Life is seeping slowly back into villages in central Angola, which suffered severely in fighting preceding November’s accord aimed at ending two decades of war between government and Unita forces.

At the weekend, a military convoy made the first trip by road in the past two years between this shattered city in central Uige province to Chingola, 70 km to the south.

"This is truly the first pragmatic step towards peace we have seen in this part of the country since the authorities signed the peace agreement in November," said Miguel Felipe, a native of Cuito who works for the UN’s World Food Programme.

"It means people will now be free to trade their produce and depend less on the International community." While life in Cuito, site of a nine-month stand-off between government forces and Unita, remains treacherous because of thousands of buried landmines, residents and UN officials are still optimistic.

"There is food in the countryside, and we will be able to get it now at a more accessible price," Felipe said.

To try to ensure that the peace accord signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka holds, the UN Security Council has authorised more than 7,000 troops, civilians and police monitors for duty in Angola.

But residents of Cuito already voice confidence that their lives will soon change for the better.

"People were forced to eat banana roots to survive. I made tea out of avocado tree leaves, and ate that as a main course several times," said Justino Pires, a former schoolteacher.

"The biggest problem with the war was that people lost everything — not only their families, but their work, their homes. Slowly we will rebuild some of that," said 47-year-old Pires, who now works as a driver for the UN Children’s Fund.

Some UN sources say that despite successful troop demobilisation in some areas, in northern Uige thousands of people are still exposed to Unita attacks.

"We will have to see full disarmament before we are able to believe the peace is serious," one source said.

Underlining the frailty of the Angolan peace, a UN helicopter was brought down and damaged in western Angola last week while flying above Unita-held territory.

A UN official said the helicopter, which was on its final approach to the town of Quibace, was hit by rifle fire, but it landed without injury to the crew or passengers. — Sapa-Reuters.
LUANDA. — The United Nations chief military observer in Angola was caught in crossfire between Unita rebels and government troops who are supposed to have stopped fighting under three-month-old peace accords.

“We were in a house having a meeting with Unita, but had to stop the conversation because of the crossfire,” General Chris Garuba said after the incident in Uige, northern Angola.

The Lusaka protocol, a UN-sponsored peace agreement, was signed last November in the Zambian capital to try to end the 15-year Angolan civil war.

General Garuba, a Nigerian, explained that the case of Uige was “quite complicated.” The city is controlled by the government and surrounded by Unita.

“Under the Lusaka protocol, Unita must back off 15km and create a buffer zone for the UN blue helmets, since the government troops have nowhere to go,” said General Garuba. The shooting yesterday came as no surprise.

In spite of optimistic reports of troop demobilisation in the central Huambo region, an attack on a UN helicopter last Monday left some scepticism as to the role of the 7000 UN personnel scheduled to arrive in three months.

“I will go to Uige every day of this week until I am satisfied that Unita has actually moved out of the city limits,” said General Garuba.

Full troop disengagement was supposed to have taken place by February 14. — Reuters.
Concern at threat to Angolan peace deal

LUANDA. — United Nations sources have expressed concern at the status of Angola's peace accords after a government threat of action against the opposition Unita.

The sources, who did not want to be identified, said a permanent peace appeared further away now than it did earlier this month when the UN agreed to send 7,000 blue helmets to help implement a peace accord signed in Lusaka in November.

A possible scenario is that both armies are using Lusaka to gain time in order to upscale and return to war at full force, a source said.

The sources spoke yesterday during a break in a meeting between UN representatives and the warring parties, called to review a government military communique issued on Sunday.

The communique accused Unita of violating the Lusaka protocol and said government troops had advanced in response.

• Gunmen killed five people in an ambush in the province of Lunda Sul, state radio reported late yesterday.

There were no other details and it was not clear when the ambush took place. The radio said it was not known to which organisation the gunmen belonged.

Mineral-rich Lunda Sul is largely-held by Unita which vowed to respond in kind if government forces carried out threats to teach it a lesson for ceasefire violations. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angolan peace a tricky prospect
Peace is as bad as war for Angol's battered people

BY CHRIS SIMPSON: Luena, Angola

"Why are they still doing this? Unita is planting land mines, the government is planting land mines. We should be allowed to move around freely now. Instead, people are still getting blown up."

Casino Oriona, 58, lifts the blanket from his hospital bed in Luena to reveal a bloody, poorly bandaged stump. He lost his left leg to a land mine as he went looking for food. There are few drugs at the hospital, no nurses and no clean water supply.

Although Luena, 640km east of Luanda, remained in government hands throughout the war, Unita guerrillas kept the city under siege.

More than three months after the signing of a peace agreement by the Angolan government and the rebel Unita movement, Luena remains isolated and dangerous.

"There is no way you can talk about people moving around freely," says hospital administrator Francisco Maris. "If anything, things have got more difficult since the Lusaka agreement. Just days ago we had more than 20 people killed when their truck hit a land mine on the road north, just 8km out of the city."

Luena, like most provincial cities in Angola, now has a UN observer mission in residence to monitor the ceasefire. But the observers are increasingly sceptical of the chances of a real, lasting peace.

UN insiders say the peace process is running dangerously behind schedule and that February was the worst month yet. Even UN special representative Alouine Blondin Beye has abandoned his customary optimism to warn both sides that the delays are unacceptable.

The problems are multiplying. In the northern province of Uige, where government and Unita troops have kept up a battle for territory, a promised Unita disengagement has been repeatedly postponed. UN chief military observer General Chris Bafuba broke dramatically with the UN's normal code of diplomacy, warning Unita commanders: "You're wasting my time, you've got to show you're serious about this process."

While the UN has criticised Unita publicly for denying observers access to the areas it controls, the government has inevitably gone further, accusing Unita of systematic ceasefire violations and of having no intention of abiding by the peace agreement.

From the other side, Unita has complained of constant government troop movements — and has warned that it will respond to provocation. There is clear evidence that both sides are ready to pursue the military option if the peace agreement fails.
Appeal as Angola's crisis deepens

BY DALE LAUTENBACH
FOREIGN EDITOR

Harare — African foreign ministers have urged a meeting of heads of state to stave off a crisis in Angola.

This followed a bleak briefing in Harare at the weekend, during which Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio da Mora said the peace protocol was in jeopardy, alleging that Unita leader Jonas Savimbi had no intention of honouring the accord.

South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo acknowledged that it was difficult to distinguish fact from propaganda in the continuing war of words, at which both sides in the Angolan conflict were so adept.

He called for an urgent meeting between Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

"It is critical that Savimbi has to be part of the solution," he said, adding that although South Africa had tried and failed to include Savimbi in the dialogue, it would try once again.

Meanwhile, the conflict in Angola is sliding further into a war of hostile words, accompanied by an increasing number of ceasefire violations.

A Namibian delegate to the Harare meeting of foreign ministers said the younger brother of Dos Santos had reportedly been killed in one of the incidents — "and this obviously doesn't help".

Nzo said the international community had to urgently deploy the 7000 troops earmarked for peacekeeping in Angola.

"We're afraid that if there's a delay, it will be back to square one, and the likely result is that the UN will then not implement the resolutions."

A resolution was passed in New York on February 8 to provide 7000 peacekeeping troops for Angola, but conditional upon an established peace accord in the country prior to deployment of the troops.
Treaty violations slammed

Angola calls for hard line on peace

Luanda — Hit by almost 200 Unita rebel attacks a month, Angola’s government yesterday called for the UN to set — and enforce — a deadline for peace.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos asked the UN to set a date for full compliance with a treaty signed by the two sides in November and to impose sanctions on violators.

Dos Santos said rebels had fooled UN peacekeeping monitors by switching from conventional warfare to hit-and-run “low-intensity combat.”

“Unita has begun ambushes, kidnappings and sniper attacks” despite the agreement which was to have ended 20 years of civil war, he said.

General Higino Carneiro said more than 300 Angolans had been killed by Unita since the signing.

Despite promising some 7,000 armed troops to shepherd Angola back to peace, the UN has so far put fewer than 50 unarmed monitors into the country’s battle zones.

And UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned on Monday he would not recommend the deployment of peacekeeper infantry to Angola until government and rebel forces complied fully with the cease-fire.

Anxious to avoid a repetition of Somalia, where fighting erupted during what should have been a humanitarian mission, the UN has said it will send troops to Angola only if it can verify that the truce is holding.

The first infantry units are scheduled for deployment in May, but Boutros-Ghali said the move would be delayed unless government and rebel troops were sent back to barracks and demobilization operations got under way.

Power struggle

Angola has been at war effectively since 1962, when anti-colonial guerrillas began fighting for freedom from Portugal.

After independence in 1975, two rival factions locked in a power struggle which has devastated the once-prosperous nation and killed more than 500,000 Angolans. — Sapa-AP
War curtails oil output

LUANDA — A 20,000 barrel per day (bpd) expansion at Angola's Offshore Platform Two near Soyo planned for the beginning of next year depended on peace and stability in the country, a petroleum industry official said yesterday.

With an output of 60,000 bpd, Offshore Platform 2 — operated by Petrobras, Texaco, Total and Sonangol — produces at only 30% of its capacity.

"We would like to see the project develop, expanding production to at least 80,000 bpd," said Cesar Muniz, Petrobras technical manager.

The Angolan economy relies heavily on the oil industry which finances most of the country's defence purchases.—Reuter.
Angola calls on UN for peace deadline

LUANDA: Hit by almost 200 Unita rebel attacks a month, the Angolan government called yesterday for the UN to set and enforce a deadline for peace.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos asked the UN to set a date for full compliance with a treaty the two sides signed in November, and to impose sanctions for violations.

Mr Dos Santos said the rebels have fooled UN peacekeeping monitors by switching from conventional warfare to hit-and-run "low-intensity combat" — despite the agreement which was to have ended 20 years of civil war.

"Unita has begun ambushes, kidnappings and sniper attacks," Mr Dos Santos said.

Government General Higinio Carneiro said over 300 Angolans have been killed by Unita guerillas since the treaty signing.

Despite promising some 7,000 armed UN troops to shepherd Angola back to peace, the UN has so far put less than 40 unarmed UN monitors into the Southern African nation's battle zones.

UN chief Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned this week he would not recommend the deployment of peacekeeping infantry to Angola until government and rebel forces fully comply with the ceasefire.

Anxious to avoid a repetition of Somalia, where fighting erupted on what should have been a humanitarian mission, the UN has said it will only send troops if it can verify the truce is holding.

The first infantry units are scheduled to be deployed in May, but Dr Boutros-Ghali said on Monday the move will be delayed unless government and rebel troops are sent back to barracks and defusing operations get underway. — Sapa-AP

Maize harvests hit by drought

HARARE: Southern African states face dwindling supplies of maize — the staple food — in the 1995/96 marketing year after a drought sharply reduced harvests this season, regional food experts said yesterday.

Officer seized in Lesotho

MASERU: Soldiers in Lesotho had seized a senior defence force officer and were holding him hostage, state radio reported yesterday.

Riemvasmakers going home

WINDHOEK: The repatriation of hundreds of Riemvasmakers from Namibia to South Africa began yesterday after a delay by floods in the desert areas where they were forcibly moved to in 1974.

— Sapa-Reuter
Angola asks UN to step in

LUANDA — Hit by almost 200 Unita rebel attacks a month, Angola's government called yesterday for the UN to set — and enforce — a deadline for peace.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos asked the UN to set a date for full compliance with a treaty signed in November, and to impose sanctions for violations.

Dos Santos said the rebels had fooled UN peacekeeping monitors by switching from conventional warfare to hit-and-run "low-intensity combat" — ambushes, kidnappings and sniper attacks.

Government Gen Higino Carneiro said guerrillas had killed more than 200 Angolans since the treaty.

Despite promising about 7,000 armed UN troops to shepherd Angola back to peace, the UN has so far sent fewer than 40 unarmed monitors.

And UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned on Monday he would not recommend the deployment of peacekeeper infantry to Angola until both sides complied fully with the ceasefire.

The first units are scheduled to be deployed in May, but Boutros-Ghali said the move would be delayed unless troops were sent back to barracks and mine-lifting operations were under way. — Sega-AP.
LUANDA. — The UN has extended a troop disengagement deadline for Angola's civil war rivals.

United Nations special representative to Angola Alioune Blondin Beye said rebel Unita forces and the government had been given another week to next Thursday to complete troop disengagement in terms of the Lusaka agreement aimed at ending civil war.

"We will know by next Thursday whether Unita and the Angolan armed forces are complying with our instructions," Mr Blondin Beye told a news conference late last night.

So far troops have not been withdrawn.

Mr Blondin Beye declined to comment on reports during the past three weeks that both Unita and the government had built up arms stockpiles and were deploying troops.

Mr Blondin Beye met Unita leader Jonas Savimbi on Wednesday in Unita's northern Bialundo headquarters and met Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos yesterday.

He declined to say what they discussed. — Reuters.
Angola now 'closer to war than peace'

DAVID TUCKER

ANGOLA, under a shaky ceasefire for three months, is closer to war than peace as government troops and UNITA rebels lick their wounds and look for new gains, say military analysts.

"It looks as though the peace will fall apart. Angola is closer to war than peace," Bill Sass, a senior analyst at the Johannesburg-based Institute for Defence Policy, said yesterday.

"The United Nations doesn't want to send in peacekeeping troops until there is peace. That is never going to happen until they are there," said the former army brigadier.

The UN wants to send more than 7,000 troops to Angola to consolidate the fragile peace brought about by November's accord hammered out in Lusaka, Zambia, but it first wants an assurance that both sides are committed to peace.

While peace may be on the lips of both UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, their men on the ground appear to be working to another agenda.

UN sources report almost daily flights of government troops to supposedly demilitarised areas, in breach of the accord.

"Savimbi demoted his advisers who negotiated the Lusaka accord," said Cornwall. "It was considered too conciliatory."

The Angolan news agency ANGOP yesterday quoted Dos Santos as saying UNITA hard-liners were threatening to wreck the accord because it was not in their interest.

Cornwell said he thought Savimbi was trying to stall the process in the hope the government would lose its appetite for any fight and run out of funds.

He said it was widely known that Angola had sold forward at least two years of its oil production to fund the war.

UNITA this week accused the government of buying new tanks from Russia and other military equipment from Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced by the Angolan civil war.

A peace accord in 1991 brought a brief respite, but UNITA took up arms again in 1992.

Cornwell said that if UNITA did embark on a push to regain ground lost to the government while last year's peace accord was being worked out, it would probably start in the diamond-rich areas of Luanda Norte and Cunene. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angola ‘closer to war than peace’

JOHANNESBURG. — Angola, under a shaky ceasefire for three months, is closer to war than peace as government troops and Unita rebels lick their wounds and look for new gains, military analysts said.

"Angola is closer to war than peace," said Bill Sass, a senior analyst at the Johannesburg-based Institute for Defence Policy.

"The United Nations doesn't want to send in peacekeepers until there is peace and that is never going to happen until they are there," said Mr. Sass.

The UN wants to send more than 7,000 troops to Angola to consolidate the fragile peace brought about by last November's accord, but first it wants a commitment to peace from both sides.

While peace may be on the lips of both Unita leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, their men on the ground appear to be working to another agenda. UN sources report almost daily flights of government troop reinforcements to supposedly demilitarised areas, in breach of the Lusaka accords.

The government has accused Unita of repeated ceasefire violations.

Richard Cornwell, military analyst at the Pretoria-based Africa Institute, said Savimbi was increasingly turning towards hawks for advice.

"Savimbi demoted his advisers who negotiated the Lusaka accord," said Cornwell. "It was considered too conciliatory." — Sapa-Reuters.
Urgent summit on Angola

DALE LAUTEMBAECH
The Argus Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Southern Africa's heads of state have earmarked Saturday for an emergency summit to address the deepening Angolan crisis.

The gathering, in Harare under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community, has yet to be finally confirmed.

Foreign Ministers of the region recommended a summit 10 days ago and since then the situation in Angola has worsened.

Yesterday the United Nations military chief in Angola, Chris Garaba, said both Unita rebels and the government army were failing to keep to the November agreements for withdrawing forces.

General Garaba also accused the government army of occupying territory previously occupied by Unita and said the conditions necessary for peace to be truly declared had not yet been met.

The Angolan government yesterday denied it had invaded UN buffer zones in northern Uige province in defiance of the November agreement.

"The government is not occupying any areas where it is not supposed to be. It is a question of interpretation," said government representative Higino Carneiro on state radio.

He was responding to a claim by General Garaba on Monday that government troops were violating the accord by moving into areas left by Unita.

The clock is ticking fast for Angola. UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that if there is not a demonstrable peace between the two sides by March 25, the UN will delay its decision to deploy 7,000 peacekeepers to the country in May.

The timetable is already falling behind as the logistical support for these blue helmets is supposed to be on the ground by the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the SADC heads of state are consulting as to how best they might intervene. The parties in Mozambique at the time of the election in October, most particularly rebel chief Afonso Dhlakama, took seriously a strongly worded communiqué from the SADC leaders and stepped back into line.

It is unlikely the Angolans will respond similarly.

One of the greatest challenges for the regional leadership is to involve Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in attempts to find a solution.

So far Mr Savimbi has been completely isolated, his only interlocutor being UN special envoy to Angola Alouste Blondin Beye.

Known for his unfailing optimism about reaching a peace in Angola, even Mr Blondin Beye has been sounding doubtful recently. He called this week for an urgent increase in the UN monitoring of arms supplies to both sides in 20-year conflict. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angolan inflation huge

LUANDA: Annual inflation in Angola topped 1,000% in January for the first time since mid-1994, the National Statistics Bureau said.

In figures released yesterday, it reported annual accumulated inflation of 1,085.3% in January from 973% in December, on the back of a 38.6% monthly rise in the consumer price index. The month-on-month inflation rate in December was 58.3%.

But a government economic analyst said the rate should ease in February as a result of less local currency on the Angolan streets. — Sapa-Reuters
Summit on Angola peace postponed

BY DALE LAUTENBACH
FOREIGN EDITOR

The emergency summit of southern African leaders seeking to save the Angolan peace has been "postponed indefinitely." Diplomatic sources said late yesterday that it was apparently the wish of Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos that the meeting, originally scheduled for tomorrow in Harare, should no longer take place.

Earlier this month, a meeting of southern African foreign ministers in Harare recognised the frailty of the Angolan ceasefire and suggested a summit.

Two weeks ago Angolan women made a significant breakthrough right across party lines at a meeting held outside Pretoria.

Labelling South Africa a "cradle of reconciliation for Angolan women," delegates from both the ruling MPLA and the rebel Unita urged an instant moratorium on all arms sales and the ejection of all mercenaries from Angola.
‘War must end’—Jonas

Savimbi says the Angolan war should not resume.

LISBON — ANGOLA’S JONAS Savimbi, antagonist of Africa’s longest civil war, said he was committed to giving up guerrilla warfare after 20 years of fighting and 500,000 deaths.

Savimbi said in an interview yesterday he hoped the United Nations would send armed peacekeepers to secure a four-month-old treaty between his Unita rebel movement and the Angolan government forces.

“I am committing all that I have to see that neither side resumes fighting,” he told Portuguese daily newspaper Diario de Noticias.

Savimbi said he had asked his “close friends in the US Congress” — Republican Senators Jesse Helms, Robert Dole and Nancy Kassebaum — to lend their support to an Angolan peace operation.

Once a favourite with anti-communist leaders because of Unita’s battle against the then Marxist Angolan government, Savimbi said US senators still consulted him by satellite telephone.

“The war must not begin again,” the 60-year-old rebel leader told a Diario de Noticias reporter in an interview at Unita’s central Angolan headquarters.

Savimbi’s pledge came as UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali prepared to announce tomorrow whether he will commit 7,000 international peacekeepers to supervise Angola’s transition to peace.

Savimbi said his 70,000 fighters had been ordered to cease fire.

But government and Unita weapons still blaze daily in constant skirmishes.

An uncharacteristically subdued Savimbi said the suffering of the Angolan people convinced him the time had come to accept the treaty.

“The war has gone on so long that the instigators have finally become sensitive, and have begun working on viable solutions,” he said. — Sapa-AP.
UNITA blows hot and cold
Peace accord could hold...but it might collapse, says Sarimbani

NEWS

THE STAR / THURSDAY MARCH 23 1995
Restictions on movement until mine cleaning project starts.

No end... As 900 wait on foot.

Misery in land at end of the world.
'Sympathisers of Unita executed'

SAO TOME: Angolan security forces have executed several sympathisers of the rebel Unita movement in western Cuanza Sul province, Unita Radio said yesterday (5) CTE/4/96.

The radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said security forces dragged Unita sympathisers from jail, shot them and flung their corpses into a river.

The security forces had executed some sympathisers on Tuesday, it added.

The radio also said Angolan troops killed six people travelling from Benguela City to Calongo village on March 25. — Sana-Reuter
Angolan war examined

Dr William Minter, an American specialist on southern Africa, feels South Africa and the United States, particularly, are obliged to help resolve the Angolan conflict, reports Features Writer Tyrone August:

There is no end in sight to the ugly war in Angola.

For this reason, Minter provocatively believes that the government should not rule out the military option as a means to resolve the conflict. "I don't regard mediation or a negotiated solution — whoever is doing it — as automatically the best solution," he explained. "It should be encouraged to the maximum.

"But it doesn't automatically assume that peace is best brought by negation. Peace may be best brought by a military victory in Angola.

"It's rational for the MPLA to leave the military option open." Nevertheless, the idealist in him could not resist adding: "But it should be made more rational for them to adopt peace.

Minter returned repeatedly to the role of Savimbi: "If he retains effective command over the core of armed Unita people, then you have to take into account his intentions."

At the moment, no end to the Angolan conflict is in sight. The international community has a role, but this can only be on the terms of the Angolans.

Not even South Africa, widely regarded as a beacon of hope in southern Africa, can just barge in and assume the mantle of leadership, he said.

"It has to be very modest in assuming it necessarily knows the best way," cautioned Minter. Also, because of its past, there is ambivalence in Angola about South Africa's role.

It will still take a long time for the legacy of the past to be overcome. And, in the meantime, the war drags on.
GBADOLITE (Zaire) - A summit between Angolan leader Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel chief Jonas Savimbi could take place by the end of the month, Savimbi indicated here yesterday.

This follows a call by the UN Security Council yesterday that "as a matter of urgency" there should be a face-to-face meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi to improve trust between the two sides and give "new impetus" to the peace process in Angola.

While not having the authority of a resolution, a statement by the council is regarded as a directive to the parties concerned.

In public

Savimbi's appearance in the Zairian town was the first time he had appeared in public outside Angola in an official capacity since the civil war there erupted again in October 1992.

Savimbi told journalists that the summit would take place "before the arrival of blue helmets".

The summit between Dos Santos and Savimbi may be held in an unspecified African country at a date to be fixed.

Savimbi yesterday met the UN special envoy for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye of Mali, as well as Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister and acting president of the UN General Assembly.

Also attending the meeting was Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, whose home town is Gabadolite.

Beye said a meeting of Savimbi and Dos Santos was important for its psychological impact inside Angola. "The Angolan people will never believe in peace unless they see the two together," he added.

Savimbi said the meeting with Dos Santos would prove that both sides trusted the international community.

"We must do what we can to see ourselves as they see us, to show that we can work together," said the UNITA leader.

The Security Council also welcomed a decision by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghall to proceed with preparations for the phased deployment, beginning next month, of infantry battalions that will form the bulk of a UN peacekeeping force for Angola. The statement said a ceasefire was generally holding - a condition for the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

The UN plans to deploy more than 7,000 troops in a force called the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) to help implement a UN-sponsored peace agreement signed in Lusaka, Zambia, in November.

Only about 350 UN troops and police are now in Angola. Full deployment of UNAVEM, especially its 6,450-man infantry element, has been delayed by failure of the parties to comply with the peace agreement; but arrangements are being made to send in logistics and support units to pave the way.

Concern

While the council welcomed confirmation that the ceasefire was generally holding and that the level of violations had remained relatively low, it said a number of developments gave cause for concern.

These included reports of continuing military actions and preparations, particularly an Angolan Air Force attack on an airstrip at Andulo. - Sapa-AP.
Santity amid madness of Angola war

REMOTE town is an unlikely success story, rising from the ashes of 20 years of intermittent strife. Christian Mother reports:

(2)
SA ‘THE MAJOR MIRACLE’

Wars changing face of Africa

LONDON: Destructive wars are changing the political shape of Africa. LINDA ENSOR reports.

WARS in Africa had taken on a new sinister dimension as African states, created more than 100 years ago by colonial powers, imploded on all fronts, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in its Strategic Survey for 1994-95.

A "major miracle" would be required to stop the destruction and return African countries to normality, the survey, released yesterday, said.

There was a war or violent armed and organised rebellion in 26 of Africa’s mainland states last year while conditions exist in Chad, Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria, Zaire and other countries for rebellions to break out.

All the wars last year were within states, though most spread across national borders. Political negotiations were rarely successful in bringing them to an end because there was no constitutional context in which to secure and guarantee agreement. The wars had little ideological element and rapidly degenerated into meaningless atrocity and terror.

In many places the implosion had been accompanied by the destruction of the economic infrastructure and the rapid disintegration of social systems.

"Through the bloodshed, chaos and mass movements of people, it is not yet clear what will take the place of the states. But as frightened, vulnerable people take refuge among their kith and kin, there is a reassessment of older, deeper loyalties and hierarchies."

The disintegration of states no longer able to buy support or provide security for their citizens had been accompanied by a rise in the power of warlords. This power was regionally or ethnically based and the warlords were fighting, not necessarily for independence, but against the state or the ethnic group which controlled it.

Regarding South Africa, the survey said that bringing the country to the point it had now reached had required a miracle.

"As it struggles to come to terms with its future it will need more than the efforts of one man to ensure the miracle endures."

The survey’s authors detected a sense of sluggishness in government and an inability to give effect to its decisions.

The major beneficiaries were not the homeless or the unemployed, but the rapidly growing ranks of the black bourgeoisie.

The survey identified the major dilemma facing the ANC as being its unwillingness to transform itself from a liberation movement into a political party with all the responsibilities of government.

"To do so would involve a loss of support. The desire to maintain unity resulted in an insistence on the widest possible consensus before the most elementary decisions were taken, slowing the processes of government."

Angolan meeting uncertain

LUSAKA: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his rival Unita chief Dr Jonas Savimbi both failed to show up in the Zambian capital yesterday, before today’s talks about peace in their homeland, officials said.

But UN officials and diplomats remained confident the two leaders would go ahead with their planned meeting to end nearly 20 years of civil war in Angola.

A Western diplomat said the arrival in Lusaka yesterday of the UN’s chief military observer for Angola was a hopeful sign.

Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi were due to meet six months after the government and Unita rebels signed a peace accord in Lusaka.

Zambian officials laid out a red carpet and chairs for Mr Dos Santos at Lusaka airport in time for his 3pm plane to land. Disconsolately, they rolled the carpet up again a couple of hours later.

Government sources said Mr Dos Santos would only arrive in Zambia after Dr Savimbi, to avoid being wrong-footed twice.

At a previous meeting Dr Savimbi failed to show up citing security reasons. — Sapa-Reuters

Lesotho king visits Britain

MASERU: King Moshoeshoe II, making his first overseas trip since his return to the throne, left for Britain yesterday to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Allied victory in Europe in World War II.
Angolan president pulls out of summit

LUANDA. — Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos today cancelled a Lusaka peace summit with Unita leader Jonas Savimbi hours before they were to meet, a source close to the presidency said.

"The meeting has been cancelled due to inconsistencies on the part of Dr Savimbi," the source said.

He said Dr Savimbi, who arrived in Lusaka this morning for the summit after a tour of African countries, "felt it was more important to visit other African nations than to meet President dos Santos".

"The government continues to be committed to the peace process, but we want guarantees that Dr Savimbi is also interested," he added.

Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi had been due to meet in Lusaka for key reconciliation talks six months after the two sides signed a peace accord there to end two decades of civil war.

Each side has accused the other of violating the accord.

A radio statement by Mr Dos Santos blamed the cancellation on confusion over whether Dr Savimbi would show up.

Mr Dos Santos apparently also objected to charges by Dr Savimbi that the government would try to assassinate him during the talks.

A diplomat in Luanda said the government was apparently angered by statements from Dr Savimbi during his tour of African states in which, the diplomat said, he had declared a government invitation to join a unity government.

Angolan ambassador to Washington Jose Patricio accused Dr Savimbi of having changed the summit programme.

The meeting had been expected to set the stage for UN forces to move in to Angola to maintain peace while Unita forces disarm. — Reuters.
Festive mood as former enemies meet

By CHRIS SIMPSON and ANGUS SHAW: Lusaka

ANGOLAN'S two most powerful leaders concluded a crucial summit yesterday by embracing and pledging to work together to end the 28-year civil war.

The festival atmosphere following three hours of talks in Lusaka between Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi was similar to past celebrations of peace that later collapsed.

But a changing political landscape in southern Africa and the realisation that neither side could ever vanquish the other militarily made the promises and smiles yesterday seem more enduring.

The two leaders decided to meet again on an unspecified date and committed themselves to work together to implement the Lusaka Protocol, negotiated and signed by their subordinates last November at a summit hosted by the Zambian President, Frederick Chiluba.

"These men are agents of peace and not merchants of war," Mr Chiluba declared.

It was the first meeting between the Angolan leaders in over two years, the culmination of weeks of negotiations involving the Zambian government and an increasingly exasperated United Nations.

There was no mention of a government role for Dr Savimbi or of holding elections to choose a new government — two issues that had been considered likely to come up.

By endorsing the agreement, the two men have secured the deployment of a 7,400-troop UN force to provide security while Unita fighters disarm.

"It is most important we express in a clear fashion a good political will," Mr Dos Santos said, inviting Dr Savimbi to visit him in Luanda.

The Unita leader stormed out of the capital in October 1992 after refusing to accept defeat at the polls.

Dr Savimbi was also conciliatory. "I have told the president he is president of my country, therefore he is my president," he said.

He said he and Mr Dos Santos would speak to each other directly in future to avoid any misunderstandings.

"We want Angolans to know stability," he said. "We are going to build a very happy future for our people."

The talks, postponed for a day because of a boycott by Mr Dos Santos, were the first between the two since 1991 and gave the strongest signal to date they might be ready to quit fighting.

The two men have twice before shaken hands and declared peace but failed to stop the fighting that has claimed 500,000 lives during the past two decades.

The Lusaka agreement is considered more likely to succeed where other efforts failed because it was brokered in a new political landscape in southern Africa — with Mozambique holding successful elections after years of war and South Africa ending apartheid.

Unita still has grievances against the government, particularly concerning the use of South African mercenaries.

But most observers believe Unita is in no position to dictate terms.
Smiles as Angolan Peace hopes rise

For UN armoured cars in Bosnian turmoil

SA Fran lands Rom contract

Serbs bomb Sarajevo

Hang fire: peace process

World news week

Landmine treaty

Protests near Belgian mission

Hurricane Irene: US heatwave

World news week

World news week

World news week

World news week

World news week
UN troops in Angola as peacekeepers

LUANDA: Portuguese troops flew to Angola yesterday as part of the deployment of more than 7,000 UN peacekeepers to monitor the implementation of a pact ending 20 years of civil war.

UN special envoy Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye said the Portuguese would reinforce logistical teams already in the country, including 679 British military engineers.

The deployment comes after Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi held UN-brokered talks on Saturday, aimed at reducing mistrust after their two sides signed an accord last year.

All logistical units should be deployed by the end of May, the Portuguese responsible for communications, Rumanians to operate hospitals and Argentines to provide naval support, as well as the British engineers.

Infantry troops from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Uruguay and Zimbabwe would be deployed from June, Mr Beye said.

Mr. Dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi, after their meeting in Lusaka on Saturday, declared they were ready to work together for peace.

"The meeting was a big success and the result was beyond my expectations," Mr. Dos Santos said.

Dr. Savimbi said he had been moved by the cordial atmosphere and was "going back a very comfortable man.

---

Action plan for Moz approved

MAPUTO: Mozambique's government won a fresh political victory yesterday when the nation's first multi-party parliament approved its five-year plan of action with no major amendments.

Frelimo holds 128 of the 250 seats in parliament, the ex-guerrilla Mozambican National Resistance has 112, and the Democratic Union, nine seats.

Prime Minister Mr. Pascoal Mocumbi said yesterday the five-year plan pointed the direction for government, society and the business community to follow. Its key policy themes are to reconstruct and extend Mozambique's social and economic infrastructures, to continue economic liberalisation and reinforce its forces of law and order.

The Mozambican parliament will approve the government's economic and social programme and budget for 1995 before closing this week.

---

*Sapa-APP
Talks 'turning point' for Angolan peace process

PRETORIA — UN special envoy to Angola Alioune Blondine Beye flew into Pretoria yesterday to brief President Nelson Mandela on the first meeting in years between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

The weekend meeting was a turning point in the Angolan peace process and the implementation of the Lusaka peace agreement had begun, Beye said.

About 670 British logistical personnel were already deployed as part of the UN peacekeeping force in Angola. Beye was speaking to reporters at Waterkloof Air Base near Pretoria after meeting Mandela.

He said the three-hour Angolan meeting was conducted “in very good conditions” and included face-to-face talks for two hours between Savimbi and Dos Santos.

“The basis of the Angolan crisis is mistrust and mutual suspicion. I would not say the mistrust has disappeared, but the wall of mistrust has been pushed back. This is a turning point.”

With the support of other African heads of state, especially Mandela, things were going to move fast.

Beye said UN peacekeeping battalions could now be deployed and the implementation of the Lusaka protocol would continue. The protocol provides for the demobilisation of the rival armies and the formation of a new, joint national defence force under UN supervision.

He thanked Mandela, “who is always available to take the necessary action”, and said a visit by Savimbi to SA would soon take place.

“It is not a problem, but just a question of timetables.”

The British logistical unit which arrived in Angola on Friday would be followed by three other support units, including a Portuguese communication component and a labour unit from Argentina, by the end of the month. Six battalions would also be deployed in six military regions in Angola.

“Everything is going as planned. We have some constraints, but only logistical ones. This is not due to a lack of political will. We have the political will,” said Beye.

He said SA had played an important role in helping to clear parts of Angola of landmines. It had provided maps and equipment.

“SA is waiting for more details so that it can bring massive support for mine clearance.”

Beye said the matter of mercenaries in Angola was under discussion by all the parties concerned.

Portuguese UN troops were due to fly to Angola yesterday as part of the deployment of more than 7,000 UN peacekeepers.
Angola's wartime rivals have committed themselves to peace and thousands of UN peacekeepers can now be sent to Angola to monitor the peace accord, UN special envoy Alloune Bloodin Beya said yesterday.

He was speaking to reporters at Pretoria's Waterkloof air force base after an hour-long meeting with President Mandela.

"The UN battalions can now be deployed and we are going to continue the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol," he said.

The United Nations mediated a new peace protocol — overseen by Portugal, Russia and the United States, in the Zambian capital Lusaka — which was signed on November 20.

The protocol provides for the demobilisation of the rival armies and the formation of a new, joint national defence force under UN supervision.

On the political front, it provides for the entry into parliament of elected UNITA MPs and for the former rebels to be given a number of government, administrative and diplomatic posts.

Portuguese UN troops were due to fly to Angola yesterday as part of the deployment of more than 7,000 UN peacekeepers.

Beya said the Portuguese soldiers would reinforce teams already there, including 679 British military engineers.

In Lisbon, a military spokesman said five Portuguese soldiers would leave today by cargo plane, accompanying several dozen vehicles and containers of equipment and supplies.

A further 96 troops will leave Portugal later this week.

Over three or four months, starting from June, infantry from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Uruguay and Zimbabwe will be deployed to make up the bulk of the UN force, Beya said.

The UN Security Council agreed to the deployment of the new UN Angola Verification Mission in February, authorising the immediate departure of logistical units but making the deployment of an infantry contingent on a total cessation of hostilities between the two sides.

"Dr Savimbi and myself displayed during our discussions good political will to move hand in hand to consolidate the peace process... the meeting we held was a big success and the result was beyond my expectations," said Dos Santos.

Savimbi, who has led UNITA for almost three decades, said he had been moved by the cordial atmosphere which prevailed during their meeting and the reception Dos Santos had given him.

— Sape-AFP.
WARM WELCOME: Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, left, is welcomed by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo during a visit which will include meetings with President Mandela and other South African leaders, aimed at bringing peace to Angola.

Mandela: No peace without Savimbi

Political Staff and Sapa-Reuters

THERE will be no peace in Angola until Unita leader Jonas Savimbi is included in that country's government, President Mandela said today.

He was speaking at a media briefing at his Tshwane offices shortly before meeting Dr Savimbi, who heads the Angolan rebel movement Unita. Dr Savimbi, on a rare visit to South Africa, was due to meet Mr Mandela this afternoon.

Mr Mandela has been closely involved in attempts to end the Angolan civil war, which broke out after disputed presidential elections in late 1989.

He met Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Pretoria last year and recently held talks with the United Nations special representative Alain Blondin Beye.

Mr Mandela said Dr Savimbi would brief him on his meeting last week with Mr Dos Santos. He wanted to speak to Dr Savimbi about his role in Angola.

He added: "There can be no peace until he actually is a member of the cabinet of that country."

Earlier Dr Savimbi said he hoped to learn from this country's example of national reconciliation during talks with Mr Mandela.

"I am here because we want to get advice from the government of South Africa on how it succeeded in solving its own problems, so that we can do the same," said Dr Savimbi.

Unita and the Angolan government signed a peace pact in November and have been working to consolidate a shaky truce. A force of United Nations peacekeepers has been arriving this month to help ensure an end to the country's 20-year civil war that has claimed an estimated 500,000 lives.

Dr Savimbi said he "definitely" believed Angola's peace accord could succeed and that he would be discussing the possibility of taking part in a coalition government under Mr Dos Santos.

He also planned to brief Mr Mandela about the May 6 talks in Lusaka, Zambia's capital, between himself and Mr Dos Santos.

But Dr Savimbi said he would not raise the topic of white mercenaries contracted to a South African company called Executive Outcomes, who had been helping the Angolan government in its battles against Unita.
Savimbi acknowledges Dos Santos as president

UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi acknowledged rival Mr José Eduardo dos Santos yesterday as the undisputed president of Angola and said his own role in a national unity government had still to be decided.

"We are going to share responsibility with the government in building the country and consolidating peace in Angola," Dr Savimbi told a news conference after talks with President Nelson Mandela and his deputy, Mr Thabo Mbeki.

Unita's participation in the government was dealt with in his meeting with Mr Dos Santos in Lusaka on May 6, he said.

"Now the point is what role Savimbi is going to play. That's what we are going to discuss in the next days with President Dos Santos."

Optimistic

"We have a president in my country. I am an Angolan. My position is not contesting his position. It is to say I am at the disposal of my country and what position President Dos Santos will give me."

Dr Savimbi told reporters earlier that he was optimistic about an end to the war, which has dragged on since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.

A 1991 peace accord halted the fighting briefly but Unita took up arms again after losing UN-supervised elections the following year. The latest peace accord was reached in November but both sides have accused each of violating a truce and a UN peacekeeping force is still waiting to be deployed.

Dr Savimbi and Mr Dos Santos pledged after their Lusaka meeting to co-operate in a national unity government.

President Mandela urged Dr Savimbi when they met earlier yesterday to take a place in the government.

"Any agreement which is not going to be reflected in the actual structure of government in Angola cannot bring about peace," he told Dr Savimbi in front of reporters in the garden of Parliament in Cape Town.

Dr Savimbi said he had come to assure Mr Mandela of his commitment to the latest UN-mediated peace initiative in Angola.

Mr Mbeki said he and Dr Savimbi would meet again today to discuss the role South Africa could play in monitoring an Angolan peace. — Reuters
Angolan civil war ‘stupid’, says Savimbi

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi says the Angolan civil war was stupid and could have been avoided.

Today he recommitted himself and his movement to the Lusaka Agreement, which provides for elections to be held in Angola by February 1997.

Dr Savimbi told a Press conference in Cape Town that the main reason for his visit to South Africa was to learn how this country had achieved national reconciliation.

UNITA’s commitment to peace was total.

Dr Savimbi, a guerrilla fighter for 30 years, said there had been three stages to the conflict in his country.

The first was the fight against Portuguese colonialism, and there had been no alternative to an armed struggle. The second phase, involving global superpowers and South Africa, had left no room for negotiations.

But the third, of only Angolans versus Angolans, had been stupid. “We could have avoided it.”

Dr Savimbi confirmed he had been approached while in Cape Town by the families of members of Executive Outcome, the ‘South African’ mercenary group operating in Angola, about missing relatives.
NEWS Savimbi should be included in the Angolan go-

Mandela backs Savimbi

Sowetan Correspondent

UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi leaves South Africa today with President Nelson Mandela strongly backing his inclusion in a government of national unity in Angola.

Savimbi, who was on his first visit to a post-apartheid South Africa, held talks with Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki at their Tuynhuys offices yesterday.

The talks will continue this morning, with attention focusing on the role which South Africa can play in bringing about an end to the Angolan conflict.

Savimbi is scheduled to address a press conference at 11 am before returning to Angola.

Savimbi’s Unita has been locked in heavy fighting with Angola’s MPLA government since 1976, a conflict that was briefly interrupted in late 1992 during elections that Savimbi later claimed were unfair before he resumed the war.

Mbeki said after meeting Savimbi that South Africa was willing to play its part in international peacekeeping efforts in Angola at the request of the United Nations.

He said Savimbi had given a “clear commitment” to implementing the arrangements agreed to in talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in the Zambian capital of Lusaka last week.

In terms of that agreement, Savimbi said, his movement’s followers would be offered senior posts in a new government. Earlier Mandela said Savimbi had to be included in government.
SOUTH AFRICANS being held prisoner by Unita would be freed and the bodies of those killed in fighting returned to South Africa, Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi announced yesterday.

He said he would ask his chief of staff to establish the whereabouts of any prisoners or bodies of South Africans captured or killed in the Angolan conflict.

Emphasising his commitment to peace and participation in a government of national unity in Angola, the rebel leader said attempts to apportion blame for the 30-year civil war were futile and the time had come for forgiveness.

"Forgiveness — that is the lesson we are taking home from South Africa. We will mobilise all our energies to build tolerance and understanding to bring about a permanent peace in Angola."

He said Angola's 30-year civil war was "stupid" and could have been avoided.

Dr Savimbi said the Lusaka Protocol signed between his movement and the Angolan government in November last year laid the basis for consolidating the cease-fire.

"Talks between myself and President José Dos Santos in Lusaka on May 6 had focused on Unita's participation in a new government of national unity. "If there is a willingness to share responsibility, I am at the service of my country." He would meet Mr Dos Santos soon to discuss his and Unita's role in the government.

Asked what role South Africa could play, he said President Nelson Mandela's prestige as an African leader could help ensure that implementation of the Lusaka Protocol was not derailed.

SA had also indicated its willingness to assist the United Nation's peacekeeping force in Angola. — Special Correspondent, Sapa
SA joins forces with Europe to aid Angola's reconstruction
UN troops arrive in Angola to disarm rebels

Lobito (Angola) — Lightly armed but with plenty of bravado, the first contingent of UN blue-helmeted infantrymen arrived yesterday to face a daunting mission — to help end two decades of fratricidal bloodshed in Angola.

It was the UN’s second try to halt Angola’s 20-year war.

The 389 Uruguayans were met with cheers and back slaps by 650 British paratroops who have been preparing the devastated coastal town to be the launching point for an advance into rebel territory in the central highlands.

“It’s a good sign that the first in-country troops are here,” said Georgina Yates, spokeswoman for the British.

Seeing these blue helmets and blue scarves will calm people who feared the war would never end.”

Unita rebels and the government signed a UN-brokered peace treaty in November to end a civil war that first erupted on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975.

The latest cease-fire has generally held, but firefights have erupted over closely dug-in battle lines.

In northern Angola, hostile troops are deployed less than 5km apart, and rebel patrols still range freely across the central highlands.

Even seasoned peacekeepers were awed yesterday by the damage to Lobito, where every building still standing bears the scars of rocket blasts and machine-gun fire.

A third of the buildings are flattened, and the city is crowded with refugees; its population quadrupled in the last year to more than 100,000.

“It’s worse than Mozambique, worse than Cambodia,” said Private Luis Sanchez (30), a veteran of former UN operations. “It looks nuclear.” — Sapa-AP.
Angolans celebrate peace

UIGE (Angola).—Joyously crying “Long live the UN!” Angolans welcomed peace in the form of government and rebel officials walking arm-in-arm through this northern city, split between hostile armies just a month ago.

Led by United Nations representative Alioune Blondin Beye, the mixed government and Unita rebel contingent carried a symbolic olive branch through the streets of this militarily strategic city.

The city is still armed and tense despite a peace accord signed six-months ago.

Things are supposed to change now.

The UN have started to dispatch a 7,400-strong peacekeeping force to separate the former foes and help bring an end to two decades of civil war.

And judging by the reaction of ordinary Angolans, who have seen about 600,000 countrymen perish in the war since independence from Portugal in 1975, “the effort for peace could not have come a moment too soon.”

Crowds of dancing and singing Angolans; some waving flowers; and palm fronds, lined the 30 kilometers of once-mined road from Uige to rebel-held Negage to cheer the convoy of white UN jeeps, their blue flags snapping in the breeze. — Sapa-AP.
Angolans feel pinch as fuel subsidies end

LUANDA. — Huge increases in Angolan fuel and gas prices have come into effect in line with plans to end subsidies on petrol.

"The price of gasohol a litre will go from 3,000 kwanzas to 420,000 kwanzas, diesel will go from 500 kwanzas to 220,000, and natural gas will increase from 13,000 kwanzas to 275,000," the state oil company told Angola Radio.

A litre of petrol now costs about 90 SA cents in a country where the average worker earns less than R22 a month.

"We realise this will be tough on consumers but it is necessary to stabilise the Angolan economy," Scrippings subsidies is part of a reconstruction and development plan.
Angolan government offers Savimbi vice-president post

LUANDA. – The Angolan government has officially invited Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi to become a vice-president in a future government of national unity, state radio reported today.

"The Angolan government has decided to extend an invitation to Jonas Savimbi ... that he share the country's vice-presidency with a member of the (ruling) MPLA," the radio quoted a letter from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos as saying.

It said the letter was presented to a Unita delegation during talks with government officials in Luanda yesterday.

The Unita delegation, headed by the rebel movement's political adviser Abel Chivukuvuku, is in the Angolan capital for talks centred on the role of paramilitary police and terms for troop demobilisation called for in last November's Lusaka peace pact between the warring sides.

Diplomats said demobilisation of an estimated 75,000 Unita troops and around 100,000 Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), and the creation of a single 70,000-man strong army was one of the greatest obstacles to peace after nearly two decades of war.

The MPLA said at the weekend Mr Savimbi would be invited to become one of two vice-presidents on condition he disbanded the Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) army. — Reuter.
Leakey's party launched

KENYA'S new opposition party, Safina, applied for registration this week — the first step in its challenge to President Daniel arap Moi.

The party's chairman, human rights lawyer Muturi Kigano, and its secretary general, Richard Leakey, the environmentalist denounced as a racist and colonialist by Moi, applied for registration at the attorney general's office.

Leakey said Safina, which means Noah's Ark, would unveil its platform in a few days. Asked about its chances at the polls, he said: "It's too early to say."

Party officials said the application was timed five weeks before a meeting between Western donors and Kenya in Paris on July 24.

The government could come under international pressure if the party's application is rejected.

Leakey, a leading scientist and former head of Kenya's wildlife service, provoked a storm from Moi and his ruling Kenya African National Union (Kanu) when he announced on May 7 that he was setting up a party to fight corruption, human rights abuses and official incompetence.

The strength of the onslaught suggested the government feared Leakey's influence on donor countries.

The new party is the strongest challenge to the 70-year-old Moi and Kanu since the elections in 1992, the first multi-party polls in 25 years. — Reuters
Shattered country’s greatest flight

AIDS: Angola’s war in peace
UN chief sees hope for Angola peace

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, under fire for the UN handling of crises around the world, said yesterday that he was optimistic about the prospects of lasting peace in Angola despite frequent violations of a shaky ceasefire in the devastated country.

"I am reassured because the war is finished," Dr Boutros-Ghali said at the presidential palace in Luanda. Despite reported violations, he said the ceasefire was holding. "We will now all set about reconstructing peace and national reconciliation.

"The success of the Angolan peace process can serve as an example to other countries in Africa and across the world which are ravaged by conflicts," the UN boss said, with perhaps just a nod to the crises in Rwanda, Burundi and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Angola has been riven by war since it won independence from Portugal in 1975 apart from an 18-month respite between 1991 and 1992 after a peace agreement signed between the Unita rebel movement and the government under UN pressure.

The country was plunged back into civil war in 1992 when the rebels of Jonas Savimbi's Unita rejected the results of UN-sponsored elections in September 1992 after they showed the ruling MPLA, led by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, had overwhelmingly won. — Sapa-AFP
Angola's odd man out

London - Angolan rebels are grossly violating the Lusaka peace accords, say campaigners who are calling on Western governments to apply concerted pressure on Jonas Savimbi and his rebel army to abide by the protocols of the 18-month-old truce.

They charge that the main obstacle to lasting peace is the refusal of Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to honour its pledges under last year's accord and hand over weapons and uncamp its fighters at United Nations-designated sites.

"More pressure on Unita by the West is the only thing that can force it to honour the principles of the Lusaka accords," says Ben Jackson, director of London-based Action for Southern Africa.

"They have not handed in weapons and are delaying the quartering of their troops. They are committing these and other gross violations of clauses in the accords with impunity. Peace can only be achieved in Angola when Unita begins to comply with the Lusaka agreement."

According to UN sources in London, at least half of the estimated 40,000 Unita "fighters" who have so far been registered at the 11 UN quartering sites around the country are not frontline guerrillas.

Confirmed claims

The UN has also confirmed claims by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government that only a third of them arrived with weapons of any sort, and these were mainly small arms.

"Unita has not even begun a serious effort towards disarmament and demobilising, 18 months after the Lusaka accords," the UN source said. "And there is no sign of any change in their attitudes."

These perceived "delaying tactics" by the rebel movement have led to doubts as to whether ongoing moves to select and incorporate 26,000 Unita fighters into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) - begun in June - will be completed by the end of July, the deadline set by FAA commander General Joao de Matos.

The unified national army had been billed to replace the UN military contingent - the upkeep of which is costing over R1.43 million a day. To date only about 20 Unita officers have been inducted into the FAA.

And, with the UN Security Council itself questioning the commitment of Unita to the Lusaka accords, many observers maintain it would be irresponsible for the UN force to pull out.

Savimbi and his top lieutenants have been frequently accused of scuppering successive peace initiatives in the country's two decades-long civil war, notably in October 1992 when, following an 18-month ceasefire, the rebels relaunched the war after losing elections which international monitors ruled free and fair.

For the duration of that ceasefire, as now, Savimbi had dragged his feet over the disarmament and demobilisation of Unita fighters.

Some observers believe Savimbi plans to resume hostilities again -- if not immediately then sometime in the future -- should the peace process unfold in a manner he finds unfavourable.

His steadfast refusal to occupy the vice-presidency in the government is seen as another indication that he is keeping his options open. Ironically he had been very insistent on it during the talks leading to Lusaka.

As Jackson said: "Even in March Savimbi, at the talks in Gabon with (Angola's President Jose Eduardo) dos Santos, said he was going to take up the post. Why this change of heart? It makes you wonder."

The MPLA had also offered Unita several ministerial, ambassadorial and other top posts in government.

Savimbi's game plan is bound to remain largely hidden until at least August, when Unita holds its congress. The rebel leader said this week that it is then that the decision on whether to join the government will be taken.

Many analysts, including UN sources, perceive this as another delaying tactic.

Meanwhile, international human rights activists say that abuses by both sides are being committed. There are numerous allegations of police brutality and arbitrary arrest in areas controlled by the government, while Unita has been accused of killings, torture and "disappearances".

Angola's conflict started immediately after independence from colonial Portugal in 1975, when Savimbi's Unita, funded and armed by the then apartheid state of South Africa and backed by Portugal and the United States, pledged to remove the popular, left-wing MPLA government.

All that changed in the nineties with the ending of the Cold War, the dismantling of apartheid and the MPLA's defeat of Unita in the 1992 elections.

Diamond sales

However, despite the current UN embargo on the rebel movement, arms and fuel supplies -- for which it pays with proceeds of illegal diamond sales -- continue to be flown in to Unita via neighbouring Zaire.

Although there are signs that Washington, London and other Western governments are using diplomatic pressure to try to persuade Savimbi to bring an end to his marathon war, campaigners say they are not doing enough.

Britain dismisses this claim. "While we cannot speak for other governments," says British Foreign Office spokesman Clive Thompson, "the British government has kept up pressure on both sides for a more rapid implementation of the Lusaka accords at every opportunity."

Jackson said: "Unita will not budge until intense, coherent and concerted pressure is applied by the West. They should start by making the sanctions work and that means taking action on Zaire, which is violating UN sanctions by allowing supplies to reach Unita through its soil and airspace.

"When you look at how international sanctions are hitting Iraq and Libya, you can see that the West is not doing enough. When they want sanctions to work, they make them work. There is a lot more they can do to force Unita to respect the Lusaka accords." - Sapa-IPS.
Leakey warns of demonstrations in Kenya

OWN CORRESPONDENT (S)

NAIROBI — Richard Leakey warned yesterday that he would organise public demonstrations in support of his political party, Safina, unless the government agreed to register it.

Twenty eight days, the period in which the government was expected to make its decision about the party, passed with no word as to whether the application had been accepted.

"This delay is a blatant example of the Kanu government's continuing suppression of rights; the people of Kenya are entitled to choices in the political arena and to deny them is contrary to the foundations of democracy," Leakey said.

"In the present situation, we feel that we might soon be forced to invite the people themselves to demonstrate their support for the registration of Safina," he said.

Asked whether he was advocating a civil disobedience campaign he said the form of demonstrations would be announced later. Stressing that the party did not intend to be "needlessly confrontational", he raised the spectre of political violence.

Leakey, renowned as a palaeontologist and conservationist, took the authorities by surprise when he announced in May his venture into opposition politics, vowing to "stop the rot" in a country he said was sliding into corruption and chaos. President Daniel Arap Moi accused him of seeking a return to colonialism.

Earlier this month the government published a Bill aimed at stopping Safina's registration process, and which observers say would greatly restrict the activities of all opposition parties. The Bill has yet, to be tabled in parliament.

Safina had hoped to force a decision on party registration before next Monday's donors' conference, at which Kenya's sluggish progress towards political and economic reform will come under harsh scrutiny.

But the government is not to be forced. Legal grey areas leave room for some interpretation over the handling of the registration process. Silence may be the government's chosen response until after the donors' conference. — *Telegraph plc*
311 000 Angolans to be sent home

LUSAKA: Refugee officials met here yesterday to work on plans to repatriate more than 300 000 Angolan refugees.

The two-day meeting in the Zambian capital is the first involving officials from Angola, including the government and UNITA, Zambia and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Zambian Home Affairs Minister Mr Chitalu Sampa appealed for assistance for thousands of refugees in Zambia who have settled outside designated camps.

Apart from 26,000 Angolan refugees in two camps, another 74,000 were scattered along the border areas between Zambia and Angola, he said.

The meeting is part of preparations for a 30-month programme to repatriate about 311,000 refugees from mid-1996, at a cost of $4.1 million (about R160m).

Transport, border crossing points, where refugees will go, access to land and security matters such as areas sown with landmines are among topics to be discussed.

UNHCR information officer Mr Yusuf Hassan said the repatriation of the Angolans would be the second largest exercise of its sort in Africa after the return of 1.7 million Mozambicans from six countries.

The UNHCR will concentrate on rehabilitation of roads, schools, bridges and other social services inside Angola in the next few months. — Reuters
vice-presidential post for Savimbi

LUANDA — The Angolan parliament approved a constitutional amendment yesterday creating two vice-presidential posts for UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

The Angolan government and UNITA signed a peace agreement in November to end 25 years of civil war, but fighting has continued and other disputes have held up implementation of the peace accord.

Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met on May 6 and signed another agreement pledging to end the war. During a weekend visit by UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Savimbi said he was willing to take up a vice-presidential post once he received an official invitation from government.

The creation of the vice-presidential post for Savimbi is a step towards creating a national unity government, with Dos Santos at the helm backed by vice-presidents from his People's Liberation Movement of Angola (MPLA) party and UNITA.

In its resolution approving the constitutional amendment, the Angolan National Assembly recognised the "validity" of the current chief of state. UNITA deputies were pleased but support for the resolution was not unanimous. Opposition deputies from four parties left the parliament conference room to protest against the decision. The MPLA holds a majority of seats in the legislature.

Nyamupanga Nandi Ndud, a leader of the Democratic Party for a National Alliance, described the amendment as a "coup d'etat against democracy."

The Dos Santos administration has not defined Savimbi's role in the future government. UNITA has said it does not expect Savimbi to be limited to a strictly ceremonial role. — Sapa-APP.
Angola's new enemy is AIDS, and the best way to escape is to head south

By CHRISTOPHER MCDougall, Saurimo, Angola

Patriots in the coming years of peace may kill one million. Psychologically, physically and economically Angola is not prepared for a disease that will hit with epidemic force," he says. The danger of an AIDS outbreak in Angola poses a serious threat to South Africa. With more than 2,000 South African mercenaries stationed in Angola, and hundreds of businessmen now flying back and forth to Luanda, the risk of bringing the infection home is dramatically increased.

Due to political isolation, just 5,000 cases of HIV infection were reported in South Africa in 1990. But with the explosion of post-apartheid travel, the figure in the past five years has leapt to 1.3 million. That figure is likely to increase as South Africa becomes more involved with its neighbours.

Some 300 former South African commandos, members of the 2,000-strong Executive Outcomes force stationed in Angola since 1993, are based in Saurimo near the northern border, which has seen a steady traffic of diamond smugglers, refugees and rebel troops during the war.

Because of the city's proximity to Zaire and the exploitation of prostitution, Saurimo has become one of the most vulnerable areas in Angola.

The most dangerous disease-carriers are believed to be government and Unita troops. Infection is so high among African soldiers that they run a far greater risk of dying from AIDS than from warfare, according to the Centre for International and Strategic Studies. At least 65 percent of army hospital beds in Zaire are filled by soldiers with AIDS. More than half of Zimbabwe's soldiers are infected with HIV, according to the director's study.

Dr Moussy believes that at least 100,000 Angolan government and rebel soldiers are HIV-positive. They are marching home to civilians so war-weakened and vulnerable to disease that Dr Moussy calls them "lambas for the slaughter."

But political urgency is missing. Says Dr Moussy: "We show the government a map of Africa with flags marking AIDS hot zones - Angola is surrounded - but we can't convince them there's no escape."

Experts estimate that at least 10 percent of Angola's 10 million population already carries the virus. But with the country divided by the war and laboratories closed, health workers have been unable to do any AIDS testing, even in the military.

Thousands of boys and young men up to 13 were drafted into the army and received sex education from platoon mates on the march. Condoms and chastity belts were not prominent topics, says Ana Filgueiras, an AIDS-awareness trainer for the World Health Organisation.

And the rape and prostitution that trailed combat and helped spread the disease were further aided by sexual myths.

"Legend has it that sexual relations with a virgin girl can cure a man with a sexually transmitted disease," says Mrs Filgueiras.

Young Angolan girls are now five times as likely to be infected as boys.

"And people believe these tribal healers who tout a nostrum ointment they say will cure AIDS, which they call war fatigue," Mrs Filgueiras adds.

UNITA's top medical officer, Dr Anastasio Sikato, contacted government doctors two days after the ceasefire was signed in November last year to ask for help battling the spread of AIDS among his troops.

"I am more fearful for the boys' lives now than ever before," Dr Sikato says, adding that transfusions for wounded rebels have been arm-to-arm, with no screening for HIV.

Dr Moussy predicts that the future will see more teenagers in AIDS wards than in high school; half the armed forces wiped out by the disease; famine as farms fail; collapsed industries through lack of managers and a wild scramble to emigrate.
Angola's war may have ended but the nation still teeters on the brink of peace.

The United Nations have been unable to negotiate a lasting peace, with fighting continuing in various pockets of the country. The United Nations' efforts to establish a peace agreement have been frustrated by the lack of cooperation from all parties involved.

Efforts to provide humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict have been severely hindered by the ongoing violence. The United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire to allow for the delivery of much-needed assistance.

The future of Angola remains uncertain, with questions about the stability of the government and the prospects for reconciliation still hanging in the balance. The United Nations continues to work towards a peaceful resolution, but progress has been slow and the road ahead remains uncertain.
Bad time ahead for Mr Good News?

Vice from London

ing the process, reports TDR, WILTSHEIRE-ROBINS or our Foreign Secretary have looked good but an Inefficient UN operation is thwarted.

The UN's Secretary-General, recent peace-promoting visit to Angola may...
Unita leader appointed Angola's vice-president

LUANDA. — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi is now the country's vice-president.

The 61-year-old bush fighter agreed to abandon the rebellion he led for 20 years and join the government as vice-president in charge of economic affairs, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced here.

President Dos Santos will also appoint a second vice-president from his own party to work in conjunction with Mr Savimbi, modeling his new government after President Nelson Mandela's successful racial reconciliation experiment in South Africa.

Diplomats, journalists and airport workers cheered when Mr Dos Santos made the announcement at Luanda airport yesterday on his return from an emergency meeting with Mr Savimbi.

Contrary to the unrestrained emotion, Mr Dos Santos smiled before adding: "It was a very peaceful meeting."

The two leaders met on neutral territory earlier yesterday to discuss a flare-up of fighting between their troops that threatened to rupture a November treaty halting Angola's civil war.

Diplomats have said the leadership Mr Savimbi demonstrated by building his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) from a scrappy band of guerrillas into a skilled and powerful army was just the skill needed to rebuild the war-blasted country.

Mr Dos Santos first suggested Mr Savimbi for vice-president soon after a May meeting between the two rivals. — Sapa-AP.

Jonas Savimbi
NAIROBI — Youths from Kenya’s ruling party beat opposition politician Richard Leakey and police later joined in to whip and club opposition activists and journalists, the victims and witnesses said.

Mr Leakey, a white Kenyan and renowned conservationist whose move into opposition this year enraged President Daniel arap Moi, showed his back covered in red welts at a news conference.

Mr Leakey, who is secretary-general of the Safina (Ark) party, showed his bruised hands and said he was struck on the head.

Youths identified as members of Mr Moi’s Kenya African National Union attacked him yesterday morning outside the court in the provincial town of Nakuru.

Mr Leakey, who lost both legs in a plane crash in 1953 and uses artificial limbs, was whipped and clubbed by a dozen youths as he shielded a woman party official and limped to his car.

Louise Timbidge, a British journalist for London’s Daily Telegraph who was beaten in a later incident, asked policemen watching the attack on Mr Leakey why they were doing nothing.

“They just smirked and smiled.”

Mr Leakey said he went to Nakuru to drop off parliamentarian Paul Muite and another Safina member to visit jailed dissident Kolgi wa Wamwere.

The Rift Valley provincial police said in a statement Mr Leakey and other Safina activists had tried to address a hostile crowd which “went wild” until police fired two shots in the air.

Mr Leakey denied he tried to address the crowd. He said he believed the attack was orchestrated to justify the government’s refusal to register his party.

Mr Moi has repeatedly criticized Mr Leakey, accusing him of being a white racist, and a colonialist and has vowed that he will never be allowed to become a political leader. — Reuters.
British to Inquire into
mob attack on Leakey

NEWS/3

August 12, 1995
Angola’s agony

Eritrea and central regions - Saga-Vpe.
Two selections have taken position in north-
Eritrea, and an appeal has been presented to the
mayor of the city of Asmara to send aid to the
population. The mayor has instructed the
population to continue the fight against the
government forces, who have occupied a
number of positions in the north.

In the north of the country, the resistance
forces have made significant gains. The forces
have taken control of several key positions,
including the city of Asmara. The resistance
forces have also been able to disrupt
communications and transportation routes.

In the south, the government forces have
continued their advance. The government
forces have captured several key cities and
have increased their control over the
population. The resistance forces have been
forced to retreat and are facing significant
crisis.

The situation in Angola remains tense.
The government and the resistance forces are
continuing to fight for control of the
country.

Summit is inconclusive, but boosts the periodic peace process

Angola's war may soon be over

Pledges on both sides to implement peace accords signed

Angola's agony
Angola on brink of peace after summit

Lusaka - Angola was on the threshold of peace yesterday following a summit between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and erstwhile rebel leader Jonas Savimbi that produced qualified agreements, according to both sides.

"The meeting was very constructive," Dos Santos said on his return to the Angolan capital on Thursday from Franceville in Gabon, where discussions on the political future of the country took place between the president and Savimbi's Unita.

Both sides pledged after the summit to implement peace accords drawn up in Lusaka in November aimed at ending 20 years of civil war in Angola.

But the final statement issued by Dos Santos and Savimbi after Thursday's talks remained vague, and full agreement on the key political issue of Unita's role in the democratic process is yet to be announced.

The statement said merely that the two men had "decided to adopt special measures to assure the most effective and realistic implementation" of the Lusaka accords.

Angola's government has sought through the Lusaka accords to re-integrate Savimbi and Unita by offering the former rebels one of two newly created vice-presidencies.

But Unita has sought clarifications that the post should devolve to the organisation in general and not to Savimbi specifically.

Savimbi said after the summit there would be two vice-presidents in a new Angolan administration, one representing the ruling MPLA and one Unita.

But Unita added Savimbi and his partisans were still seeking guarantees on the vice-presidency issue, which is the subject of continued negotiations.

Dos Santos said on his return from Franceville that the two sides had agreed in principle to the establishment of the vice-presidencies, but Savimbi had still not formally accepted the post earmarked for Unita.

Dos Santos also said both sides had agreed to a "political incorporation" under UN supervision of Unita and government forces into a new national army.

SAPA AFP
Attack on Leakey to be probed

Nairobi — Kenya's legal supreme has ordered an inquiry into the recent beheading of Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey, other members of his opposition party and journalists.

Attorney General Amos Wako said late on Saturday that he had asked police to open a "thorough and comprehensive investigation" into Thursday's attack by a mob wielding rubber whips and pick-axe handles in the central town of Nakuru, the official KNA agency reported.

Wako appealed to all people who had any evidence to "co-operate and submit such evidence to the police. The culprits must be brought to justice in the interest of the maintenance of law and order," he said.

Leakey blamed the attack on the ruling party and accused the police of complicity in the attack.

In their defence, police said the party had been planning to address a rally, and that lack of prior notification "made it difficult for police to offer protection or prevent the incidence of violence." But Leakey said he and other Safina members had gone to Nakuru for a court case and to visit a dissident in prison, not to address any rally. — Sapa-AFP.
LUANDA — The UN, blamed for watching helplessly while Angola slid back into civil war in 1992, is upbeat that this time around it can usher in a lasting peace in the devastated African country.

With the memories of troubled UN missions in Rwanda and Somalia still fresh, the UN special envoy to Angola, Alloune Blondin Beye, is nonetheless confident Angola could finally put two decades of inter-ethnic fighting behind it.

"I think we have enough factors and parameters which indicate the possibility of having peace is larger than the resumption of war," Beye said last week.

Beye's optimistic assessment came as President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi met in Gabon on Thursday to thrash out the major points of a political settlement.

Although the talks ended inconclusively with both sides reluctant to trumpet outright accord on Savimbi's political role in Angola's future, the UN appears committed to playing a major role in the Angolan peace process.

Besides directly mediating in this latest round of talks, the third UN Angola Verification Mission is to oversee a ceasefire and supervise the withdrawal, encampment and demobilisation of Unita and government troops.

The UN mission appears determined to avoid a repeat of October 1992, when its unarmed observers were powerless to avoid a resumption of hostilities between dos Santos' MPLA and rebel Unita.

An 18-month truce following a 1991 peace deal was broken after Unita refused to accept an electoral defeat by dos Santo's MPLA.

The UN mission, which then was composed only of observers, without peacekeeping infantry troops, said the root cause of the deterioration of the situation was the incomplete fulfillment of key provisions of the 1991 Lusaka accord.

Under the new Lusaka accords, where dos Santos and Savimbi forged an agreement in May, the UN is to disarm and demobilise some 100,000 soldiers between the two rivals, and supervise the formation of a new 80,000-strong joint army.

However, the UN mission, which is deploying its peacekeepers in phases across Angola, is being frustrated by destroyed bridges and mined roads.

As a result of the war, Angola is littered with an estimated 10-million landmines. — Sapa-AFP.
UN optimistic in Angola

Luanda - The United Nations, blamed for watching helplessly while Angola slid back into civil war in 1992, is confident that this time around it can usher in a lasting peace in the devastated African country.

The memories of troubled UN missions in Rwanda, Somalia - and even former Yugoslavia - still fresh, the UN special envoy to Angola, Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, is nevertheless confident that Angola could finally put to bed two decades of internecine fighting behind it.

"I think we have enough factors and parameters which indicate that the possibility of having peace is larger than the resumption of war," he said recently.

Optimistic assessment

Beye's optimistic assessment came as President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and erstwhile rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi met in Franceville, Gabon, last Thursday to thrash out the major points of a political settlement.

Although the talks ended inconclusively, with both sides reluctant to trumpet an outright accord on Savimbi's political role in Angola's future, the UN appears committed to playing a major role in the Angolan peace process.

Besides directly mediating in this latest round of talks, the third UN Angola Verification Mission (Unavem III) is to oversee a ceasefire and supervise the withdrawal, encampment and demobilisation of Unita and government troops.

Multi-national mission

In a sign of its commitment, the mission has boosted its threadbare 800-strong operation to a multi-national mission with nearly 8,000 personnel that will last until February 1997.

Unavem-III appears determined to avoid a repeat of October 1992, when its unarmed observers were powerless to avoid a resumption of hostilities between Dos Santos' People's Movement for Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Brutal civil war

Since Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975, the two factions have waged a brutal 20-year civil war which has left more than 600,000 dead and displaced three million more.

An 18-month truce following a 1991 peace deal was broken after Unita refused to accept an electoral defeat by the MPLA.

The following months saw the situation deteriorate with an estimated average death rate of 1,000 people a day, either from the direct or indirect result of combat.

The UN mission, which then was composed only of observers without any peacekeeping infantry, said the root cause of the deterioration of the situation was the incomplete fulfilment of key provisions of the 1991 accord.

Among the failures were the less than effective demobilisation and storage of weapons, and delays in the creation of a unified army.

Failure to set up a neutral police force to replace the rapid reaction force in place and the lack of efficient administration in many parts of the country were also blamed for the relapse.

Under the new Lusaka accords, signed after the Zambian capital where Dos Santos and Savimbi forged an agreement in May after a peace deal in November, the UN will disarm and demobilise some 150,000 soldiers between the two rivals, and supervise the formation of a new 90,000-strong joint army.

The UN will also disarm civilians and verify the formation of a neutral police force.

However, the UN mission, which is deploying its peacekeepers in phases across the country, is being frustrated by destroyed bridges and mined roads.

As a result of the war, Angola is now polluted with an estimated 10 million landmines.

Major hazard

Outgoing UN force commander Chris Garba says both parties to the conflict are relaying mines on roads that have been cleared, in an effort to attract attention and sabotage food supply convoys.

"My major worry, however, is that in some cases roads that are declared safe are mined overnight, and this is likely to affect the peace process and demoralise the troops," Garba said last week.

He added that he would appeal to Unita and MPLA forces to stop planting anti-personnel mines. - Supra-AFP

Last week's talks ended inconclusively between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. But the United Nations remains hopeful of peace in Angola, reports Susan Njani

(5) Swart 16/8/95

Jonas Savimbi ... discussing his future political role in Angola with the government.

Eduardo dos Santos ... negotiating a political settlement with Unita.
DIETING young from war, war, disease

AFRICA

The Irish, Tuesday August 22, 1995
The white man

Richard Leakey was a hero when he saved Kenya's wildlife from poachers. But now he has declared war on corruption, the ruling Kanu party has turned on him.

Chris McGreal reports from Nairobi

On all the charges barring Richard Leakey — of being a neo-colonial racist, traitor, atheist, Ku Klux Klan collaborator — the one he finds hardest to shake is the suspicion that Kenya's most famous white citizen harbours an ambition to become president.

"He's been telling me since he was 14 years old he wants to be president," says Philip, his younger brother — and foe. "He's talked people all over the place he wanted to be president. He used to get very angry when people laughed. So when he says he doesn't want to be president he's not being very sincere."

After years of fighting off Kenya's corrupted political system from the sidelines, the renowned palaeontologist and conservationist — who made his name with the discovery of the oldest human skull yet found and reinforced his reputation by rescuing Kenya's elephants — has stepped into the centre of the arena.

Leakey's is the most prominent name in a new political party which has caught Kenya's attention as much for his presence as its promises to combat rampant graft, police brutality and shambolic public services.

Leakey (50) denies he is looking to become his party's presidential candidate. It is, in any case, doubtful that Kenya is ready for a white president, especially one as controversial as Leakey, whom many respect but fewer like. But any party which includes a man renowned for running one of the country's few recent successes, the Kenya Wildlife Service, without permitting its rulers to bleed it dry has a distinct advantage over a divided and compromised opposition.

Whatever Leakey's ambitions, President Daniel arap Moi has responded to the threat. Having so far refused to permit registration of Leakey's party Safina — Swahili for Ark — he embarked on a nationwide tour to vilify the man he has made a point of saying was never his friend, even after a 30-year association.

He has denounced Leakey as a front for Western governments, a racist who would submit Kenya to a new colonisation and a foreigner, despite his Kenyan passport. "We in Kenya are ready to share with everyone, including foreigners... So let foreigners participate in everything in Kenya but not in political leadership. That we will not have. No, no, no," Moi told one rally.

What he really means is that whites should keep out of opposition politics, as there are a number of whites in the ruling Kanu, including Philip Leakey.

Kanu's secretary-general, Joseph Koino, is as frequent in his denunciations as the president: "Even if you go to Germany, you get people who are still practicing Nazism in the middle of millions who do not want to see the resurrection of Nazism. That's the way we look at Leakey."

Moi's mouthpiece, the Kenya Times, accused Leakey of conspiring with the Ku Klux Klan. It published a poorly faked letter supposedly signed by one John Stone Brad, who offered financial backing from the KKK for the new party, provided a white man is its presidential candidate. "It is a painful reality that the politicians both in Kanu and opposition parties are Africans with an inferiority complex, egocentric and disoriented. What Kenya needs is a saviour and a saviour can only be a white man and reconolonialism. Isn't it factual that most Africans in Kenya are more wretched now than they..."
who would be king of Kenya

Philip Leakey: Brother and foe

would have been under the pleasant
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively.

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a widespread ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively. 

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a worldwide ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively.

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a worldwide ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively.

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a worldwide ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively.

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a worldwide ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 
wildebeest British colonial rule?" the 
letter asked provocatively.

The Kikuyu has not been heard about 
since. Perhaps it was discouraged by 
MoI's subsequent accusation that 
Leakey is also in league with Islamic 
fundamentalists and Uganda-based 
rebels, or the denunciation of his al-
ternative. But the sharpest attacks are 
now against the foundations of Leakey's 
reputation, his tenure as head of the 
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

When, six years ago, MoI appointed 
him to oversee nearly all of Kenya's 51 
national parks, they were on the brink 
of collapse. Poachers were killing 
elephants a day and the herds were 
close to eradication. Corruption was 
ri
e. Government revenue from tourism had 
virtually dried up.

Leakey beat off the poachers, won 
a worldwide ban on ivory trading and 
drew in hundreds of millions of dollars 
of foreign conservation aid. Above all, 
the KWS was seen to be clean. "There 
was little pressure on me, for many 
years in many situations," he says.

"Could we make sure that this con-
tract goes to this place, and couldn't I 
arrange for this person's cousin to get 
a job and turn a blind eye to this par-
ticular set of problems? Or State 
House would like this done. Never the 
president, always State House. It was 
what Philip MoI would have been under the pleasant 

A clash of egos has led to one prominent member storming out and others acting on their own accord. But it has one Kenyan believing it is a force to be reckoned with - President Daniel arap MoI. — The Guardian
SA expertise to help Angola restore natural heritage

Iona conservation project

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Angola’s wildlife resources have been “absolutely devastated” by years of civil war, and at least 21 of its 275 mammal species — including gorillas, chimpanzees, black rhino and giraffe — have been pushed to the brink of extinction.

But a pilot project in the huge 1.5-million-hectare Iona national park on the border with Namibia could pave the way for the eventual rehabilitation of that country’s rich biological heritage, and foreign donors will soon be asked for about R10.5-million to fund the project for five years.

That’s the assessment of National Botanical Institute chief executive Brian Huntley after a recent visit to Angola, at the request of the Luanda government, to plan a conservation programme for their wildlife, flora and national parks.

Professor Huntley began working as an ecologist in Angola in 1970 but had to flee when fighting broke out two years later, and it was only in 1992 that he was able to return.

He said conservation prospects in Angola had not improved since 1992, when a team had produced a “reasonable assessment” of the country’s natural heritage.

His recent visit, his first since 1992, had been hamstrung by his inability to move about the country freely.

“There is conventional peace in that armies aren’t engaged in tank warfare, but there are still real security problems and it’s extremely difficult to move out of any of the major towns or cities.

“So I couldn’t do much in the way of reconnaissance — you can’t get in by road and they wouldn’t let me fly over some of the areas.”

Angola’s state secretariat of the environment was serious in its attempt to get guidance on how to re-establish itself, he said.

“But it knows full well there are no finances to do it, so we have to be realistic.”

He has recommended that international donors be approached to fund a pilot project in the desert park of Iona, in the south of Angola on the border with Namibia.

“It is spectacular desert scenery and there should still be some game there — springbok and oryx and maybe even one or two elephant.

“It’s very inaccessible so you can control access easily, and my proposal is to use it as a pilot project to develop Angola’s game rangers and warder staff — first in Iona itself and then for the other national parks.

“There are simply no trained field staff in Angola, so that’s the first thing to do.”

Iona could be easily restocked with game flown in from Namibia, Huntley said.

“It’s an ideal international project, and I will be putting a proposal to the World Conservation Union or the World Bank to support it.

“It probably needs about $3-million (R10.5 million) to get it into gear. That’s an achievable goal, but the donors will have to be prepared to be committed for at least five years — that’s how long it will take to get it to work.”

South Africa could assist with management expertise, he added. “We’ve got substantial expertise in the management of national parks... and I think we have a moral obligation to do something to help in Angola.”
United Nations Samara:

Defeated Unita still believes it can dictate the terms
McNally meets ANC to discuss hit-squad allegations

Ann Eveleth

BELAUGURED KwaZulu-Natal Attorney-General Tim McNally met with African National Congress provincial leaders this week after calls by the party for his resignation.

A joint statement released after the meeting on Wednesday between McNally and the ANC delegation, led by ANC provincial leader Jacob Zuma, said the ANC had expressed its concerns over the “collapse” of the system of justice in the province and the low level of prosecutions relating to crimes of political violence.

“The ANC delegation also expressed the view that where crimes have been committed, people should be prosecuted across the board, irrespective of political affiliations,” the statement said.

The statement said McNally had “confirmed his commitment to prosecute any matter in which sufficient evidence existed,” and that he had supplied the ANC with a memorandum setting out his strategy and legal reasons why senior IFP leaders had not been called as witnesses in the Durban hit-squad trial of KwaZulu Police killers Romeo Mambu, GCina Mkhize and Israel Hlongwane.

“The ANC took note of this (and) acknowledged that some movement had been made with regard to hit-squad cases. The ANC was also happy that the attorney-general and the Investigation Task Board were working closely together. While points of disagreement still exist, the meeting was frank, constructive and cordial,” the statement said.

The meeting, at McNally’s invitation, followed an attempt by McNally two weeks ago to repair relations with the IFP through a “meeting of reconciliation” after McNally fired the senior public prosecutor attached to the unit.

McNally signalled his intention last week to sue the Mail & Guardian for R250 000 after reports detailing criticism of his performance.

My struggle, PAGE 29
Last Battle of Angola’s 9-Year-Old

In Angolan’s war, Philip von Necker
abroad among the warring parties

opposes a deal that is provoked to share the
proceeds in Africa’s oldest battle

16th Century
between a rock and a hard place. Diamond miners are kept in danger in northern Angola, where they are forced to dig for the gems that threaten to steal a return to law

The Doctors

This week, mistreatment and exploitation
are widespread in landmines.

With positive results and focussing on health, the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors, however, note that the

work in progress is slow, and the

MRC's active role is still to be

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.

The doctors point out the grave
conditions and health of the miners.

The doctors are pleased with the

Their colleagues at the

The doctors are pleased with the

100,000 people are excluded from a share of the

Coalition of Members. However, there are

Some others.
Dos Santos, Savimbi to ask West for R2.5bn

LUAANDA. — Angola's government and opposition leaders will jointly appeal for $700 million (about R2.5bn) in aid in Brussels next week to help reconstruct their country, diplomats said.

The two-day round table session with Western donors, opening on Monday, will be the third meeting between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and opposition Unita leader Jonas Savimbi since a peace agreement was signed last November.

Diplomats said Dr Savimbi might take the opportunity to accept the role of second vice-president in a government of national unity, offered to him in June.

The two leaders will together appeal for $700m for a two-year emergency fund to reconstruct Angola's basic infrastructure, destroyed by 19 years of civil war and neglect.

They said that because Angola had been an East-West battleground during the Cold War, with the Soviet bloc supporting the Luanda government and the United States backing Unita, Angolans felt they had a claim on the international community.

"Both President dos Santos, and Jonas Savimbi appear united in a belief that the international community must help them rebuild Angola through a kind of mini-Marshall Plan," said a Western diplomat who asked not to be identified.

"Angolans feel that they are victims of East-West geopolitical interests and now they are asking us to pay up for the suffering caused to them."

But some diplomats question how much aid will be forthcoming at the Brussels talks, which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is organizing with the Luanda government.

"On the basis of the last donor response to an emergency humanitarian aid appeal, they're not going to come away with $700 million in their pockets," one source said.

Sources noted that major international donors were pouring money into the UN-run peacekeeping operation in Angola, which was about six months behind schedule, and were unlikely to fund other projects at this point.

Diplomatic sources said donors were also likely to tie the aid to a clean-up of corruption in the country.

The presence of both Mr dos Santos and Dr Savimbi in Brussels is expected to have an important symbolic impact.

The two men met in May in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, where the government and Dr Savimbi's Unita signed an accord to end the civil war last November. They met again in Bissau last month.

"Don’t leave peace to politicians, soldiers"

HARARE. — Peace activists from 10 southern African states have urged people in the region to support peace initiatives in Angola, saying their presence could be the key to lasting stability.

The activists, at the start yesterday of a two-day conference on ways of promoting the Angolan peace process, said previous peace attempts lacked popular participation.

"We can help Angola to achieve lasting peace and stability by ensuring that ordinary people in the region, including most importantly the Angolans themselves, become part of a big peace movement," said Vusi Gqumeni, director of the Durban-based African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (Accord).

"Their participation will give the process the vital pressure it will need to succeed," he told the conference, saying similar forces in South Africa had helped to destroy apartheid.

The Harare meeting has brought together more than 70 government officials, church leaders, academics, peacekeepers and non-governmental peace activists from Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Several speakers at the conference, organized by the private Harare-based Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies (SARIPS), suggested that peacekeeping should not be left to soldiers and politicians alone.

"The discussion in Angola has been dominated by attempts to reconcile political forces who understand the (peace) process as another way of consolidating the struggle for political power," said Sarpe deputy director Harold Cullens.

Angola's civil war raged for 19 years before a fragile peace took hold after the signing of an accord in Lusaka last November by the government and Unita guerrillas. — Reuter.
Promise to potential donors

Savimbi pledges an end to war

Brussels – Angolan opposition leader Jonas Savimbi pledged yesterday never to restart the disastrous civil war which devastated the country, killing hundreds of thousands of people and creating millions of refugees.

"I am here to tell you that I will never again take to the path of war, nor will my organisation," Savimbi told the opening session of an international aid conference.

Savimbi, seated next to one-time bitter foe President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, told the conference of potential donors that the days of war were well and truly over.

Dos Santos said a reconstruction programme of R2.5-billion requested by Angola was much more than a simple aid package. It was aimed at rehabilitating and rebuilding communities shattered by 19 years of civil war, and to anchor the new peace process.

He said he wanted to see the money channelled into infrastructure projects, and not be handed over in the form of direct grants.

The two-day conference, which has been held under the auspices of the European Union, brought together about 400 possible donors.

Angola is potentially one of Africa’s richest countries, but annual inflation is running at 1737%, and there is a widening gap in the US dollar/kwanza rate in a country where 90% of food and retail goods has to be imported.

The Luanda government faces a mountainous debt ratio of 365% of gross domestic product, with per capita GDP at just R1 500 – half that of five years ago.

Countries such as Sweden, with R22-billion, and South Africa, with R27-billion, have already come up with aid for strife-torn Angola. The United Nations has promised more than R300-million to help demobilise about 100 000 troops.

"If both parties in this conflict demonstrate their true commitment to peace, then it will be possible for us to intervene through our governments and request monies for reconstruction," said delegation member and former Belgian prime minister Wilfried Martens.

An earlier ceasefire in 1991 failed apart in bloodshed the following year when Savimbi lost to Dos Santos in presidential elections. – Reuter.
Angola appeals for help

International aid is urgently needed to rebuild the war-torn country

BRUSSELS – The two Angolan leaders pledged their commitment to the peace process and in return asked the international community to step up aid.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi took a united stance at the launch of a conference in Brussels.

The meeting is being organised by the EU and the UN to coordinate international aid to Angola.

"Three decades of war have gravely damaged our economy and our entire society," said Mr dos Santos.

"Today, finally, we can say the fighting has stopped and our number one priority is reconciliation."

He added that support from the international community is "indispensable" to the reconstruction of Angola.

And he said that as well as economic rebuilding, efforts are needed to clear mines, to return troops to barracks and to resettle displaced persons.

"The people of Angola call for your support and solidarity," he concluded.

"With your support and understanding, our people will construct the new and prosperous Angola of the future."

For Unita, Savimbi went out of his way to support the President's speech and the Angolan government's programme for reconstruction. "People think that I am going to turn back to war," he said.

"I can promise you that will not be the case," he added, to loud applause. "Unita has come here to reaffirm its willingness to contribute to peace.

"The President of the Republic and I have learned to trust each other again. We both want the ceasefire to be respected."

Earlier, Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene argued that Angola and its Southern African neighbours should copy the EU.

He said that just as the EU was built from the ruins after World War II, Southern Africa can perform a similar economic miracle now.

"All factors are in place to promote greater integration," he suggested.

EU Commissioner Mr Joao de Deus Pinheiro said the international community is willing to help Angola. However, he said this will require a "commitment to peace, and the respect of principles of good governance, transparency and efficiency for a sustainable absorption of the funds that will be made available."

This plea for peace and cooperation was addressed both to the Angolan government and to Unita. -

The Independent Foreign Service, Brussels.
Optimism for Angola

BRUSSELS: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed optimism yesterday that his country would not slide back into war and welcomed the positive approach of opposition Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

"The government and Unita have shown a clear political will to follow through with the programme of rehabilitation," Mr Dos Santos said on the first day of a conference to raise money to heal the scars of Angola's civil war.

He praised the international community's role in resolving the Angolan conflict.

Earlier, Dr Savimbi pledged not to restart the bitter civil war which devastated his country.

Meanwhile, Belgium announced it was offering $19 million (about R69.5m) towards reconstruction and the EU's humanitarian arm said it would make available over $9 million (about R33m) for emergency relief.

Angola has requested a reconstruction package of $700m (about R2.56bn). — Reuters
Widows, infirm beg for food aid

The Angus Foreign Service

JAMBA (Angola).—The Portuguese used to call it “the land at the end of the Earth” and that’s the way Jamba feels these days.

The herds of elephant from which the former Unita military headquarters took its name have been killed or moved on in search of precious waterholes. And it’s been three years since rebel leader Jonas Savimbi visited this bush camp in southern Angola near the Namibian border.

Once the centre of Unita’s operations where South African aircraft flew in supplies and tens of thousands of guerrillas trained, Jamba now has a lonely air of isolation. With Dr Savimbi and his military chiefs now installed in Unita-held Bailundo, members who have remained in Jamba sit in limbo.

Once fed and armed by Washington and South Africa, Unita has been badly hurt by two years of United Nations sanctions. Jamba’s proud population has been reduced to begging for food aid from international humanitarian organisations which fly in sacks of mealie meal and beans to feed a population whose biggest complaint is hunger.

The people of Jamba are particularly angry about Namibia’s closing of the common border and say security is not guaranteed for them to go back to their homes elsewhere in the country.

“The situation is getting worse and worse,” complained Jamba’s deputy governor, Alfred Kacunda.

“The blockades are unfair. The international community should do more. When there are two belligerents and an arbitrator, the arbitrator should lift the yellow card. But it hasn’t.”

He and other Unita officials in Jamba were eager for news of Luanda and about an expected summit in Brussels between Dr Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. They expressed caution about the peace process, remembering the previous truce which broke down in 1992.

“One worries this peace will go the same way,” said Mr Kacunda.

The men in Jamba say the biggest obstacle to peace is Executive Outcomes, the South African company which has provided military aid to the MPLA government. Its “mercenaries” include former members of the South African Defence Force who once supported Unita and this provokes a particular bitterness.

“Traitors,” spat one Unita man.

Diplomats say Executive Outcomes has set up front companies, allegedly working in sectors such as security, transport and medical supply across the country. They believe perhaps troops are on standby.

Now that most Unita troops have gone “up north”, international aid workers put Jamba’s population at around 45,000, many of them widows or the infirm.

Few residents were spotted during a recent visit to the base. At Freedom Square in the central camp, where Dr Savimbi used to stage joyous rallies inspiring his supporters with long speeches and festivities, a handful of amputees sat listlessly in wheelchairs.

Gone are the Afrikaans-speaking advisers who schooled Unita troops in the fine art of military life. The only foreigners are a couple of aid workers who live in a separate section known as the “hotel” and who deliver polio vaccinations and meals rather than arms.

Journalists, who in the old days were periodically flown in by the plane load for well-orchestrated rallies, are now an anomaly. A visitor is greeted with some wariness and credentials studied in detail.

Unita members declined to take me to the movement’s old factories where propaganda was printed, uniforms were stitched and war materials repaired.

Fuel is hard to come by and a request to visit other parts of the settlement, which consists of various camps of huts made of elephant grass sprawled over a large area, were politely declined.

The market offered scant fare—a few bags of sugar, a couple of wilted cabbages and miniscule tomatoes. The only protein in sight was some fly-coated red meat ribs identified as “cangary”, or spring hare.

The 20-year civil war between the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government and Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) officially ended last November. But incidents still occur across the country, and both sides agree their truce is still fragile.

Demobilisation of Unita’s estimated 70,000 troops is yet to take place and the government is training elsewhere.

Jamba was established in 1978 in a clearing in the jungle. Many of the remaining residents were among the thousands who trekked hundreds of kilometers from the central plateau for months on end to reach their new promised land.

Among them was Aurelio Meladi.

He was born in Huambo province where Dr Savimbi and the leadership have returned. Now he awaits instructions, hoping to be recalled there.

“This place should be a museum to the struggle one day,” he said, showing the old warehouse and billboards of Dr Savimbi which are omnipresent all over the camp. In many respects, it already is a museum.
$1-bn pledged to help Angola

Brussels — A show of unity from the two leaders of Angola has won them a $1-billion bonanza. Pledges announced on Tuesday night from an international donors' conference for Angola are expected to exceed the $1-billion mark (about 83,68-billion).

The conference was organised in Brussels by the UN and the European Union — and aimed at raising $700-million for Angola.

However, UN representative Alioune Blondin Baye revealed yesterday that pledges for reconciliation and restoration in Angola have reached $780-million.

On top of this, there have been pledges of humanitarian assistance of $207-million.

However, the UN believes that further pledges are in the pipeline — to push the total over the $1-billion mark.

The conference saw a memorable meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

Both agreed on a united front, and claimed the civil war was firmly over.

EU Commissioner Stavros Dimas, foreign minister, played an important role in bringing the two Angolan leaders together. Angolan Social Affairs Minister Albino Malungo welcomed the outcome of the Brussels meeting.

"We are very happy," he said. "The chances of a permanent peace have been improved, and I hope Angola can now look to a bright future." — Independent Foreign Service.
Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE two leaders in Angola's long-running civil war sat side by side in Brussels this week, begging for funds to rebuild the country their followers have shattered.

Jonas Savimbi, the opposition Unita leader whose United States — and South African-backed rebels prolonged the 20-year conflict and ruined Angola, killing thousands, promised that he would never again resort to arms.

Sitting next to his bitter rival, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, for only the third time since last November's ceasefire, Savimbi was cheered as he told the opening session of a two-day conference: "I am here to tell you that I will never again take to the paths of war, nor will my organisation."

More than 400 participants, including government agencies, aid organisations, international bodies and private companies, are attending the conference, called by the European Commission to organise a $500-million rebuilding programme.

The commission has given almost $90-million in aid over the last two years, though only about a third has been for rehabilitation projects.

Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese EU commissioner in charge of relations with African countries, promised nearly $50-million in reconstruction aid this year, rising to more than $80-million by the end of 1997, with additional funding for humanitarian projects.

Dos Santos claimed that Angola did not need just an aid programme but rehabilitation, to make last year's peace settlement more secure. He called for the money to be channeled into reconstruction projects, not handed over in cash.

Angola's inflation rate is 1,737 percent, 20 percent of its population are refugees, and at least 500,000 people were killed in the war.

Last year it had debts of more than £7-billion, three and a half times its export earnings. The country is thought to be littered with 10-million mines.

Among the projects proposed were training for adults to help children suffering from stress caused by the war, improved drainage, water and sanitation facilities, and agricultural development programmes.

Jean-Luc Delhamme, the Belgian prime minister, said of the two leaders: "Their presence in Brussels is irrefutable proof that the war in Angola is no more than a memory, and that all the Angolan people are now set on a future of peace and development." — The Guardian
Angola accord sought on forming national army

NEW YORK — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called on the Angola government and Unita to conclude "without delay" discussions on forming a new national army.

"Unless an equitable, practical accord was reached soon, the issue could become a serious obstacle to the quartering of troops," he said in a report to the Security Council, scheduled to consider it behind closed doors today.

But, Mr Boutros-Ghali said continuing dialogue, including meetings between the factions, was generating greater mutual trust, although there was tension at lower levels in certain regions.

It was important they continued to back declarations with concrete action.

"They should refrain from troops movements or military activities that might create tension or lead to renewed hostilities," he said. — The Argus Foreign Service.
Savimbi offers peace pledge

UNITA leader upbeat after tour to promote his new image in the region’s states

Lusaka – Angolan former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said yesterday that he regretted plunging his country back into civil war in 1992, saying that if he had been committed to peace then as he was today, a resumption of hostilities could have been avoided.

At the end of a tour of southern Africa to promote his new image as a man of peace, Savimbi told a press conference that he no longer felt disappointment at not being elected president in 1992.

He said he was happy with the post he has been offered.

“I am not disappointed with the turn of events but what I regret deeply in my 37 years of fighting is the fighting we began in 1992, because this could have been avoided had we exhibited the same political will as today,” said the 61-year-old leader of the main opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

He added: “The highest office in our country is to have peace, and my troops and officers have all accepted that it is better to play a constructive role than to have the post of president.”

After the Lusaka protocol for peace signed last November, he has been offered the second vice-presidency in the country by his war-time rival, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in a government of national unity to be set up in January.

Unita will also have four cabinet and seven deputy ministerial posts.

Savimbi has been visiting southern African states to seek support for his commitment to peace and confidence in the Lusaka protocol, which is running behind schedule at almost all stages.

He returned to his Balundu headquarters in the central Angolan highlands saying he was a “very happy and satisfied” man and that his tour had enriched his relations with southern African heads of government. – Sapa-AFP.

Horror amid the beauty

Photographer Mykel Nicolaou recently visited southern Angola as a guest of the Red Cross. His images and impressions are ‘a few realities of the daily life’ in this war-ravaged land

A six-hour flight from Luanda Airport took our King Leopold II to Lobito, south of Luanda. The Red Cross uses Lobito as a distribution centre for the area.

The airport is well maintained, like most military bases. The town, by contrast, is rundown and almost devoid of any amenities. Raw sewage floods on to the streets and mounds of domestic refuse pile up in this most beautiful coastal resort town.

The gracious colonial buildings, shaded by tall palm trees, bear mute testimony to the savage war that has raged for more than two decades, their facades pockmarked from rifle fire and hardly a pane of glass to be seen in any of the still-intact window frames.

The presence of my camera drew close scrutiny from the military, and Red Cross workers continually reminded me that I could be arrested for taking any unauthorised pictures.

After a 30km “overland drive” which took three hours we arrived at the northern town of Cahumbelo, a small coastal village which boasts a bustling market, railway and refugee centre.

After a frustrating two-hour tour of the camp, again under continual scrutiny by the military, we headed back to the Lobito headquarters of the Red Cross, a lot wiser but unable to record adequately any of the heart-rending scenes at the camp.

Also frustrated, by flight delays, were the Red Cross helpers trying to get to Gundo – an hour’s flight inland and home to a large refugee population where much-needed food, medical supplies, blankets, water containers and other basic humanitarian needs are distributed.

The refugees did finally receive their supplies a few days later, but too late for me to accompany the mission, as connections back to South Africa could not be delayed.

Suffering of war ... a young landmine victim walks along the peninsula at Lobito. As many as 10-million mines still lie unexploded in Angola.
Angolan oil production set to grow

By Christina Muller

Luanda - Angolan oil production is expected to grow by at least 15 percent next year, rising from 835,000 barrels a day to more than 730,000.

José da Silva, managing director of state oil company Sonangol, said: "Investments in new offshore fields as well as reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed by war in Soyo will bring our production of crude up by at least 95,000 barrels a day," said da Silva.

"David said the largest increase would be in Angola's northern Cabinda enclave, responsible for 60 percent of the country's output, and where liftings are projected to rise from 400,000 barrels a day to 450,000 barrels a day in the course of next year."

"Blocks 2 and 3 should also increase production," he said.

"Producing 50,000 barrels a day, liftings in Texaco operated Block 2 are forecast to rise to 90,000 barrels a day by the middle of next year, while Block 3, operated by Elf Aquitaine, produces 180,000 barrels a day and will grow slightly to 150,000 barrels a day."

"For Angola, a reason for pride is production in Block 4."

"It is the only block operated by Sonangol, and we have completed two more fields," David said.

"Liftings there should go from 5,000 to 10,000 barrels a day by the beginning of the year."

But he said that the success with Block 4 did not mean that the Angolan government would enter into larger scale operations in other oilfields to be found among about 20 blocks still being prospected.

"Offshore production," he said, "would remain confined to the Soyo region next year."
Angola calls for SA investment in reconstruction

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

Angola desperately needed a massive injection of South African investment and would be suggesting ways it could be assisted in reconstruction after the end of the civil war in that country, according to Angolan Ambassador Manuel Rodrigues.

He said in an interview with The Star that efforts were being made to improve trade relations between the two countries, particularly with regard to oil, diamonds and coffee.

The Luanda government believed that roads, bridges and farms were priorities for rehabilitation in order to allow Angola to achieve its goal of national unity, he added.

"Independence celebrations this weekend have been more important to the country than any over the last 20 years," he said. "For the first time since our fratricidal war, all our peoples are represented in the government as a result of the Lusaka Accord signed between the MPLA and Unita. This 20th anniversary is of great importance."

Angola intended to ensure that the peace would be a lasting one, and to that effect President Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi held regular discussions.

Rodrigues said his country would welcome back former Portuguese colonists who had fled the land as a result of the war and would provide opportunities for them to participate in the rebuilding process. Angolan-born Portuguese and other nationalities can opt for Angolan nationality.

"We would also like South Africans to look at Angola as a potential country in which to live and invest. Your country has the technical know-how and the expertise to play a major role and we look forward to that assistance."

Rodrigues admitted there were "some security problems" in the remote northern parts of the country but did not believe that isolated incidents would cause a breakdown.

"We have never reached such a stage of peace before. Dos Santos and Savimbi exchange views regularly, and the United Nations is now deployed here which means that peace can be maintained."

"We do not think that Savimbi will stop the peace process, which we are sure will not go backwards."

He gave as his reasons the fact that the southern African region was "different now to what it was previously. Namibia is democratic, there is a new South Africa, peace has come to Angola and Mozambique, and democracy is on the march in Zambia."

"If problems do arise, then we will stop them ourselves," he added.
Angolan poverty trap: Spawns a return to slash and burn
Unita hoodwinking UN, warn Angolan generals

By CHRIS SIMPSON: Luanda

WHEN the war broke out in late 1992, Maria de Rosaria fled her home in the city of N'dalatando and walked 200km to the capital, Luanda. “I was pregnant at the time,” she recalls.

While N’dalatando is now safely back under government control and has seen no fighting in over a year, Maria is in no hurry to return. “What if Unita and the government fall out again? Do you think I’m going to go through all that again?”

Mrs de Rosaria’s views are echoed by Angolans living in government and Unita areas. One year on from the signing of the Lusaka protocol, the Angolan peace agreement still generates little enthusiasm from those it was meant to benefit.

But even the sceptics among those trying to implement it concede that things could be an awful lot worse. There were many observers at the time of the signing who believed the peace would collapse in a matter of months, falling victim to Unita’s bloody-mindedness, the government’s arrogance or the United Nations’ incompetence. But the Lusaka protocol has proved remarkably durable.

Suspicions, however, remain and Unita’s intentions are far from clear. Eugenio Manuvaiko, who signed the peace agreement for the movement as its chief negotiator, is reportedly under house arrest at Unita headquarters in Bailundo. While Jonas Savimbi has now met three times with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, stressing each time his willingness to come in from the cold, the Unita leader’s constant emphasis on “peace with dignity” suggests he still wants more than the government will offer.

Unita’s record of co-operation with the UN peacekeeping operation has been mixed. Tensions could be greatly eased if Unita delivers on its promise to send thousands of troops into specially designated “quartering areas”. The government has made it clear it will only deal with Unita as a demilitarised political movement.

The government’s attitude to the peace process is ambiguous, with a section of the military complaining that the UN is simply being hoodwinked by Unita.

“They’ve achieved nothing so far,” a general recently said. “It will work when Unita is finally finished as a military force. But don’t hold your breath.”
LUANDA. — Unitas fighters have moved into a United Nations-supervised holding area in central Angola, one of the first real signs that the country's enemies are meeting the terms of a peace accord signed a year ago.

UN envoy Alphonse Blondin Beye, observers and members of a joint peace commission witnessed the movement of the fighters into the Villa Nova assembly area in the central highlands province of Huambo, state radio reported.

More fighters are due to move into the assembly area and into another quartering camp in the province, at Londjimba, until between 4,000 and 5,000 are in each.

Fifteen camps have been established for Unitas, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

In another development aimed at underpinning the fragile peace, UN peacekeepers inspected assembly areas being set up for the government's special paramilitary police in terms of the peace accords that halted the nearly two decades-long civil war.

The Angolan news agency Angop, reported that 10 quartering camps had been earmarked for the paramilitaries and the Angolan government had given permission for quartering to begin.

Angop quoted Unitas's representative on the joint peace commission, Isais Samakuva, as saying that implementation of the Lusaka accords was far behind schedule.

Mr Samakuva said last week that Unitas would announce four nominees for posts in the unity government and the vice-presidency by Christmas, but added that this was too early.

"It will be at least seven months before the government of national unity happens, and we don't see how having a list of names can be useful," he said.

The posts have still to be decided. Unitas leader Jonas Savimbi has been conditionally offered one of two vice presidencies.

In spite of the accords, Unitas fighters and government soldiers and their leaders are deeply suspicious of each other and there have been dozens of violations of the ceasefire, although mostly on a limited scale. — Reuters.
Unita troops trickle into (5) camps

By Chris Simpson

"Your" presence here signals the beginning of a new era which is beginning for your country. This is an era full of promise for you, your parents and your children." With UN special representative Alcione Blondin Bey's effusive welcome ringing in their ears, 80-odd Unita troops finally came in for quartering at Villa Nova, the first of 19 camps to open its doors to Jonas Savimbi's soldiers.

If all goes to plan, Unita soldiers should be coming into Villa Nova at a rate of 900 a week. Weapons are to be handed in to Uruguayan peacekeeping troops, and uniforms swapped for civilian clothing. Along with items like razors, toothpaste and soap, Unita's recruits should also be receiving a modest "civic education," with the emphasis firmly on "national reconciliation" and how to build a better Angola. The UN hopes Villa Nova will provide an inspiring test case for the other camps, which should all be open by the end of the year.

The UN insists the quartering areas are "Unita's camps", with the UN and relief organisations playing only an auxiliary role. But for all Unita's rhetoric about self-help and discipline, UN insiders warn that Unita's co-operation is by no means secure.

"With Unita you simply never know what is coming next," one senior UN official complained. "You can have a discussion one day and think everything is resolved. Then, you come back the next day, and their position has changed out of all recognition."

This was exemplified at the farcical "peace ceremony" which marked Villa Nova's opening. Having demanded a special meeting on procedures for the ceremony and engaged in a bitter row with government representatives, Unita eventually agreed to hand over a lone AK-47 to the UN, a "symbolic gesture" which left the peace-makers bemused and embarrassed.

But for all Unita's misgivings about quartering its troops, the movement insists it is playing ball and that it is the government which is currently souring the peace. There has been a rash of fresh accusations against the government, focusing on new troop movements in the northern provinces of Uíge and Zaire, with further claims that South African mercenaries have been involved in the fighting.

The four South African nationals Unita captured in October are now rumoured to be at Unita headquarters in Bambando, but there have been no confirmed sightings. Unita has yet to deliver on its promise to display the four to the UN and the international press.
Angola ‘peace’: Unita won’t disarm

LUANIA - Angola’s fragile peace accord was dealt another blow when Angola’s Unita rebel movement said it would no longer take part in the disarmament of its forces in response to an offensive by government troops.

A statement issued at Unita’s headquarters in Bandaleno in the central highlands yesterday said Unita had decided to stop forthwith the “quartering” of its troops in United Nations assembly areas under Angola’s November 1994 peace accord forged in Lusaka.

Under the accord, “quartering” areas are assembly camps where Unita troops are to be disarmed and processed before they are demobilised or absorbed into the Angolan army.

The statement said Unita had decided to “re-evaluate the whole application process of the Lusaka protocol.”

It added: “The peace process in Angola is seriously compromised at this time. The attitude of the leadership of the government armed forces cannot be tolerated by Unita.”

The statement said government troops had occupied several areas of the country in violation of the accord, amid rising nearly two decades of civil war.

A joint peace commission monitoring implementation of the accord condemned the government offensive for the first time.

“The joint commission has condemned the recent government action. These military operations are not allowed,” UN special representative Alain de, a special representative of UN and a UN special representative of the UN, said, noting the offensive began as Unita started sending its guerrillas to the assembly camps.

The joint commission requested “immediate action” to end the government offensive and would be sending a mission to the town of Cuito Cuanavale, northern province of Angola, to assess the situation, he said. It was not immediately clear why government representatives were condemning the government offensive.

Government troops last week captured the town of Quinara and other positions near the Angolan oil town of Soyo on Angola’s northern coast, Unita said in the statement.

The offensive began the same day that Unita troops began assembling at UN-supervised assembly camps. - Reuters.
Angolan parties due to meet at home

LUANDA — President Jose Eduardo dos Santos had invited Unit-a leader Jonas Savimbi for a face-to-face meeting on Angolan territory on December 20, the president said yesterday.

Dos Santos, speaking to reporters before embarking on a visit to Washington, said he had invited Savimbi in the hope of getting the flagging Angolan peace process back on track.

Since the government and Unita, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, signed peace accords in November 1994, the two leaders have met only in other African nations and at an international donors conference in Brussels.

The invitation came after the UN and the US harshly criticised a government offensive against Unit-a last week in oil-rich, northern Zaire province.

Dos Santos moved to diffuse criticism on Tuesday by backing plans to free some 140 Unit-a prisoners still in government jails, start demobilising riot police units in Luanda and pull back troops from around a UN-monitored demobilisation camp for Unit-a troops in central Angola.

But Unit-a announced it was suspending demobilisation, warning that the peace process was "seriously compromised".

Half a million Angolans have died since civil war erupted on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975. Millions more have been left maimed, homeless and threatened by disease and starvation in this once prosperous southern African nation.

During a meeting of his top advisory Council of the Republic on Tuesday, dos Santos dispatched two trusted officials, Higino Carneiro and Faustino Muteke, to Unit-a headquarters to invite Savimbi to the December 20 meeting.

The venue for the invitation was not disclosed. Dos Santos declined to say yesterday whether Savimbi had in fact responded.

The invitation was extended a day after UN special envoy Alcione Blondin Buye slammed the government for last week's offensive on the town of Sumba and five other localities. — Sapa-AP.
DOS SANTOS 'WON'T RENEW CONTRACT'

SA mercenaries are to pull out of Angola

JOHANNESBURG: Executive Outcomes is reviewing its position following President Eduardo dos Santos’ statement that he is to order its military advisers to leave.

SOUTH AFRICAN mercenaries working as military advisers to the Angolan army are to be withdrawn, their Pretoria-based company says.

Claiming that they had “helped end one of the bloodiest civil wars in Africa”, Executive Outcomes said yesterday its decision followed reported remarks made by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Washington on Friday that he was ordering the men out of Angola and cancelling the contract with the company.

“In view of the statement released by President Dos Santos... the time has come for Executive Outcomes to begin rationalising its activities according to the market demands in Angola,” the company said in a statement released through its lawyer.

Angola’s year-old peace accord is looking increasingly shaky. Diplomatic sources said it was believed that Mr Dos Santos had made his statement to meet President Bill Clinton’s demands for bold steps to underpin the peace process.

Executive Outcomes did not say when it would withdraw its men, believed to number several hundred, and officials in Luanda were not available for comment.

The company said it had always made it clear it would leave Angola “when advised by the Angolan government that it had fulfilled its contract to (the Angolans') satisfaction”.

Military analysts have said that Executive Outcomes, which employs veterans of South Africa's apartheid wars in Angola and then South-West Africa, played a key role in transforming the Angolan army into an effective fighting force against Dr Jonas Savimbi’s Unita rebels.

The Angolan army, aided by the South Africans, launched an offensive against Unita last year, driving it out of most major towns and cities, including its Central Highlands stronghold of Huambo. At least 10 South Africans have disappeared in fighting in Angola in the past two years. Most, if not all, are thought to have been killed. — Reuter
Angola's commitment to peace is questioned.

NEW YORK — The failure of warring factions in Angola to honour a ceasefire has called into question their commitment to peace in the nation, according to a United Nations report.

The report said the “repeated failure by both sides to honour their undertakings has cast doubt on the reality of that commitment” to the peace accords signed by Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

“The government and Unita must demonstrate through concrete action that they are indeed committed to peace and that they are ready to correct these negative factors,” UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said.

The UN Verification Mission has designated 8,000 peacekeepers to make sure the truce is respected.— Sapa-AFP.
Unita rebels to ‘push for peace’

PARIS – Angola’s former rebel movement favours talks between its leader Jonas Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to push forward the peace process in the war-devastated country, Unita has declared.

In a statement issued from its base in Bialundo and received in Paris yesterday, Unita called for appropriate conditions for the meeting “to produce concrete results for consolidating peace in Angola”.

Unita declared that the permanent committee of its political commission had met to “examine in depth the crisis that has developed in the country since the offensive by government forces in Zaire province and an increase in government troop movements” in the provinces of Lunda-Norte, Lunda-Sol and Bie in eastern and central Angola.

UN officials are trying to persuade Unita to keep its troops at Vila-Nova in central Angola. Both sides are demobilising their forces under a peace accord reached in November last year. But Unita suspended the operation at the beginning of this month after government soldiers attacked its positions.

The UN special envoy to Angola, Alioune Blondin Bete, last Thursday confirmed that the UN Angola Verification Mission (Unavem III) had noted that government troops had begun to withdraw from Unita strongholds.

Unavem III is responsible for supervising implementation of the peace plan, which provides for a political settlement, the demobilisation of the rival armies and the formation of a joint national defence force.

However, the head of the Unita delegation in a joint commission, Issaias Samakuva, said last week that he had no indications from his aides that government troops were pulling back.

Beye warned that a “crisis of confidence” could shake Angola’s foreign partners if both sides continued to put obstacles in the way of a peace settlement and expressed “serious concern” at ceasefires violations by both sides. The UN has confirmed many violations by government forces in the north and by Unita in the eastern Lunda-Norte province.

The rival sides appeared to be vying for control of mineral-rich zones in Angola, potentially a wealthy nation whose oil-based economy has been wrecked by the civil war since 1975. Dos Santos has proposed to meet Savimbi on Angolan territory on December 20. – Sapa-AFP.
Angola and UN in urgent meeting to resolve peace accord 'crisis'

LUANDA.— The Angolan government has held urgent talks with the United Nations special representative and diplomats over a "crisis" in the country's peace process.

The talks focused on the faltering Lusaka peace accord signed by the government and the rebel Unita movement 13 months ago.

They were concerned with "an actual crisis in the application of the Lusaka Protocol", a report said.

Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement halted the demobilisation of its fighters last month, following the occupation by government troops of five towns in Unita-controlled areas in the northern Zaire province.

The government's deputy chief representative on the joint peace commission, General Higino Carneiro and UN special representative Alouane Blondine Beye took part in the talks, which included the ambassadors of Russia, the United States and Portugal.

The government and Unita have accused each other of renewed military actions over the past weeks, in contravention of the peace agreement.

Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has accused Angolan government forces of attacking its forces at the town of Quixete in the northern Uige province.

The government has denied the accusations and, on Thursday, accused Unita of stepping-up operations against civilians in Huila, Namibe and Cunene provinces in the south.

It was reported late on Thursday that Unita was concentrating troops and equipment in the town of Camaqua, northeast of its central highlands stronghold of Huambo.

Mr Beye flew to Huambo for the second time in a week on Thursday where he held talks with Dr Savimbi.

The UN representative told reporters on his return to Luanda that he had discussed aspects of the peace process with Dr Savimbi, but refused to divulge details.

The UN security council earlier this month expressed growing impatience at delays in carrying out key parts of the peace accord. The UN has sent more than 6,000 troops to Angola to help implement the peace accord.

Planned talks between Dr Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos have been called off several times during the past few weeks. State radio said the two men could meet early next year.

Tens of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced in the war which erupted after independence from Portugal in 1975. — Reuters.
ANGOLA - GENERAL

1996
Coping with a painful present

LUANDA - Nestled among elegantly appointed buildings and crowded streets, this city's only mortuary is a potent reminder of Angola's deadly war and past painful present.

The building itself is grossly neglected and infested with rats, but it is almost empty. Outside, a dozen bloated corpses lie rotting in the midday sun. Of the morgue's original four freezers, only one remains.

"Why should Angolans waste any effort on the dead when the living have so little?" asks Mueli Pinto, a project officer with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Angola, a former Portuguese colony that has been ravaged by more than 30 years of civil war, is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Even now, oil giants like Total and Chevron pump millions of barrels of black crude from offshore rigs. In the interior, Brazilians, Russians and South Africans mining firms harvest more than two million carats of diamonds every year.

An elite class of Angolan and international business people is still visible in the country's dying cities. In the capital of Luanda, glamorous models parade designer fashions and Bar-B-Q steak houses flock to exclusive nightclubs for rich clients who pay with American dollars.

South African mercenaries

In several frontier towns, British diamond buyers, Russian pilots and South African mercenaries rub shoulders at dinner establishments where bottles of whisky sell for up to $100 (about R360) each.

Despite its apparent wealth, Angola's economy and health infrastructure have been almost completely destroyed by war. The country has the world's highest child mortality rate, with one in three children dying before the age of five. Malnutrition is still common in isolated rural communities.

The country's currency, the kwanz, is so depleted that middle-class citizens carry their money home in shopping bags. The exchange rate, when compared to the American dollar, changes by as much as 25 percent a day.

Many international observers blame feudng political factions for the country's collapse. The government, which is controlled by the pro-Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), spends more than $1.7 billion (R6.1 billion), or 50 percent of its resources, on the military. In contrast, only two percent of the budget is spent on health services.

In many areas controlled by the rebel group Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) a movement that was supported by the United States until the early 1990s, health services are non-existent. Corruption has also taken its toll. Expensive hospitals, built with international aid in decades past, sit virtually empty, robbed of all equipment and drugs.

Government doctors, most of whom are paid the equivalent of R200 ($72) a month, sell their services to the highest bidders. In Luanda, a remote diamond-mining town in northwestern Angola, a Caesarian section operation costs R310 ($1080), or 20 times the average monthly wage.

"When there is war, there is corruption," concedes Benjamin N'Dembo, a government health official from southern Angola. "Our hospitals will only begin saving people when there is peace."

Unita delegate Christian Vomund believes the international community has a responsibility to lobby both the government and the rebels to end hostilities and begin rebuilding the country's health infrastructure.

Despite signing a peace accord in late 1994, the country is still divided into militarised zones. Army roadblocks and mines make land travel extremely dangerous, if not impossible, in many parts of the country.

"Unita and the international community in general have the credibility to convince the government to mobilise its own resources to restore health services," says Vomund. "We are working with the government to accomplish this goal."

But UN agencies like Unicef have their own detractors. Some development workers quietly accuse the UN of gross mismanagement and corruption.

According to an internal report, about 40 percent of the $21 million (R76 million) that Unicef spent in Angola in 1994 went to "cash" expenses. The rest was spent on supplies.

In Luanda's black market, stolen Unicef drugs are sold openly in corrugated iron booths, alongside imported European and South African medicines.

The UN agencies are so big they get away with it," says one aid worker. "They do good work but they also lose a lot of money in some pretty funny ways."

Vomund defends Unicef, saying it has accomplished many of its aims, despite ongoing conflicts in several regions of the country.

Most relief supplies must still be transported by air, which is an extremely expensive form of travel. And the agency has supported many technical experts to the government, which has few skilled employees.

Shocking state of health

Despite Angola's shocking state of health, aid workers say the situation has improved slightly over the past year.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which specialises in providing relief to war-torn countries, recently opened a major new supply route between the port of Lobito, and the besieged city of Moxico, where malnutrition had killed thousands of children.

"Angola's health needs are somewhat different from what they were last year," says Sue Featherstone, a Red Cross information officer.

"In 1994, we were doing almost purely emergency relief. Now we are starting water projects and supporting local clinics. We haven't seen peace yet but we're seeing some positive developments."

Both the government and Unita continue to talk about peace, but the two party's leaders have never met inside the country's borders. And both sides still accuse the other of fomenting war.

A previous peace agreement, following by democratic elections in which the MPLA won a landslide victory in 1992, resulted only in Unita resuming hostilities. Inisias Samalala, a senior Unita negotiator, is optimistic about Angola's long-term future but admits the fate of average Angolans is not likely to improve soon.
Advisers’ quitting Angola won’t be prosecuted

BY LARA SMITH

Former defence force members employed by the Pretoria-based company Executive Outcomes – implicated in mercenary activities in several African states – would not be prosecuted on their return to South Africa from Angola as there was no evidence linking them to such activities, a source at the Transvaal attorney-general’s office said yesterday.

South Africa’s laws prohibit its soldiers from working as mercenaries.

The source said: “There have always been rumours, but we cannot take steps unless someone comes forward and declares under oath that they were in fact mercenaries.”

Police sources also said they could not arrest alleged mercenaries unless a formal charge was laid, and the matter should be referred to the military police if there had been a breach of the Defence Act.

The act states: “... any person who is a member of the South African Defence Force or the Reserve or an auxiliary or voluntary nursing service established in terms of this act, and who binds himself to serve or renders service as a mercenary ... shall be guilty of an offence.”

It also stipulates that anyone who “does anything with intent to advise, encourage, assist, incite, instigate, suggest or otherwise persuade” any defence force member to serve as a mercenary will also be guilty.

Executive Outcomes disclosed this week that it was withdrawing its employees from Angola, where they have been serving as “security advisers” to the Angolan government.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos revoked the former soldiers’ contracts following pressure from the United States.

However, Executive Outcomes spokesman Nico Palm said no soldier employed by a legitimate government could be called a mercenary.
Education campaign unveiled

Kevin O'Grady

THE ANC-led national co-ordinating forum on education yesterday announced a campaign, intended to speed up the transformation of education, that will end by focusing on the 20th anniversary of the June 1976 Soweto students' uprising.

The forum, consisting of the ANC; Cosatu, the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, the SA Communist Party, the Congress of SA Students, the SA Students' Congress and ANC provincial education MECs, held a workshop at the weekend to consider the current state of education in SA.

Announcing the campaign at a news briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus said the campaign included:
- Domesticisation of the governance of SA's schools and other educational institutions;
- The pursuit of free and compulsory education for all children;
- Improving the quality of education through, among other things, curriculum development, in-service education and training for teachers and rebuilding a culture of learning and teaching;
- Supporting the education department's initiative on adult basic education and training; and
- Actively taking part in broad transformation forums at all higher education institutions, particularly on the issues of exclusions, fees, governance structures and the recently announced government bursary and loan scheme.

Chief among the immediate concerns of the campaign was the "perennial crisis" faced by schools at the beginning of each year.

All structures of the tripartite alliance and the democratic movement would work towards ensuring that schools reopened and functioned normally as soon as possible.

The forum came out in support of government plans for the redeployment of teachers from provinces where there was a surplus to regions where they were needed, and said provincial education departments should only retrench teachers as a last resort.

The current situation was that retrenchments would take place only if there was resistance to redeployments.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports KwaZulu-Natal education officials had called in extra staff to end delays — due to marking errors — in processing matric results affecting more than 8,000 former Department of Education and Training candidates, provincial examination task team member Craig Lancaster said yesterday.
Poverty stalks war-torn Angola

Luanda — Nested among elegant mansions, this city's only mortuary is a potent reminder of Angola's wealthy past and painful present.

The dirty building is almost empty, while outside a dozen blown-out corpses lie rotting in the sun. Of the mortuary's eight original freezers, only one remains.

Angola was one of the richest countries in Africa before being ravaged by 30 years of civil war. Even now, oil companies like Texaco and Chevron pump millions of barrels of crude oil from offshore rigs. In the interior, Brazilian, Russian and South African mining firms mine more than 2 million carats of diamonds every year.

An elite class of Angolan and international businessmen is still visible in decaying cities.

Despite its apparent wealth, Angola's economy and health infrastructure have been almost completely destroyed by the war. The country has the world's highest child mortality rate, with one in three dying before they are five.

The exchange rate of the currency, the kwanzo, to the dollar changes by as much as 15 percent a day.

Many international observers blame feuding political factions for the country's collapse. The government, controlled by the MPLA, spends more than $1.7 billion, or 80 percent of its resources, on the military. Only 2 percent of the budget is spent on health.

In many areas controlled by the rebel group, Unita, health services are non-existent.

Corruption has also taken its toll. Expensive hospitals, built with international money in decades past, sit virtually empty, robbed of all equipment and drugs.

United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) delegate Christian Youmard believes the international community has a responsibility to lobby the government and the rebels to end hostilities and begin rebuilding the health infrastructure.

"Unicef and the international community in general have the credibility to convince the government to utilise its own resources to restore health services," says Youmard.

"We are working with the government to accomplish this goal."

But UN agencies like Unicef have their detractors. Some development workers quietly accuse the UN of gross mismanagement and corruption. An internal report says about 40 percent of the $21 million that Unicef spent in Angola in 1994 went to cash expenses. The rest was spent on supplies.

Youmard defends Unicef, saying it has accomplished many of its aims, despite conflicts in several regions.

Aid workers say the situation has improved slightly over the past year and the International Committee of the Red Cross recently opened a supply route between the port of Lobito and the besieged city of Huambo.

Jesús Samakuva, a senior Unita negotiator, is optimistic about Angola's long-term future but admits the fate of average Angolans is not likely to improve soon.

"We are still in a mini-war state. We believe Angola will see peace and prosperity eventually but perhaps not in the near future," says Samakuva. — Independent Foreign Service
Last Executive Outcome members leave Angola

PRETORIA. — Executive Outcomes — the controversial company which has been providing military instructors to Angola — said the last of its members have now left the country.

In a statement in Pretoria it said its last members in the country had left Cabo Ledo, Angola, at noon on Thursday, ending the company's contract with the Angolan armed forces.

The company's contract with the Angolan government had initially been for a year.

"But due to the satisfaction of the Angolan armed forces, the contract was extended for a further 12 months, and then on a month-to-month basis for a final four months," the company said.

The last South Africans to depart were seen off by senior Angolan army officers.

"Executive Outcomes is proud of the role it was able to play in Angola in order to end one of the longest civil wars in Africa," the company said.

"This fact was confirmed by Angolan commanding officer General de Matos in his farewell speech to members of the corporation."

Executive Outcomes said it hoped the Angolan rebel movement Unita would keep its promise to repatriate all hostages it had taken, whether they be dead or alive.

An Angolan army spokesman on Thursday reportedly said more than 500 "mercenaries" had been repatriated to South Africa.

In terms of a peace agreement in November, any mercenaries in Angola are to be repatriated. — Sapa.
Pushing for a Serious Peace in Angola

This month's short of his travels is to Angola, and President João Sôza has paid his first visit to the country. Could he become another Jimmy Carter?
Angola ... country in deep trouble

By Glenn McKenzie

My first insight into the political and economic travails that plague Angola came one morning after I flew off the plane at Luanda’s international airport.

A customs official placed a stamp on my documentation certifying that I had been immunised against cholera. The fact that I had not received any injections and indeed that immunisation for this disease is useless, was beside the point.

Now, whether I liked it or not, I was officially protected against cholera and had the stamp to prove it (the procedure cost me R150).

Long queue

Several hours later, after waiting in a long queue and after another official had given up trying to pay my $125 (R475) out of me, apparently because I had broken a serious Angolan law, I was handed my passports that have even the smallest chips or wrinkles, left the airport and drove into town.

Now, confronted with another close that this is not a healthy country.

This is the story of a country that I was able to go and hide myself. This in itself was not unusual. But each child was missing the health care system.

Inside the hotel, waiters wearing tuxedos, stylishly attired in their almost completely empty restaurant.

Rundown hospitals

During my two-week trip I saw many empty beds and sick children in the streets and clinics and public hospitals that were broken down, filthy and only the most basic equipment.

In the coastal city of Benguela, southern Angola, a beautiful private pharmacy had been built on the grounds of a hospital that is without drugs of its own. Only the rich can afford the services of the pharmacy.

In the town of Saurimo, Namibian doctors charged exorbitant rates for surgical procedures. Patients who did not have money (or influence) were left to die.

I had to remind myself that I was in a former communist country that had only recently been converted to capitalism. Like Russia, Namibia and Eastern bloc nations, it was noticeable that Angola would experience growing pains.

But I could not imagine another country where poverty and disease had affected average people so severely as here.

The entire country is preyed upon by international aid organisations and drug companies, which have prevailed through mass-starvation and epidemics on an enormous scale.

Meanwhile, the government spends only two percent of its budget on health care and almost none of that money makes its way to the people. In contrast, almost 50 percent of government spending goes to defence.

But who is the government defending? Many police officers (local residents call them “majadas”) are paid $100 a month (about R75). These pitifully low salaries force them to rob innocent civilians and foreigners.

I received first-hand proof of this last night when I was forced to walk home from Saurimo. There were no police and English-speaking taxi drivers are even harder to find.

On a dark, quiet street, I was stopped by several police officers, who ordered me to leave the coloured four-wheel drive vehicle. Suddenly, I understood how they got their nickname.

The officers searched me thorough, locked through my papers and gave me back everything, minus the $30 that I had been carrying.

Several minutes later, I was stopped by another moving band of policemen. They politely asked me for money, gently prodding me with their guns for effect.

“You are not my friends,” I said.

I am not sure if they understood. If they did, they did not tell me. They made me to take off my shoes and pro- cessed to search them first for hidden back packs. Eventually they let me go.

Robber cops

Part of our sympathies with these police officers-cum-robbery cops.

Their government expects them to secure peace and security on starvation wages. Meanwhile, rich oil barons, diamond miners, crooked foreign aid officials and foreign aid workers feast on wealth that appears beyond their reach.

International observers note that some very reputable aid organisations live in变量的 environments. It was difficult to fathom the incredible conditions between the rich and poor and to cope with a course citizen of death and corruption. How much more difficult must it be for the average Angolan to eradicate this miserable plight.

In Huambo, a former Urini town that has seen some of the worst violence in Angola’s 20-year civil war, the International Committee of the Red Cross has provided disaster relief to war victims when all other organisations could not.

But during Angola’s 1992 elections, when peace seemed just around the corner, the Red Cross withdrew many of its projects.

War flared up

When the war flared up again, the ICRC had its fingers burnt fairly badly and was obliged to retire — with great difficulty and at considerable cost — because equipment that had been left behind was predictably useless, and 30 vehicles were lost to Urini forces.

Now, after two years of renewed hostilities, a new peace agreement has emerged and Huambo has experienced another fall in the fighting.

Fiona Cuningham, a Red Cross medical coordinator from Britain, says the organisation is slowly moving away from emergency aid, while putting more emphasis on short-term development projects that can be taken over by other NGOs when real peace finally arrives.

Residents hope that will be soon. A year ago, no roads were open to Huambo. Now a ground route from the port of Lobito is regularly travelled by ICRC aid convoys. Seeds, tools and medical supplies can now be more readily brought to Huambo’s markets. are also starting to show signs of life.

Local nurses provide basic malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory disease treatment along with immunisations for young children.

“It is really amazing to see the change in this place. But the only hope is that it is permanent this time,” says Cuningham.

Hospital is for dying

By Glenn McKenzie

IN the sleepy mining town of Sauri-

mo, some 70 kilometers north of Lob- 

dela Province, a small hospital operates amongst a population of perhaps 150,000 people, most of whom are unemployed and without means to make a decent living.

The hospital, which was originally intended to serve the entire province, is filthy and almost completely empty. So many people turn to God, a small Irish organisation which equips and supervises several primary health care clinics in the surrounding townships (or barracks).

Tackle big tasks

Unlike some other non-governmental organisations in Angola, God operate on a small budget — about R175 a month at the year. But they tackle big tasks.

God’s Irish staff, volunteers who receive minimal living allowance, have worked for the past two years teaching disease preven-

tion, providing supplementary feeding for undernourished children and providing treatment for common ailments like malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory problems.

Another bright light in Saurimo’s bleak list of health services is a tuberculosis clinic, operated for the past year by private missionaries from the United Kingdom.

“The health services in Saurimo are bad, even by Angola’s stan-

dards. Most of these people have nothing, and sending them to the hospital is like sentencing them to death, says Mary Stuart, who runs the clinic.

Another organisation which has contributed enormously to Saurimo’s development is Save the Children, an American NGO which distributes food, seeds and supplies.

Thanks to this organisation, whose Saurimo staff is almost completely Angolan, 1996 will be the first year in more than a decade that residents will have at least a few weeks in try to put in place what have been cleared at the edge of the community.

“We hope to gradually phase out our food distribution program as the people become more self-sufficient,” says Gabriel Titucobo, Save the Children’s base manager in Saurimo.

Need for peace

Some aid workers believe the town will only begin to stand on its own when peace has finally arrived and when people have adequate means to make a living.

Recently the government closed down illegal diamond miners, many of whom are poor peasants.

These people have returned to their homes, but are unable to farm as much of the countryside sur-

rounding Saurimo is still off limits due to landmines and political divi-

sions between the government and Urini forces.

Although organised diamond mining still continues, most rough folk seem very little of the profits.
Unita taken to task by UN

LUANDA. — The United Nations has taken Angolan Unitas opposition to task for failing to keep to a peace timetable, saying promises are no longer enough. ARG 19/11/96

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said separately that planned peace talks between himself and Unitas leader Jonas Savimbi had been postponed at Unitas request. US ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright and UN special envoy to Angola Alioune Blondine Beye had harsh words for UNITA during a rare public session of the countrys joint ceasefire commission.

"When you make an agreement, you make an agreement," Mr Beye told Unitas delegates, referring to a January 15 deadline to begin demobilisation which the movement has failed to meet." — Reuters.
Distrust as SA ‘mercenary’ leave Angola

SOUTH AFRICA'S much-lambasted "mercenary" outfit Executive Outcomes is withdrawing from Angola, but not all its 'mercenaries' have boarded the planes back to South Africa. Stefaans Brümmer reports.

EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES IS CLOSING shop in Angola, but not all its 'mercenaries' have boarded the planes back to South Africa. Stefaans Brümmer reports.

That September, Executive Outcomes started the first of two consecutive 12-month contracts with the Angolan government, each worth about $20 million plus a similar amount for logistics. The company's strength in numbers was never disclosed, but a maximum of 500 men is thought to be accurate.

The involvement of South Africans — mostly from specialist units of the old South African Defence Force who fought alongside UNITA in the bush war — brought criticism from the South African government, which said it impaired South Africa's credibility as an impartial peace-maker.

That September, Executive Outcomes started the first of two consecutive 12-month contracts with the Angolan government, each worth about $20 million plus a similar amount for logistics. The company's strength in numbers was never disclosed, but a maximum of 500 men is thought to be accurate.

The involvement of South Africans — mostly from specialist units of the old South African Defence Force who fought alongside UNITA in the bush war — brought criticism from the South African government, which said it impaired South Africa's credibility as an impartial peace-maker.

Backers of their former enemy: Executive Outcomes personnel in Angola

As in the UNITA charge, Saracen is registered in Angola as a "public enterprise security company", legally entitled to the possession of arms. Legislation allowing for the creation of these "PESCs" was adopted by the Angolan parliament when the Lusaka Protocol outlawed mercenary activity.

Late last year, a push by government soldiers around Soyo — a United Nations-certified violation of the protocol — was claimed by UNITA as the reason it was halting the demobilisation of its soldiers, causing another delay in the peace process.

Not long afterwards an embattled President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos announced during a visit to Washington that he was abandoning the Executive Outcomes contract, which by then was being renewed monthly. That the government violation had been committed in Soyo, where Saracen is based, clearly increased UNITA's distrust of Executive Outcomes' holding company, and partly by Angolans.

A year ago, about the same time Saracen was starting up in Soyo, UNITA claimed it had information that Executive Outcomes, in response to pressure to withdraw, was transferring key military capabilities to a "public enterprise security company" staffed with new "mercenaries"; and that several hundred existing Executive Outcomes personnel would be repatriated in a public display to appease calls for the company's withdrawal.

Saracen appeared during a visit by reporters in April last year to be partially staffed by new recruits and partially by employees transferred from Executive Outcomes' original Angolan operations.

As in the UNITA charge, Saracen is registered in Angola as a "public enterprise security company", legally entitled to the possession of arms. Legislation allowing for the creation of these "PESCs" was adopted by the Angolan parliament when the Lusaka Protocol outlawed mercenary activity.

Late last year, a push by government soldiers around Soyo — a United Nations-certified violation of the protocol — was claimed by UNITA as the reason it was halting the demobilisation of its soldiers, causing another delay in the peace process.

Not long afterwards an embattled President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos announced during a visit to Washington that he was abandoning the Executive Outcomes contract, which by then was being renewed monthly. That the government violation had been committed in Soyo, where Saracen is based, clearly increased UNITA's distrust of Executive Outcomes' holding company, and partly by Angolans.

A year ago, about the same time Saracen was starting up in Soyo, UNITA claimed it had information that Executive Outcomes, in response to pressure to withdraw, was transferring key military capabilities to a "public enterprise security company" staffed with new "mercenaries"; and that several hundred existing Executive Outcomes personnel would be repatriated in a public display to appease calls for the company's withdrawal.

Saracen appeared during a visit by reporters in April last year to be partially staffed by new recruits and partially by employees transferred from Executive Outcomes' original Angolan operations.

EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES spokesper-son Nico Palm confirmed the business units would stay in Angola, but said Executive Outcomes had withdrawn "completely" and that suggestions of sinister motives behind the business operations were "politicising" by UNITA.

Meanwhile, this week's coup in Sierra Leone, where Executive Outcomes has a contract to support government forces in its fight against Revolutionary United Front guerrillas, may present the company with problems of credibility.

Executive Outcomes has always maintained it will only work for "legitimate governments", and defended its contract with Sierra Leone's military ruler, Captain Valantine Strasser, on the grounds that he was committed to democratic elections next month.
Angola looks to oil to spearhead recovery

AFP/24/11/99
War, Tonkin, Angola's Face of Despair

By Robert M. Metcalf

January 30, 1986

WASHINGTON—A new face of war is emerging in the world today. In Vietnam, the war continues to escalate in its destruction of life and property. In Angola, a civil war has erupted that threatens the stability of the country and its neighbors.

The United States military intervention in Vietnam has been a failure. The collapse of South Vietnam and the withdrawal of American troops have left the country in the hands of Communist forces. The war has caused millions of deaths and the destruction of infrastructure.

In Angola, the civil war has resulted in the displacement of millions of people. The conflict has forced many to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries. The war has also caused serious economic problems, with the country's economy in shambles.

The United States should not be involved in these conflicts. The war in Vietnam was a costly failure, and further military intervention is not the solution. Instead, the United States should focus on diplomatic solutions and working with the international community to find peaceful resolutions to these conflicts.

The world must take a stand against the use of force in these conflicts. The United States should lead the way in promoting peace and diplomacy, and工作

OPINION ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON—A new face of war is emerging in the world today. In Vietnam, the war continues to escalate in its destruction of life and property. In Angola, a civil war has erupted that threatens the stability of the country and its neighbors.

The United States military intervention in Vietnam has been a failure. The collapse of South Vietnam and the withdrawal of American troops have left the country in the hands of Communist forces. The war has caused millions of deaths and the destruction of infrastructure.

In Angola, the civil war has resulted in the displacement of millions of people. The conflict has forced many to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries. The war has also caused serious economic problems, with the country's economy in shambles.

The United States should not be involved in these conflicts. The war in Vietnam was a costly failure, and further military intervention is not the solution. Instead, the United States should focus on diplomatic solutions and working with the international community to find peaceful resolutions to these conflicts.

The world must take a stand against the use of force in these conflicts. The United States should lead the way in promoting peace and diplomacy, and work
With peace, Angolans talk of diamonds

EYEWITNESS

David Beresford in Luanda

Sitting on a hotel balcony, the ambassador recounted with gleaming eyes how a diamond prospector had invited him to grab a random handful of gravel from a river bed, and had then picked three precious gemstones from the palm of his hand.

Below, in Luanda's stinking, garbage-strewn streets, a streeturchin kicked his legs in the air for balance as he rooted through a roadside bin, and some men scavenged through rubbish with absent-minded indifference.

In a country where inflation stands at more than 3,000%, money has little more than a notional value, at least to the mass of its inhabitants. But that is not to say there is no wealth. This is a get-rich-quick country and the carpet-baggers are in town - many easily identifiable by their thick forearms and pot bellies which testify to a lifetime's love affair with Boer cooking, boerewors and beer.

For all their girth they are fit men, ex-soldiers and naval frogmen who have abandoned South Africa and the vicissitudes of affirmative action in pursuit of dazzling fortune. Diamonds - alluvial and maritimé - are the lure and the stories about them are legion. They speak of the fabled Cuango Valley, financing Unita's war to the tune of an estimated R108-million a month, and of Catoca, reputed to be the biggest diamond-bearing kimberlite pipe in the world, bigger even than Kimberley itself.

It was the lesson of Kimberley that the dealer, not the digger, is king. In recognition of this, De Beers and rival buyers are taking uncut pebbles off the street at top prices with no questions asked.

Testament to the riches in this country of the poor, a giant rig squats massively in Luanda Bay, undergoing maintenance. The black gold pumped out of Angola at the rate of some 635,000 barrels a day has financed the growing MPLA during 20 years of civil war, as well as generating sufficient profit to have the world's oil corporations jostling at the troughs.

There is yellow gold as well, waiting to be discovered, and a host of other minerals which have never been tapped. Angola's reserves are impossibly quantifiable as is the potential of other sectors of the economy. But, before war blighted it, this was Africa's second largest food producer and the world's fourth largest coffee exporter.

The economic potential offered by peace is obvious. But the chances of peace being established are far more uncertain, resting superficially on the round shoulders of Alioune Blondin Beye, the United Nations special representative.

The temptation is to characterise the base for the UN mandate for peacekeeping in Angola - Univem III, inconveniently and inexplicably situated some 35 minutes' drive away from the city centre along narrow and pot-holed roads - as a Tower of Babel. But "Vila Espa" is a flat, sprawling complex of container boxes, humming to the buzz of air-conditioning units under a baking African sun.

Beve seems to carry Univem by sheer force of enthusiasm. But the impracticability of the whole operation is reflected in the fact that Beve, who hails from Mali, is French-speaking in a Portuguese-speaking country, heading an operation which is administered in English. He even uses a translator to speak to his chief spokesman.

The contribution of mediation to the resolution of conflict is always debatable: more often than not, peace is the product of a convergence of circumstances over which the UN presides as a master of ceremonies.

Ten days ago the diplomatic corps was talking excitedly about such a convergence. There was apparently a new spirit of co-operation between Unita and the MPLA in supervising the ceasefire and moving towards military integration. The South African mercenaries working as military advisers had been given their marching orders by the government. The notorious "ninjas", the police rapid reaction force, were being restricted to base and political prisoners were being released.

But, by the weekend the endless cycle of optimism and pessimism that has accompanied 20 years of civil war was turning once more.

Jonas Savimbi had again called off a summit with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Unita's troops were failing to turn up at UN assembly points. Diplomats were sounding grave warnings of a pull-out by Univem. And amid the garbage of Luanda the talk was of diamonds.
Nzo to meet Dos Santos and Savimbi during Angola visit

BY DAVE LUTENBACH
Foreign Editor

Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo travels to Angola today for a meeting with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and senior Unita officials in Luanda.

Nzo, whose visit represents the first to Angola by a senior member of the Government, said his work there would be preparatory to a visit later in the year by President Nelson Mandela.

He stressed that his mission was strictly in support of the peace process.

He strongly denied that South Africa would make any attempt to “facilitate” solutions to some of the problems which have locked the peace process, now 10 months behind schedule, into a series of delays.

Nzo took a similar position on Swaziland, saying South Africa was not about to “ram down the throats of people what to do”.

Unlike the earlier example of preventive diplomacy in Lesotho, Swaziland had not requested assistance. In fact, Swaziland’s attitude to foreign intervention appeared rather hostile.

From Luanda, Nzo will travel to Morocco where he will discuss the ongoing impasse with the Polisario Front over Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.

Nzo confirmed that Mandela had been willing to extend diplomatic recognition to the Polisario state – the Saharawi Democratic Republic – but that United Nations secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali had asked him to withhold it, and to support the UN-sponsored process of a referendum on Western Sahara instead.

The Polisario Front, allies of the ANC during the South African struggle, are known to be deeply disappointed at this and have persistently lobbied the Government for its recognition.

Nzo will attempt to address this in part when he travels from Morocco to Algeria and meets the Polisario leadership in their exiled headquarters in Tindouf.

On the subject of Angola, Nzo said he would raise the issue of Executive Outcomes, which was a question of “very serious concern to the South African Government”.

Although the company was supposed to have withdrawn from Angola in terms of the peace process, “we are not sure all have returned”, Nzo said.

He added that South Africa would be putting forward its own point of view on the Angolan peace process.

However, Nzo was at pains to bring across that this should not in any way imply a South African intervention in that fragile accord.
Nzo lashes out at SA mercenaries in Angola

Soldiers for hire are an embarrassment to the Government, foreign minister asserts during talks

REUTERS
Luanda

Pretoria-based mercenaries operating in Angola were an embarrassment to his government, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said in Luanda yesterday.

Nzo, who is on a two-day visit to Angola preparing for a visit next month by President Nelson Mandela, yesterday met Angolan government and opposition Unita officials as well as United Nations special envoy to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beyo.

He was briefed separately by all three parties on Angola's 14-month-old peace process, which began in November 1994 with the signing of a pact between the Angolan government and Unita to end two decades of fighting.

Unita signed the accord after months of battlefield reverses at the hands of government forces advised by the South African mercenaries who supported Unita during the apartheid era.

The Angolan government recently repatriated the mercenaries, working for the Pretoria-based company Executive Outcomes at Unita's request.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi has said the mercenaries did not leave the country and had been absorbed into a company he named as Alpha 5, operating in the north-eastern part of the country. Nzo said Unita's Luanda representative, Abel Chivukuvuku, had raised the issue of the mercenaries during talks.

"As far as the question of Executive Outcomes is concerned, we informed Unita that in the course of our discussions with the Angolan government ... we were informed that all contracts have been cut, even though it is going to leave the (Angolan) government with certain financial liabilities," Nzo told a news conference.

He said he had appealed to Unita to release four South Africans it had captured in the north of the country last year.

Nzo also said he had been encouraged during the talks that Angola's peace process was proceeding well.
Nzo speaks out on mercenaries

LUANIDA: South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo yesterday said Pretoria-based mercenaries allegedly operating in Angola were an "embarrassment" to his government.

Nzo, who is in Angola to prepare for a visit in March by President Nelson Mandela, met with Angolan government and opposition UNITA officials as well as the UN special envoy to Angola, Mr. Alouine Blondin Beye.

Sapa-Reuters
Unita speeds up troop disarming

NEGAGE (Angola).—Unita is accelerating the disarming of its fighters under the terms of a 1994 peace pact with the Angolan government.

Less than a week before the United Nations decides whether to renew its peacekeeping mandate in the country, the first Unita soldiers began reporting to the Negage assembly point on Saturday.

A UN official said after 427 Unita fighters were disarmed by UN peacekeepers that an additional 500 troops were waiting to be brought in.

At Vila Nova and Quibaxe camps in Huambo province more than 1,600 Unita fighters have already been disarmed, with about 1,500 troops massing in the area.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi promised the international community he would disarm 16,500 of his claimed total of 72,000 fighters by February 8 to show his commitment to peace.

Peace observers said however they were concerned at the lack of ammunition being handed in. They said the youngest Unita soldier registered at Negage camp was 11 years old.

— Reuter.
Government and union forces each other of duplicity and handiwork would suffer another round of war rather than submit to a power-sharing arrangement.

Time running out for precarious Angola peace process.
SA exhorts UN to enforce Angolan peace

New York – South Africa has blamed Unita for slow progress in the implementation of the Angola peace process and warned of a tragedy if discord with the government led to termination of the United Nations mandate.

Under a recommendation by secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 6,500 UN peacekeepers will be retained in Angola probably until August 8. A Security Council vote is expected tomorrow. South African delegate Khiphusizi Jele told the council that members should send a “clear and unambiguous message” to Unita that its failure to implement agreements made with the Luanda government was “totally unacceptable”.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi must be urged to comply fully with the agreement on the quartering of troops, Jele said.

South Africa welcomed the release of political prisoners by the government and hoped that Unita would take similar steps but a climate of trust between the two sides was elusive.

Jele said it was vital that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita chief Jonas Savimbi meet soon to iron out their differences.

At the council meeting, US ambassador Madeleine Albright reported that she had telephoned Savimbi to express concern that the quartering of his troops was behind schedule. – Independent Foreign Service.
UN puts pressure on Angola to disarm troops

New York – The United Nations Security Council on Thursday said it would withdraw its peacekeeping troops if Angolan troops failed to turn in their weapons.

The Security Council unanimously voted to extend the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNave), but by three months, instead of six months, requested by UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The council also asked the UN chief to report monthly on the progress of a UN-backed peace process.

Most importantly, the council asked the Angolan parties, especially the rebel Unita, to speed up the quartering and disarming of their soldiers.

US ambassador Madeleine Albright, the Security Council president, had this week threatened not to extend the mission if more than 6,000 UN troops and 10,000 Angolan troops were not disarmed by the end of the month.

But as a result of the council’s prodding, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi promised to turn over more than 12,000 fighters into the cantonments by this weekend.

On Tuesday, several African envoys led a growing chorus among UN diplomats not to cut off the mission, which has helped protect a fragile ceasefire that has lasted since November 1994.

Despite low-level fighting, the peace is probably the greatest stability Angola has enjoyed since Angolans fought Portugal for independence in 1961. Unita, a former US ally, has fought the Soviet-backed Angolan government, since independence in 1976, and broke a ceasefire in 1992 after losing UN-brokered elections.

The council renewal of UNave comes as Human Rights Watch accused several nations of maintaining a flow of arms to both sides in exchange for diamonds and oil.

A Human Rights Watch report released on Thursday named Russia and Ukraine as arms suppliers for the government, while it cited Zaire and Congo as shipment points for arms sales to the rebels who control much of Angola’s diamond wealth. The rights group has called for an arms embargo to all sides, although the council has so far has only placed weapons sanctions against Unita.

The renewal coincides with the release of a report from the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) condemning UN efforts in Angola.

The report, based on a visit in November to Angola by a 10-person delegation led by UNA-USA vice-chairman Michael Sonnenfeldt, cited Angola as "one of the best examples of cooperation and effective division of labour between the UN and the US in a peacekeeping mission." The report cited accounts from several diplomats in Angola that the peace process, while not irreversible, was stronger than before. "In spite of the impatience of the international community, the peace process has a good chance of succeeding," the report asserted.

"War weariness on both sides, the congruence of interests, between international actors, and the determining role of the UN special representative (Alioune Blondin Boyo) are among the most important elements," it added.

The UNA-USA emphasised that, for UNave to be deployed effectively, the UN must place more effort to demine Angola’s roads. With a possible 20 million mines, Angola may surpass Afghanistan as the world’s most heavily mined nation, the report said. - Sapa-IPS
Strict timetable for Angolan peace process

Luanda – The Angolan government and Unita rebels have accepted to stick to a calendar to implement the flagging peace process, Portuguese President Mario Soares said yesterday.

Soares, on an official four-day visit to the former Portuguese colony, said he had received assurances from both sides that they were interested in salvaging the 13-month-old peace deal to end two decades of civil war.

The peace process reached a stalemate in the last month following ceasefire violations by the army, which prompted Unita to call off negotiations. “They have elaborated a strict calendar for 1996 for meetings, quartering of troops, de-mining, etcetera,” Soares said.

On Tuesday, Soares had received a Unita delegation in Luanda after rebel leader Jonas Savimbi had not been able to travel from his central highlands headquarters of Bailundo to meet the Portuguese president.

The delegation leader, Abel Chivukuvuku, said after his meeting with Soares that Savimbi was prepared to meet with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has asked the Unita leader for a summit meeting three times since the peace deal began crumbling early last month. Chivukuvuku would not confirm whether the meeting would take place in Luanda.

Meanwhile, the government took a step to show its commitment to the peace process by beginning the demobilisation of its anti-riot police force yesterday.

The quartering of the police force will be followed by the departure of a group of South African military advisers today after the government cancelled its contract with the SA security firm Executive Outcomes. - Sapa-AP.
Defence chief in Angola for 'new era' talks

The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Georg Meiring, has arrived in Angola for talks amid suggestions in parliament that South Africa will become actively engaged in the United Nations peacekeeping operation there.

He said he would discuss military co-operation with his opposite number, Joao Baptista de Matos, and Deputy Defence Minister Pedro Sebastiao.

"It is not just a new era for Angola and South Africa, but a new era in the Southern African region."

In parliament, there has been growing speculation that South Africa's role in Angola, at present confined to logistical support and the removal of land mines, could be significantly increased, possibly to the point where SANDF troops may be stationed there as part of the peacekeeping effort.
Local businessmen flock to Angola

BY WINNIE GRAHAM

Luanda — South Africa's traditionally conservative businessmen are flocking to Angola to investigate business opportunities in the once Marxist-controlled country as the Angolan government encourages investment.

South Africans in Luanda are looking at establishing a number of small industries, including a plastics factory, and are considering the construction of townhouses, a lodge and a hotel.

Other businessmen are involved in a project to re-launch Kissama, one of Angola's most beautiful national parks near Luanda.

Paulino Baptista, the Angolan deputy minister of commerce, trade and tourism, says that Angola would welcome South African involvement.

He said last week that the country needed people of good will. "We would like South Africans to come and help us prosper. "South Africans and Angolans can talk to each other directly without government interference. Only when a project has to be started from scratch and land is needed is it necessary to approach the state."

The South African ambassador in Luanda, Roger Ballard-Tremeer, has been promoting trade between South Africa and Angola. He says interest is considerable.

He fields regular calls from businessmen and industrialists and has prepared an advisory to assist them.

Ballard-Tremeer says that the kwanzu, the Angolan currency, has been devalued 3,000 percent in the past year. Business in the country is now conducted almost exclusively in dollars. He is optimistic that joint ventures can, and will, work.

"Angola can offer us food security, petrol and water," he said. "They, in turn, need our expertise and finance. We need to co-operate." South African interest in Angola is all the more remarkable because the 13-month-old peace process is precarious.

Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the rebel Unita forces, has been slow to surrender his arms. Neither side trusts the other and United Nations officials fear that the fragile truce may not last.

In Luanda, however, the government is going ahead with plans to rebuild the country's economy that is based on its oil fields and diamond mines.

There is talk of re-establishing the coffee plantations and launching a tourist industry. It will not be easy. Angola's towns and cities have been battered by years of neglect. The buildings are dilapidated. No one pays for municipal services such as water and electricity. The infrastructure is in desperate need of upgrading. In many quarters it is nonexistent.

Unemployment is a major problem. The government faces enormous difficulties, not the least of which is crime.

Car hijackings and theft have become a way of life, leading to the growth of yet another industry — security. Most wealthy local people employ guards to protect their property.

None of this deters South Africans.

Franz Piller of Somerset West, whose firm, Austral, is already well established in Luanda, has had plans prepared for the construction of 64 townhouses on a promontory overlooking the harbour on one side and the beach on the other. The project, which will involve importing most of the fixtures and fittings from South Africa, is expected to cost R150 million. It will be known as Floresta da Ilha Luanda.

Piller has no doubt he will find takers for the townhouses.

"Businessmen coming to Angola need a base in Luanda," he said. The complex will be completed by the end of next year.

Gideon Swart, a Pretoria business consultant from Echo Vida South Africa, dismisses the problems. He sees only the potential of a country hungry for peace and development. He says about 45 percent of Angola's land is arable, compared with 6.5 percent of South Africa's.

He is involved in a feasibility study of Kissama National Park to assess the cost of restocking, fencing and upgrading the camps.

"We are negotiating with the Kruger National Park to buy elephants and other game," he said.

Architects have already been to the reserve to look at a site for a lodge that will overlook the sea and the Kwanzi river — an ideal fishing spot where 90kg tarpon are regularly hooked.

John Chrysomallas of George is involved in negotiations for the construction of another hotel. He was less keen to discuss plans. "Negotiations are not complete," he said.

"But we are very hopeful."

If peace holds, there is no doubt Angola will flourish.
LUANDA — Angolan former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has said he needs to meet President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to discuss implementing their peace settlement and the political future of the country.

"I need to see the president. I can't go on carrying out political activity from Bairro do Sambúda," the headquarters of Unita, Savimbi said late on Tuesday.

He was speaking after talks with British Minister of State for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker, who denounced the slowness of the disarmament process after arriving here Monday and said the international community could no longer afford to waste money.

A Unita military delegation arrived in Luanda yesterday to resume talks with the army on the formation of a new joint defence force. The talks were suspended in January because of ceasefire violations.

A meeting between Savimbi and Dos Santos has been on the cards for weeks.

On February 8, the UN Security Council renewed the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission for three months to monitor the peace process, particularly the disarming and encampment of Unita's 63,000 soldiers.

So far, about 15,000 have been disarmed in line with the peace pact signed in Lusaka, Zambia, in November 1994 to end almost two decades of civil war following independence from Portugal.

During talks with Chalker, Savimbi said the Luanda government should be more "open" and agree to negotiate on the formation of a "transitional government" before Dos Santos's mandate expires in November.

During a recent congress of the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Dos Santos ruled out negotiations on this subject with Savimbi and renewed his Lusaka Protocol commitment to give Unita four cabinet portfolios and seven vice-ministerial posts.

The MPLA defeated Unita in general elections held in 1992 and Dos Santos beat Savimbi in the first round of a presidential poll, but fell just short of the 50% majority needed to avoid a second round. That was never held because the country plunged back into civil war after Unita alleged vote-rigging by the MPLA.

Unita and the government have agreed that 26,300 former rebel soldiers will be integrated into a new joint army of about 90,000 men, but have different views on the general staff. Unita wants 40 posts but the government has offered only six in addition to five given to senior Unita officers in Luanda since the resumption of hostilities.

The return of the Unita delegation will "re launches the peace process", the government army's chief of staff Gen Higino Carneiro said yesterday. — Sapa-AFP.
Angolas head south for schooling
Savimbi agrees to be Angolan vice-president.

Libreville – Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and opposition leader Jonas Savimbi issued a joint communiqué late yesterday saying they had agreed on a unity government and a unified army by July.

Savimbi, leader of the Angolan rebel movement Unita, accepted the post of vice president offered to him by the president, reports quoting the communiqué said late last night.

The two men issued the statement after their fourth summit talks in the Gabonese capital.

The report, if correct, signifies peace in a land that has endured more than 20 years of internal conflict which has seen thousands slaughtered – Sapa/dpa.
War-damaged oil field starts up in Angola

FROM REUTER

Luanda — Onshore oil production had resumed around Angola’s northern town of Soyo at the weekend, two years after output was halted during the country’s 20-year civil war, the Jornal de Angola reported yesterday.

The newspaper said Belgium’s Petrofina, the main operator of the onshore field near Soyo, was the first oil company to begin production again.

Angola’s Prime Minister Marcelino Moco officially inaugurated the start of production at Pangola during a visit to the country’s Zaire province at the weekend.

He agreed to give $2 million a month for the development of the region, the newspaper said.

Two crude-oil storage tanks, each holding 400,000 barrels, burned in a fire lasting four months after Unita rebel forces attacked the town in 1994.

The area, including the oil pipelines, has recently been cleared of landmines and explosives from the guerrilla war.

Soyo is Angola’s second-largest oil producing region after Cabinda, with at least 30 percent of oil production onshore.

Before oil production was halted, the area produced 90,000 barrels of crude a day onshore.

Petrofina has a 32.6 percent share in fuel feeding Soyo’s crude stream. Its Angolan assets include 64 percent of the 32 million barrels a day at the Petrango refinery near Luanda.

The government holds the remaining 36 percent.

Most of Angola’s production of 640,000 barrels a day comes from offshore drilling platforms off Soyo and Cabinda.
President Don Santos, the head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has expressed his support for President Ferdinand Marcos, the President of the Philippines, and has called for unity and progress in the country. President Marcos has emphasized the importance of unity and progress, stating that it is the key to the success of the country. Both leaders have expressed their commitment to working together to achieve these goals.

In other news, the Philippine government has announced plans to modernize its military, including the purchase of new fighter jets and the development of new naval vessels. This comes as the country faces increasing threats from neighboring countries and other global challenges.

The government has also announced plans to increase spending on education and health care, with the goal of improving the quality of life for all Filipinos. These initiatives are part of President Marcos's vision for a stronger and more prosperous Philippines.

Despite these challenges, the country remains committed to progress and development, and leaders are working together to ensure a brighter future for all Filipinos.
Farmers give SANDF damages ultimatum.

Louise Cook  PD 7/2/96

FARMERS along the Limpopo River have given the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) a week to settle a R80m claim for herbicidal damage to crops, or face court action.

However, the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association of SA, representing the agricultural chemicals industry, said the March 14 deadline was too soon for a proper investigation.

Transvaal Agricultural Union representative Gert Ehlers confirmed that a group of vegetable farmers along the river held the SANDF responsible for damage to crops when herbicides were sprayed in a fight against bush encroachment in a field hedge.

The farmers refused to comment because, they said, they were negotiating with the SANDF about the matter.

Chemicals association executive director Jan Kleynhans said a joint protest, similar to past complaints by his organisation, the Agricultural Research Council and the pescadores working group of the SA Endangered Wild Life Trust had started. However, the matter could end in a legal battle because more time was "probably" needed for the probe.

Kleynhans said abuse of chemicals or herbicides was a criminal offence. He added: "We are not playing stupid games."

A SAPA report said labelling of three types of herbicides found in soil samples on their farms and along the river specified that the herbicides should not be used near water or irrigation fields.
Savimbi set to take No 2 post

– Dos Santos

Lisbon – Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said yesterday he believed Unita leader Jonas Savimbi would accept an offer to become vice-president in a government of national unity.

"In Libreville Dr Savimbi showed his firm commitment to peace and to seeking every way to achieve national reconciliation," Dos Santos said in Lisbon after meeting Portugal's President Jorge Sampaio, who was sworn in on Saturday.

"One of these ways is his participation in government to inspire confidence in the peace process, so that all Angolans believe in the work we are doing for the sake of peace and reconciliation in Angola. For this reason I don’t believe that he won’t accept the vice-presidency," Dos Santos said.

He added: "We mustn't be impatient. My letter to invite him formally to occupy the post of vice-president was delivered just a few weeks ago. So we ought to wait some time."

The Angolan government and Unita agreed in Libreville earlier this month to set up a government of unity and merge their armies by July. Under the agreement, Unita must nominate a vice-president, possibly Savimbi. – Reuters.
make diamond scramble way of life

World
Diamonds could be forever in Angola

Although rich in sparkling gems, the Luanda government will remain impoverished so long as its mining industry remains in tatters

Winner Graham

Luanda

The toddlers in rural Angola are as beautiful as baubles, but they grow up in little more than rags. They have no shoes to protect their delicate little feet from the rough, rocky roads. They have no toys to keep them amused as they stare at the passing strange adult world. They have no parents to teach them how to use their hands or how to read. They have no future.

The streets of Luanda are crowded with young people - few have jobs. Petrol is cheap and bijouterie is all the rage in Angola as it is in South Africa.

The main streets are tarmacked - but the beauty can mean many impassable roads. Stormwater drainage is non-existent in many areas.

Rural people who come to Luanda for the prize of a few months in the urban centers are trapped in rough dwellings but there is no sanitation, electricity or stormwater drainage in the last shantytowns. Efforts have been made to deal with garbage and rubbish still litters the streets.

The buildings are dilapidated and there are virtually non-existent, one or two upmarket boutiques have opened in recent months.

Angola has some fine Angolan restaurants but the food is expensive and there are certain fast-food outlets for office workers foolish enough to leave their lunchpots at home.

Angola has all the problems of post-colonial countries. It has enough schools and undergradual teachers, inadequate health care and impoverished nurses. A shaky peace accord has not worked for diamond soldiers.

Yet diamonds could make Angola one of the richest countries in Africa.

Unfortunately, the precious stones, which should be funding much of the rehabilitation of the country, are in heavy hands. The country has had to rely on donors for some $300 million (about $300 million) for humanitarian and development aid - money desperately needed for education, health and housing.

Instead, much of Angola's mineral wealth is being exploited by armed groups of illicit diggers who are sometimes more than capable through Kinshasa into neighbouring Zaire.

So rough has life become in the diamond province that they have been dubbed "the wild west" - a no-go area where the struggle to control the wealth results in almost daily violence.

And Angola, one of the world's most heavily indebted countries, struggles on without much-needed cash. Most of the state's revenue comes from its offshore oilfields. After Nigeria, it is Sub-Saharan Africa's most important producer of oil. The resource forms a large part of Angola's foreign exchange - just as diamonds could if the mining industry was better managed.

Jim McLuskie, a consulting engineer who represents the interests of De Beers and the Angolan American Corporation in Angola, said that the government there gets only between 5 and 10% of the total diamond revenue because the country is not properly controlled.

"That's the trouble," he says.

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Gemstones ... De Beers' Jim McLuskie examines one of the precious stones that could make a difference to Angola's budget.

In terms of a law passed in Angola in 1992, artisans on diamond digs are allowed to take diamonds from the fields. In South Africa, on the other hand, there are very tough laws prohibiting the sale of rough diamonds.

Angolans say that although Usita troops are supposed to be incorporated into the Angolan army, few have actually reported for duty. And although no one has pinpointed fingers at Usita's leader, Jonas Savimbi (who doggedly maintains that he is sick of war and will not fight again), there is a possibility that he will not readily surrender either his troops or his diamond fields.

He needs both for survival. The diamonds pay his men's wages, buy them uniforms, food and translators. The troops, in turn, are needed to guard the diamond digging camps.

There is little prospect of Savimbi retiring while he has his diamond fields. Yet while he and other military generals make money, the chances of them being exploited for the benefit of the country - rather than for personal gain - remain remote.

There are a few diamond mining companies in Angola. The state diamond mining company is Endiam. A Brazilian civil engineering company has an interest in mining diamonds, and the Portuguese mine in the Luapa area. Even the Russians have mining interests in Angola.

De Beers mined diamonds in Angola in the 1970s and 1980s, but as the civil war escalated, operations became too dangerous and the company withdrew. However, because Angola's diamonds are everywhere, through the jungle, with the government in Luanda (more than 90% are gem quality), De Beers is keen to resume prospecting, and has been involved in negotiations with the state. Talks stalled some months ago.

McLuskie said this week: "We are waiting for the authorities to call us back to the negotiating table." He believes the all-encompassing issues of the past are now aired and, in any event, that De Beers is not interested in competing with existing diamond miners.

However, it is interested in buying diamonds from Angola and wants to prospect for Kimberlite diamonds which are found well beneath the surface. In fact, the organisation is prepared to spend $100 million (about $300 million) on "just looking" for the sparkling gems.

"Diamonds are our business," McLuskie said. "We have had years of experience in prospecting for them and mining in South Africa, Canada, Botswana, China, India, West Africa, Zaire and others where we have developed technical niques which make for efficient mining."

But whatever reason, Angola is proceeding very cautiously with De Beers, preferring to deal with the Angolan government (badly indebted) rather than the irresponsible companies.

McLuskie believes this is a natural reaction: Brazil was the first country to recognise Mocamba Angola. The peoples speak a common language, Portuguese, and therefore share common values.

Nonetheless, McLuskie remains hopeful that both companies will eventually be given permission to prospect diamonds.

If so, it would result in the state recouping revenue that would be needed to rebuild the country. As a start, one mine could employ several thousand people - not more than that, the revenue generated would certainly help boost the economy.

An Angolan official estimated: "Perhaps we'd get severer than ever - or perhaps street sales would cut off the supply of diamonds.

Most of the diamonds mined in Angola at present are sold in the illegal field type. The richest diamonds are found in rivers that flow north to the Zaire River in Zaire. Expert believes that they were originally Kimberlites which formed deep into granite. Some result from the granulate rock when the former red granite mound of diamonds were mined.

More diamonds are found mainly in two provinces - Lunda Norte and Diamondubengue.

"With rough diamonds averaging at between $250 and $500 a carat, starting at about $1,000 an ounce, the government would want back the diamonds. Experts believe that they were originally Kimberlites which formed deep into granite. Some result from the granulate rock when the former red granite mound of diamonds were mined.

More diamonds are found mainly in two provinces - Lunda Norte and Diamondubengue.
EU finishes trade offer to SA - still protectionists, but progress

Lundega day after water system damaged

Termedance dumps reconciliation strategy

Proposed on Thursday, will be endorsed with

Fyssels - independent

 produtos, as the result of the process of

El Corte Ingles. The company's board of

A Senate report on the process of

Terra Grandy, plane was move between the CX and the

Terra Grandy, the Competence Council on the

El Corte Ingles. The company's board of

A Senate report on the process of

El Corte Ingles. The company's board of

Terra Grandy, plane was move between the CX and the

Terra Grandy, plane was move between the CX and the
Visiting hell for a slice of paradise

Though war-torn and poor, Angolans are beginning to realise that their country holds great promise for the future not only through its mineral wealth but the sheer majesty of its beaches and birdlife.

By WERNER GHAIAMU
Luanda

Angola is planning to become the playground of Africa. In time it hopes that newly created resorts along its beaches will rival those in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and even the Mediterranean Sea.

The decision to capitalise on its coastline, which stretches from Namibia in the south to Zaire in the north - is part of a deliberate strategic plan by the Angolan government which sees its white sands and warm coastal water as a major tourist drawcard.

Angola's beaches, in fact, are ideal for all water sports, ranging from scuba-diving and windsurfing to deep-sea fishing and yachting. Though Angola is only just emerging from a debilitating 20-year war, it believes it must start planning now to create the infrastructure needed for a world-class tourist industry which will probably reach maturity only in the next century.

Paulino Baptista, the deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Tourism, said in an interview that the Angolan government had decided to concentrate on the coastline, rather than on its wildlife, because Africa already had its share of game parks.

"We will not neglect our wildlife reserves, but we see no point in trying to compete with Tanzania's Serengti Reserve or South Africa's Kruger Park," he said. "Instead, we shall encourage developers to help us make the most of our greatest natural resource, our beaches."

The Star's meeting with the deputy minister was arranged by South Africa's ambassador to Luanda, Roger Ballard-Tremeer, who believes Angola has enormous potential as a tourist destination for South Africans. He also invited Ken Newman, one of South Africa's top ornithologists, to visit Angola both to experience the bird life and assess the country's possibilities in the areas around Luanda. The wetlands there attract a wide range of birdlife.

There is no doubt that Angola, despite its shaky peace accord, malaria-ridden countryside and embryonic facilities, has tourist appeal - but the infrastructure will need considerable improvement. There are some reasonable hotels and restaurants but they are expensive, and while it is possible to hire motor vehicles, security is a concern.

As in South Africa, hijackings and crime is commonplace with large-scale

Attracting tourists... Paulino Baptista, deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Tourism in Angola.

employment adding to the problem.

Baptista, however, is looking ahead - and determined to open his country to tourism. He said Angola this year became a member of the World Tourism Organisation in Paris, an organisation which had offered to help his government "revive and rehabilitate" its tourist industry. It had made technical assistance available and would train key personnel.

At least two hotels, funded by South African interests, were in the pipeline.

"The coastal waters of South Africa are cold in comparison with Angola's," Baptista said. "That is why we believe we can offer the region something special. However, it will need considerable investment. We would like marinas built. We need fishing fleets to encourage tourists to come. We want seaba divers and water-skiers. The creation of facilities is a top priority.

Luanda, he said, was centrally situated and therefore well placed in Africa to provide venues for congresses, fairs and events.

"Please tell South Africa that most hotels in Angola have been privatised and are being run by Angolan businessmen," he said. "If there are South Africans who want to talk to people in our hotel industry they can go straight to them. Only when land is needed to start new projects, is it necessary to work through the Angolan government."

Baptista said South African businessmen had the technical and financial know-how, as well as the funds, and he would welcome their help in making his country proper. Angola would be exhibiting at the Durban Indaba, South Africa's tourist showplace. In addition, there were regular flights to and from Luanda each week.

He described tourism as "the industry of peace" and said Angola had much to offer holidaymakers. Its cultural resources, craft markets and carnivals were great attractions.

Asked if Angola would be willing to forgo visa requirements for South African citizens, the minister said this was a matter of sovereignty - and reciprocity - to be settled between the two heads of state. He however was not in favour of lifting all controls for two sea ions. Firstly, he had heard that some Angolans had been mistreated in South Africa and he was unhappy about this.

Secondly, most of the drugs in Luanda were coming into Angola through Brazil and South Africa.

"That is why I believe controls should remain in place," he said.

South African ambassador Ballard-Tremeer believes Angola could be a new destination for South African tourists once the fragile peace had been consolidated. "When holidaymakers are able to move freely, they will have much to see and do," he said.

A South African group, he added, was negotiating to build a lodge on the Kwanza. The government and game fish weighing between 60 and 90 kilograms could be pulled from the water. Just nearby was the huge Kisama National Park, which accommodated a number of villages where subsistence fishermen had survived, unchanged for centuries, on fish they speared in the wetlands.

Most South Africans, the ambassador said, had arrived by air but there was no reason not to do the journey overland, especially if groups travelled together. They could cross into Angola from Namibia at the St Clara border where the road was now being redone. "Please tell South Africa that most hotels in Angola have been privatised and are being run by Angolan businessmen," he said. "If there are South Africans who want to talk to people in our hotel industry they can go straight to them. Only when land is needed to start new projects, is it necessary to work through the Angolan government."

Baptista said South African businessmen had the technical and financial know-how, as well as the funds, and he would welcome their help in making
A birdwatcher’s dream, but landmines are a bother

By Ken Newman

One of the “big five” most wanted-to-be-seen birds for most South African birders is probably the palm nut vulture, so-named for its predilection for the fruits of the raffia palm, Raffia zonaria. The most southeasterly breeding locality for this unusual raptor is the little town of Momasar on the KwaZulu Natal coast where a small population has established itself in a small stand of raffia palms for many years.

Imagine my surprise then, during a brief visit to Angola, to discover that this “vulture” was the most common raptor in the vicinity of the numerous pans and lakes that exist in the floodplains of the Cuanza River.

The term “vulture” is something of an enigma when applied to this striking black and white bird having been given originally, one assumes, for its habit of foraging on river and coastal shorelines for dead fish and other stranded aquatic creatures in addition to the vegetarian diet that is also reflected in its name. However, the bird does have the alternative name of vulturine fish eagle. A group of us witnessed such a bird swoop down to the waters of a lake and catch a fish in the manner of a fish eagle, the alternative name would seem to be the more appropriate.

Angola, lying as it does in west central Africa, and having a diverse range of tropical habitats, boasts an interesting variety of birds not seen south of the Cunene River. Sadly, so many of the habitats that are home to these “Angola specials” are still no-go regions for the visiting birder, thanks to numerous uncleaned minefields. The coastal regions from Luanda southwards are fringed by a number of slender peninsulas running parallel to the main shoreline which create large lagoon-like waters open to the sea and subject to tidal fluctuations. These shallows are feeding grounds for a host of wading birds from the smallest sandpipers to huge pelicans and long-legged framingos. Further inland attractive undulating green hills liberally studded with giant baobab trees revealed Montezuma’s herons, Steppe buzzards and white herons, plus flocks of olive babblers, another species rated as rare and localised in the south.

In the few scattered villages that we passed through ever-busy lesser striped swallows were building their mud nests on pock-marked buildings and tolerating street lamps, while grey-headed sparrows drank from puddles and familiar Chats flicked their wings as if to avoid the darting chalices of some demented vehicle; reminders of the recent civil war that has ravaged the country.

For the time being do-it-yourself birding trips into the interior would be difficult and not without some risk. Perhaps one day there will be a well organised Luanda-based tour company to surmount the present obstacles, but until that time the forests and the special birds must remain tantalisingly out of reach.
Angolan teachers on strike again over pay

By Leslie Wroughton

Luanda — Thousands of teachers at Angolan state schools went on strike on Monday, accusing the government of failing to honour a wage deal thrashed out during a month-long stoppage earlier this year.

Schools stood empty in the capital as pupils also stayed away, ignoring a weekend state television plea by education authorities for children to attend classes.

Teachers in Huila and Namibe provinces were on strike while some in Benguela and Malange threatened the same over working conditions and salaries, teachers' union officials said.

"We ... decided to strike ... until an agreement on payment of teachers' salaries (with) members of the government is honoured." Teachers have not been paid since January," said Atabola Cadete, a senior member of the Sinprof union, which claims about 7,000 members from Luanda's 12,000 teachers.

Education in Angola was badly hit by 20 years of civil war. More than 40 percent of classrooms were destroyed or damaged during the fighting and teachers hoped for improvements when they negotiated big increases in January after a month-long strike.

The government had agreed to a deal that would increase teachers' pay from about $10 a month to at least $115, after a decade in which their income had not changed.

But teachers at just a handful of Luanda's 500 schools have been paid since then, Cadete said.

Government officials were unavailable to comment on the strike, but Cadete said the education ministry had scheduled a meeting for yesterday.

Teachers at privately owned schools in Luanda earn about $1,000 a month, while the average Angolan citizen survives on about one dollar a month.

Cadete said the pay issue was one of several massive problems facing education in Angola after two decades of civil war which ended with the signing of a peace pact between the Angolan government and the opposition Unita movement in 1994.

In 1992, 12 percent of the national budget was spent on education. By last year it had fallen to 4 percent of the total.

"In a morning session, teachers have between 250 and 300 children. There are no books and in most classes children sit on the floor," Cadete said. — Reuters
Greens to save Angolan game reserve in Noah’s Ark project

BY LESLEY WROUGHTON

Quicama, Angola — Two decades of civil war have devastated Angola’s game parks, but environmentalists and business people have launched a plan that will bring back big game to the country's largest reserve in a modern-day version of Noah's Ark.

Elephant, buffalo and other species were hunted by local people and soldiers during the war and disappeared from the Quicama park.

But plans call for replacement animals to be shipped from South Africa at the end of this year.

"It will be like a Noah's Ark. We will ship the animals to the mouth of the Cuanza River where they will be set free," said Gideon Swart, one of the South African developers.

"We plan to introduce game into the park at the end of the year, which will be brought from the Kruger National Park and also private game parks in South Africa, but before we can do that the park has to be reconstructed," he said.

The fighting has destroyed most of the small villages and towns around the Quicama park, but the birds and vegetation managed to flourish.

The re-opening of roads between Luanda and the outlying areas has encouraged people to explore Quicama and see what remains of the countryside after the war between the government and rebel forces of Unita.

The park covers about 1 million hectares between the Cuanza and Longa rivers and unlike the rest of Angola's countryside, it is largely free of landmines.

The road is open along the coast between Luanda and the port city of Lobito through Quicama, though government soldiers still guard the Cuanza River bridge and search vehicles.

A thin, rusty pipeline at the edge of the road carries oil from wells in the south to the main refinery outside Luanda.

Local people complain that water is scarce and oil, which bubbles to the surface in some places, is plentiful.

Oil

"If you drill for water just a few metres down you get oil," said a local fisherman.

Ken Newman, an ornithologist, recently visited Angola. He spotted 93 different species around Quicama, including rare sightings of ospreys, olive bee-eaters, red-rumped swallows and chestnut-banded plovers.

"The types of species here are not a lot different from those found in the rest of southern Africa, but I have seen some new ones," Newman said, during a two-day excursion which took him to Quicama and east to the marshes around Calomboloca.

He said the lagoons along the coast south of Luanda provided feeding grounds for a host of wading birds from the smallest sand plovers to huge pelicans and flamingoes.

Angola's agricultural ministry and conservationists from the University of Pretoria have formed the Quicama Foundation to develop the park, which is about 60 km south of Luanda.

The Quicama Association (Ecovida) will look after the park's commercial interests and create jobs for the local population of more than 6,000.

Construction has started on the first of four camps at the old homestead of Angola's first president, Agostinho Neto.

The camp, which overlooks the Cuanza River and a swamp area to the northeast, will include about 20 cottages and a restaurant.

One of the proposed plans' first developments is to turn the camp into a 50-room lodge at the mouth of the Cuanza River and close to the beach.

The development would be a perfect weekend getaway for people living in Luanda.

"The Cuanza has record fishing and lots of hippo. There are also large Nile crocodile," Swart said.

The foundation hopes to train demobilised soldiers and the local population in Quicama as game rangers to protect the animals against poachers. — Reuters
Kenyan bourse calls for reform of pension funds

BY MANDAH ESHIHERE

Nairobi — Jimnah Mbaru, the chairman of the Nairobi Stock Exchange, yesterday called for pension funds to be reformed to increase savings and raise the bourse's liquidity.

Mbaru said the bourse suffered from a lack of big institutional investors.

"Though the insurance companies have the ability to mobilise savings, existing legislation is discriminatory thereby limiting their active participation in the stock market," he said.

In a letter to Stephen O'Brien, the head of the World Bank mission in Nairobi, Mbaru said a new, broad-based pension fund system would have a catalytic effect on the market, improving its liquidity.

Kenya's liquidity was low at 3.45 percent last year, compared with 11.5 percent for Zimbabwe and 8.5 percent for South Africa.

Mbaru said an extensive, elaborate and thorough reform of pension funds would raise national savings through mandatory contributory schemes.

"It would be futile to continue clamouring for increased investment if no attempt is made to increase the savings base," he said.

"As fund managers would have to invest a portion of the funds in fairly liquid instruments, our stock market would end up being more liquid and vibrant and it would thus become a viable source of long-term equity capital," he said.

The government's policy framework paper on economic reforms for 1996-98, issued last month, was prepared in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The government's forecast savings at 24.5 percent of GDP in 1998, from 20 percent last year.

Under the reforms proposed in the paper, the National Social Security Fund would be converted into a pension fund and privatised.

Mbaru said the fund's proposed reforms meant greater efficiency, less intervention by government and professional management, but fell short of solving pressing problems in the pension fund sector.

He said the country had more than 200 privately managed, pension fund programmes that covered regular income earners. However, people who were self-employed, farmers and small businesses were not covered.

"The real result of lack of these retirement vehicles is that individuals try to invest in land as a retirement or an insurance programme against old age," Mbaru said.

"The regulation of these fund managers is not clear; their investment strategies are not standardised and their performance in many cases is questionable and little information is available to the public about them," — Reuters
Angola’s largest oil producer targets 450 000 barrels a day.

New fields to lift Cabinda

BY LESLEY WROUGHTON

Luanda — The Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, Angola’s largest oil producer, said it aimed to produce 450 000 barrels a day within three years on its block zero concession.

The company has also said it aims to exploit four new fields off the Cabinda enclave.

The Cabinda Gulf Oil Company is a partnership between Angola’s controlling petrol company, Sonangol, which has a 41 percent stake, Chevron, 39.2 percent, Elf Petroleum Angola, 10 percent, and Agip Angola, 9.8 percent.

"A year ago, we had just passed 400 000 barrels a day, today we are producing 420 000 barrels and are targeting 450 000 barrels in about three years on block zero," said Mark Puckett, the director-general of Cabinda.

The oil industry is key to Angola’s war-battered economy. The country produces about 690 000 barrels of crude oil a day.

Puckett said production would begin on the new offshore Santa N’dola fields on block zero next year.

The company has signed a $100 million contract with South African-based Intershore and its partners, Murray & Roberts Holdings, Dorbyl and Amec, to build the platforms.

“We are hoping to produce up to 50 000 barrels a day at Santa N’dola,” Puckett said.

He said Cabinda Gulf hoped to produce about 70 000 barrels a day on each of another two new fields at Lompa-Nemba, also on block zero. Operations will begin next year.

Paris — Elf Exploration Angola has made the third deep water oil discovery in the Gulf of Guinea off west Africa, Elf Aquitaine, its parent company, said yesterday.

It said Glassol, a discovery well, struck good quality oil in 20,300 feet of water, 100 km northwest of the Angolan capital Luanda. Tests at the site produced 2,900 barrels a day of good crude oil through a reduced choke, Elf said. The discovery is Elf’s third well in the Gulf of Guinea following the Nkossa and Mocho fields of offshore Congo. Mocho is seen as one of the most important finds in an area in which there was record exploration activity last year.

Elf Exploration Angola is the operator of the block 17 drilling licence off Angola, granted by Sonangol, a state oil company. It holds a 35 percent stake. Other partners are Esso Exploration, with 29 percent, BP Exploration, with 16.67 percent, Det Norske Stats Oljeselskap with 13.33 percent, Norsk Hydro, with 10 percent, and Fina Exploration with 5 percent. — Reuters

Last year, Cabinda Gulf acquired block 14, adjacent to block zero. It is busy with a $15 million seismic programme on the 1 million hectare deep water area.

“We are hoping to begin prospecting on block 14 this year, and hope to drill two or three new wells next year,” Puckett said.

On block 14 Cabinda Gulf company has a 31 percent share, with partners Sonangol, 20 percent, Agip, 20 percent, Total SA, 20 percent and Petroleus de Portugal SA, 9 percent.

Puckett said a 16-month-old peace pact between the Angolan government and the opposition Unita movement had triggered new interest abroad in the oil-rich country.

“This is the longest period of peace in 35 years. Our operations closed down for a brief period during independence and since then there have been many security incidents, some serious, others tragic, but we were able to work through those.

“What I see is a whole lot of interest, not only in Angola, but pumping down the coast of western Africa, particularly in the deeper water,” he said.

Puckett said the burden of high risk carried by investors during Angola’s civil war had lessened since the signing of the Lusaka peace pact in November 1994.

“After the Lusaka Protocol, I saw an almost immediate perception of lesser risk and people willing to make investments.

“So that particular burden on our activities has lessened a little bit.” — Reuters
Canadian and Russian Krenya oil exploration.

Exploration in the Russian region of the Krenya oilfield has shown promising results. The exploration efforts have been focused on identifying and evaluating potential oil reserves in the region. The Krenya oilfield is located in the far eastern part of Russia, bordering with China.

The exploration team has conducted extensive geological surveys, seismic studies, and drilling operations to assess the oil potential in the area. The results indicate a high probability of discovering significant oil reserves, which could have a significant impact on the country's energy sector.

The exploration activities are expected to continue, with the goal of developing a comprehensive understanding of the geological and hydrocarbon resources in the area. The findings will be used to inform future investment decisions and facilitate the development of new oil production projects.

The exploration efforts are being supported by international partners, including Russian and Canadian companies, who are collaborating to tap into the vast resources in the region.
Angra needs reform to halt its slide into poverty.
President Nelson Mandela and UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at a ceremony in Pretoria on Friday where South Africa donated R1 million towards peace efforts in Angola.

PIC: PAT SEBOKO

S Africa gives
UN R1-m for
refugees

It is a contribution towards the refugee crisis and the peace process in Angola

By Coidjoe Anankwa

President Nelson Mandela on Friday weekend presented two cheques totalling R1-million to UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali towards the refugee crisis and the peace process in Angola.

"South Africa made its contributions towards peace in the region, by raising available R973 000 to UN High Commissioner for Refugees for the transfer of UNHCR vehicles and equipment to Angola from Mwanza, where they are stored after use in UN Mozambique operations," Mandela said at the presentation.

The presentation, held at the presidential residence in Pretoria, was attended by senior UN delegates and top government officials.

After receiving the money, Boutros-Ghali paid tribute to Mandela.

"Mandela is the godfather of Africa, and the godfather of myself," he said to a thundorous applause from the delegation.

In October, South Africa acceded to the 1951 refugee convention, the 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees in Africa.

The "essential purpose of the UN Refugee Convention and Protocol is to provide for legal protection for refugees. Amongst others things, the convention provides that those who are outside their countries of origin or of habitual residence because of well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion should enjoy protection.

The Convention also provides that every refugee is entitled to recognition, identity and travel documents are to be issued by the contracting state.

Arbitrary deportation or non-refoulement as well as expulsion of refugees is prohibited unless the refugee is regarded as dangerous to the security of the country of asylum, or has been convicted by a final judgment of a serious crime against humanity.

Gestation of refugees

R provides creation of refugee states once the legal requirements governing refugees have been satisfied.

The OAU Convention on Refugees in Africa recognises the need for an essentially humanitarian approach towards solving the problems of refugees.

It states that the problems of the continent must be solved in the spirit of the Charter of the OAU.

The UNHCR office in South Africa has congratulated Mandela for adhering to the convention.
Angolan peace process under pressure as UN reviews its role

LUANDA — Angola's peace process comes under pressure this week as the UN reviews its peacekeeping role in the country which has been racked by two decades of civil war.

The UN mandate expires tomorrow and secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who has strongly criticised delays in implementing the 1994 peace accord, wants the mission to Angola renewed for only two months.

The mission, which costs about $1m a day, includes 600 peacekeepers overseeing an agreement between the Angolan government and Jonas Savimbi's former Unita rebels, intended to end Africa's longest-running civil war.

"We cannot say that the process is going smoothly... any peace process is like a long and turbulent river. It is a complex process, you cannot expect anything less after 20 years of war," UN chief mediator in Angola, Alioune Biondin Beye, said.

The UN Security Council extended the mandate in February for three months, but warned Angola's rival leaders it was fast losing patience.

In the run-up to the February decision, Savimbi pledged to disarm 16,500 troops, but fell far short of that figure by the deadline. Last week he promised to disarm another 30,000 troops in time for tomorrow's UN decision.

Unita, with an estimated 30,000 fighters, has disarmed 27,000 soldiers at 10 assembly camps since January, for demobilisation or integration into a unified national army. A major problem appears to be a lack of trust between the long-time enemies.

Isias Samakuva, Unita representative on a joint peace committee, said things often went wrong just when the process appeared to be going well, and although the rivals continued to talk to each other, there appeared to be hidden issues that were not addressed.

Government representatives suspended their participation in the peace commission last week, accusing Unita of dragging its feet over disarmament, and saying they would return only when more rebels had been demobilised.

"Until Unita disarms the majority of its troops, there will never be real peace because the government, and the people for that matter, will always be looking over their shoulders," a Western diplomat said.

"The one thing we learned in guerrilla life is that the rifle is sacred... it is earned and we even say it is our second wife. Today our soldiers are asked to give up their rifles to strangers. Psychologically that is something very big," Samakuva said.

He said Unita believed the UN's role was crucial to the process. "We would like it if the UN extended its mandate for another six months. It plays several roles... also as an obstacle to bad intentions," Samakuva said.

Unita's Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos agreed in talks in March to set up a government of national unity by July, but the UN's Beye said the immediate priority lay elsewhere.

"For now let's not set deadlines. "Let us concentrate on the quartering of troops and rapid intervention policy, conclusion of a single army, free circulation of people, demining and the disarming of the civilian population," Beye said.— Reuter.
'THE RIFLE IS SACRED'

Angolan peace fragile as UN reviews its role

LUANDA: The UN mandate in Angola may be extended for another two months when it comes under review tomorrow — but the Security Council is losing patience with the slow progress of peace talks and disarmament.

Angola's peace process comes under pressure tomorrow as the United Nations reviews its peacekeeping role in the country.

The UN mandate expires tomorrow and secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who has strongly criticised delays in implementing the 1994 peace accord between the Angolan government and Dr Jonas Savimbi's former Unita rebels, wants the mission renewed for just two months.

"We cannot say that the process is going smoothly ... any peace process is like a long and turbulent river. It is a complex process, you cannot expect anything less after 20 years of war," UN chief mediator Mr Alioune Bâny Bâye said.

The UN Security Council extended the mandate in February for three months, but warned Angola's rival leaders it was fast losing patience.

In the run-up to the February decision, Savimbi pledged to disarm 16,500 troops, but fell far short of that figure by the deadline. Last week he promised to disarm another 30,000 troops in time for tomorrow's decision. Unita has an estimated 62,000 fighters.

A major problem appears to be a lack of trust. Mr Isias Samukuva, Unita representative on a joint peace committee, said things often went wrong just when the process appeared to be going well, and although the rivals continued to talk to each other, there appeared to be hidden issues that were not being addressed.

Government representatives suspended their participation in the peace commission last week, accusing Unita of dragging its boots over disarmament.

"Until Unita disarms ... there will never be real peace because the government and the people for that matter, will always be looking over their shoulders," a Western diplomat said.

"The one thing we learned in guerrilla life is that the rifle is sacred ... it is earned and we even say it is your second wife. Today our soldiers are asked to give up their rifles to strangers. Psychologically that is something very big," Samukuva said.

"We would like it if the UN extended its mandate for another six months. It plays several roles ... also as an obstacle to bad intentions."

Savimbi and President José Eduardo dos Santos agreed to set up a government of national unity by July, but Bâye said the immediate priorities lay elsewhere.

"Let us concentrate on the quartering of troops and rapid intervention policy ... a single army, free circulation of people, demining and the disarming of the civilian population." — Reuter
LUANDA — Unita met its promise to disarm 30,000 fighters by yesterday as the UN's Security Council began a review of its peacekeeping mandate in Angola, a UN official said.

The rebel movement's leader Jonas Savimbi had pledged he would reach the target by the time the UN assessed its mission to Angola, to show his commitment to ending two decades of fighting.

"The latest figures we have show that Unita had quartered 29,386 troops, but this would have gone well over 30,000 by today (Wednesday)," an official said.

"Unita has a total estimated number of 62,000 fighters. Disarmed troops are housed at 10 assembly camps around the country.

At the same time Angola's National Assembly, where the MPLA government holds a majority of 120 seats out of a total of 220, was expected to pass amendments to an amnesty law yesterday.

The changes are expected to pave the way for Unita officials and fighters to return to Luanda to take part in a national army and coalition government by July.

The government and Unita signed a peace accord in November 1994 to end almost 20 years of war which erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975.

Unita has proposed that the amnesty covers the entire conflict from 1976. The law covers the conflict from 1992 when Unita lost elections and returned to war.

Western diplomats said yesterday they doubted the UN would extend its mandate beyond three months, to keep pressure on the government and Unita to complete the process.

"Many people are pushing for two months until the end of July when the unity government is meant to be in place, but bureaucrats are pushing ... for pressure on both sides to complete the peace process quickly," one diplomat in Luanda said.

The UN envoy to Angola, Alciane Blondin Beve, this week met Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo de Sousa separately to deliver a message from UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali ahead of May 8. The message is believed to have urged both men to speed up the implementation of the peace process which is costing the international community $1 million a day. — Reuters.
Diamonds are worth far more than the lives of those raking them out of Angola's eastern rivers, writes PETER DE IONNO

WHEN South African Cecil Combrinck went for a bath in Angola's Chibango River, the first prominent sample of a joint diamond-mining venture literally went down the drain.

Stones weighing four carats and worth $4,000 (about R740), which he was looking after, washed downstream north to Zaire in the usually current.

The Angolan partners, an army engineer and a chain of diamond traders from the富力kikonge area, were among the hundreds who have been deceived.

The dreaming of striking it rich is a game that makes life in the wild and brutal diamond fields almost bearable.

At Pulacunci, Ciecor and six other South Africans are watched night and day by a motley gang of ex-soldiers armed with automatic weapons, live-wire radio, sharp eyes and suspicious minds.

Any trip away from the concession, even a stroll to the market, is impossible without at least a AK-47 thugging insistently on joining the outing. And those war-hardened characters are gun-mad at the slightest excuse.

Three weeks before we arrived, one of the guards awoke in the middle of a nightmare and had two con
epanions. One lost a leg.

Movement further afield to Lubango or home to South Africa is out of the question. The South Africans have not seen their passports since they arrived at Dondo airport, where they were flown in by the rebels, having been turned away at Luanda five weeks before.

Direct Gen. Palacio is growing impatient. He blames Ciecor for the lack of progress and talks of selling his old boys' guns to the Angolans, his contribution to the partnership, to pay the security guards and buy a ticket home.

He and Nicholas Robertson, a diamond diver at Port Nolloth for 10 years, are living on pap and beans.

"We brought enough food for two months but because the boats aren't paid we had to share it with them. I don't know what we will do when the coffee runs out," said the diamond fields is almost as scarce as the worlds, and all of it is flown in.

DANG

Sharp entrepreneurs are making fortunes with a Coca Cola bottling plant, an egg and chicken starting at R10.

Jean Belon, a businessman and machine operator from Vryburg, says he is there because he was promised R8 million a month. At home he was earning only R1,000. "I have not been paid, but I have to keep working because if I don't they want to see the diamonds there's no money," he said.

The partners do not have a boat to use on a mobile platform on the Chibango or a car to search for diamonds, even a car in the bush will cost 50 times the price they paid for it.

"They don't stay in place, you only find them if they are finding diamonds. They only pull a bucket of gravel at a time. There is plenty left after they move on," says Gen. Palacio.

"With our equipment, pumps and breathing equipment, we can shift 20 tons a day." If you hit a spot you can pull out eight carats or more a ton. Then you are really in business.

The river sounds easy, but underfoot, with visibility little more than zero, the divers battle to stay alive.

"Even with a 16kg weight belt, you have to wrap your legs around the pump nozzle and hang on for dear life or you will end up being washed into Zaire." The deadly river, up to a kilometre wide, is the most of the dangers.

In Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul, Unita attacks, fights with warlord peasant diggers, gangsters, kidnappers and am

buses are as much of a risk as the endemic malaria.

It's a big, empty country way beyond the reach of the "wonderpaid, corrupt, and ill-paid policemen.

Rob van Heemstra, a diver from Johannesburg, said he had seen a Polish miner "shent the picks" by Unita as he crossed a rope bridge. "Bodies without heads and arms come floating down the river all the time," he said.

But the dangers make little difference to the Angolans, Zambians, Israelis, and now the South Africans, who are scrambling over each other to get a piece of the action.

As we left Dondo, more get-ready-forQuick prospects were arriving.

First down the steps of a battered cargo plane was Christopher "Kit" Brown, the former Rhodesian who led the South African Defence Force's attack on Angola's Addo mines and has built up a hired-drill rig in Namibia. Brown fled and left his companions to be jailed, "I have to flog, that's all. Just forget you've seen me," he said, as he crossed the runway.

Picture: JOHN LIEBERER

Angola's Chibango River

Jewel lust in Angola dust

JEWEL scroungers for Ango-

la's diamonds serve as an excellent place for change in that war-rav-

aged country.

After Unita's rejection of the peace plan announced by the rebels grabbed the richest diamond area along the Caumbo River in Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul, using revenues estimated at more than R4 million (about US$4,000 a day) to restart the civil war.

The move decimated government diamond income, and the diamonds, cutting eco-

nomically declared production around 16 million a month. The 90 percent is smuggled out of the country for cash by the De Beers' agents on the diamond fields.

Since a law was passed in 1979 allowing individu-

als to own or sell dia-

monds, the Londos have been swarming with diamond prospectors, diggers, who, with a shovel over one shoulder and an assualt rifle over the other have turned river banks into crowded moonscapes.

They dig huge pits to reach deposits of alluvial gravel or simply hold their breath and dive from dangling cliffs into the fast-flowing rivers to scoop up gravel, a bucket at a time.

On the Chibango River we found more than the wunderpaid on a river bed. They were bickering Zairians and ex-soldiers, teachers and government work-

ers, who had abandoned their jobs in Zaire because they weren't paid.

Bloody turf wars are expected now that the diamond fever has spread to Lunda province, usually to government officials and generals.

The intensity of diamond fever can be seen at Lunda airport where dozens of helicopters clam-

ore for scarce places, at up to R15 an hour on daily

hanger planes.
Some need handouts to feed their families

Dr Epitacio Santos said the Angolan government had to help those who were in need.

"We have a lot of people who are suffering. Some families are not able to feed their children. They need help." he said.

An employee at the Angolan embassy in London who requested anonymity said he was owed money in unpaid salaries. The embassy had no less expensive area of the capital to rent.

"It is difficult to work without an income," he said. But he added that his family was coping. They had been entitled to a loan from the government but had not received it.

The Angolan government said it would pay the debts of those who had not been paid.

"We are doing our best to resolve the situation," a government official said.

Meanwhile, the Angolan government had been criticized for the way it handled the crisis.

"We cannot just sit and wait for people to come to us," the official said. "We have to take action and help them."
Angola to form new government

By Lesley Wroughton

Luanda — The Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos sacked his government as a first step to rebuild a country crumbling around him, political analysts said yesterday.

The president fired the government and the central bank governor on Monday to tackle a deep economic crisis. He said poverty was extreme, social breakdown was widespread and people were becoming desperate.

He issued a decree appointing the national assembly president, Fernando Franca van Dunem, as prime minister to replace Marco Anto Moco.

Van Dunem was prime minister for a year from 1991. He has also held posts as the ambassador to Belgium, Spain and Portugal and as the vice-minister of foreign affairs, the justice minister and the planning minister.

An analyst said Moco had long criticised his president's style. Dos Santos had become something of a recluse since the signing of a peace agreement between his former Marxist MPLA government and the Unita rebels to end 20 years of civil war in November 1994.

Van Dunem has been given five days to appoint a cabinet. Some members of Moco's cabinet might be kept on, but the finance minister, Augusto Tomas, and the foreign minister, Venancio de Moura, were expected to go.

The sacking of Antonio Furtado, the head of the central bank, Banco Nacional de Angola, was a sign that something would be done to fight inflation, which is running at more than 3,700 percent.

Angola was one of the world's largest exporters of coffee, but the economy was shattered by 20 years of a proxy war between the Soviet and Cuban-backed government, and the Unita rebels supported by South Africa and the United States.

Foreign governments have called on Angola to fight inflation and liberalise the economy, including scrapping a system of dual exchange rates, cutting subsidies to inefficient businesses and slashing the budget deficit.

The economists said there had not been any sign of what action Van Dunem would take in these areas. — Reuters
LETTER

SAYMBELL

Santos's pistols missed his pet scapdog.

AFFA'S DOG SANTOS MISSES HIS PET SCAPEGOAT

Angola's Dos Santos misses his pet scapegoat.

Santos's pistols missed his pet scapdog.
LUANDA—Angola's national bank has suspended its activities temporarily until a new governor is appointed, a bank official has said.

"There is nothing going on in the bank. All foreign transactions and trading has been stopped. We are waiting for the government to appoint a new governor. Until that time the bank's activities are suspended," the official said.

This follows Angolan president José Eduardo dos Santos' sacking of bank governor Antonio Furtado along with Angolan prime minister Marcolino Moco.

He named Fernando Franca Van-Dunem, president of the national assembly, as new prime minister. Mr Van-Dunem has five days to name a new cabinet or reshuffle the existing one.

Economists said they expected the announcement of a new medium- to long-term economic policy soon after the formation of a new cabinet.

In an address to the nation Mr Dos Santos spoke of a complete breakdown of infrastructure, hyperinflation of 3,000 percent, a worsening budget deficit and the existence of two money exchange systems which had discredited banking activities.

"The country is in a very grave crisis. Social breakdown is evident, the poverty of the population is extreme," he said.

An economist said government efforts to redress the economic situation over the past three years had been fruitless because of a breakdown in administration.

"We have seen the government trying to take some steps to improve the situation. It has been a technical victory, but nothing that shows popular reform," an economist said.

Steps taken this year to improve the country's economic crisis included the creation of an oil account register, the cutback of subsidies on petrol and the implementation of a new management structure for the State's treasury.

The economist said an economic policy that promoted fiscal discipline, eliminated the current 155 percent gap between the official and parallel exchanges, liberalised commerce and cut subsidies would be welcomed.

The government subsidises oil products, energy, water, telecommunications and air transport, mostly with its annual oil revenues of $1.6 billion (R6.9bn).

The country has been paralysed by a 20-year civil war between the government forces and UNITA rebels under Jonas Savimbi and millions of landmines have prevented people from resuming agricultural production.

Both sides are implementing a peace pact signed in Lusaka, Zambia in November 1994.

"It is hard to speculate what the government will do. This country needs very basic economic steps that will start the process moving.

"Fiscal discipline should be one of the biggest steps of the new policy because it will promote monetary discipline," an economist said.
Angola puts freeze on national bank

By Lesley Wroughton

Luanda — Angola's national bank has temporarily suspended its activities until a new governor is appointed, a bank official said yesterday.

"There is nothing going on in the bank. All foreign transactions and trading have been stopped," the official said.

On Monday, the Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos sacked the governor of the bank, Antonio Furtado, together with his prime minister, Marcelino风貌.

He named Fernando Fracca van Damem, the president of the national assembly, as Angola's new prime minister. Van Damem was given five days to name a new cabinet or reshuffle the existing one.

Economists said they expected the announcement of a new medium- to long-term economic policy soon after the formation of a new cabinet.

In an address to the nation, Dos Santos spoke of a breakdown of infrastructure, hyperinflation of 3000 percent, a worsening budget deficit and the existence of two money-exchange systems, which had discredited banking activities.

"We have seen the government trying to take some steps to improve the situation. It has been a technical victory, but nothing that shows popular reform," an economist said.

Steps taken this year to improve the country's economic crisis included the creation of an oil account register, the cutback of subsidies on petrol and the implementation of a new management structure for the state's treasury.

The economist said an economic policy that promoted fiscal discipline, eliminated the 155 percent gap between the official and parallel exchange rates, liberalised commerce and cut subsidies would be welcomed.

The government subsidises oil products, energy, water, telecommunications and air transport, mostly with its oil revenues of $1.6 billion annually.

The country has been paralysed by a 20-year-old civil war between the government and the Utita rebels. Millions of landmines have prevented people from resuming agricultural production.

Both sides are implementing a peace pact signed in Lusaka in November 1994.

A World Bank report in 1990 recommended a combination of shock treatment and a gradual approach for economic reform.

It said reform should involve price and wage adjustments, a depreciation of exchange rates, more flexibility in allocating foreign exchange and more accountability for public enterprises. — Reuters
Angolan crisis: Mandela calls off visit

Gaye Davis

President Nelson Mandela has called off his visit to Angola in the wake of President José Eduardo dos Santos's sacking of his Cabinet and the governor of the central bank.

Mandela was to have left South Africa on Tuesday for a largely symbolic visit, during which he would have addressed the Angolan Parliament. It was intended as a gesture of goodwill to send a signal that the United Nations-brokered peace process was working and to boost confidence in the region.

"The president sent a note to President Dos Santos this morning asking that the visit be rescheduled due to prevailing circumstances," said presidential spokesman Parks Makahala.

"The president feels it would be inconsiderate to impose a state visit of this magnitude on the Angolan government while they were undergoing a period of transition."

In the letter, Mandela assured Dos Santos of his full support in addressing the problems which had led to the dissolution of the government and said he was committed to ensuring the success of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo will travel to Angola on Monday to convey a personal message to President Dos Santos from Mandela.

On Monday, Dos Santos axed prime minister Marcelino Moco and all his ministers and suspended the country's foreign exchange trade.

"He is getting rid of the people blamed for the economic crisis in the country," said Institute for International Affairs researcher Glenn Oosthuysen. "He could be making them scapegoats. However, Angola is run by the military — the generals have their finger in every economic pie. Civil society doesn't really exist."

By presidential decree, Dos Santos named Fernando Franca van Dunem as the new prime minister. Van Dunem now has five days to form a new government, which is expected to make better headway in pushing through economic reforms.

Oosthuysen said he expected Unita would "make a meal of it" should the new government comprise only members of the ruling party, the MPLA, but said this would only be of rhetorical value. "It is too early to expect Unita to come into the government."

A government of national unity, with key ministries for Unita, is due to be formed at some stage this year.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi's troops were not yet demobilised and each side was accusing the other of rearming. It was unclear what progress had been made on the integration of the two forces, due to have begun on June 1.
Few fresh faces in Angolan cabinet

LUANDA — A new government took office on Saturday as part of Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos' plan to find solutions for the ailing economy.

But the cabinet showed few fresh faces and a number of veterans from previous governments.

Dos Santos sacked former Prime Minister Marcolino Moco and central bank governor António Purtado last Monday, blaming them for Angola's economic ruin.

But new Prime Minister Fernando Franca Van Dunen has changed only four ministers in a cabinet of 24 despite Dos Santos' message of the need for deep political change to stop the economy sliding further.

Incoming Finance Minister Mario de-Alcantara Monteiro and central bank governor Sebastião Lavrador both held these posts at the beginning of the decade.

The health, mining and public works departments were left without ministers. The posts are expected to be filled when a government of national unity is formed with Unita rebels after July 31.

Unita — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — expressed on Saturday its horror for the re-nomination of the same men.

Dos Santos' reshuffle was considered to be a gesture to stem the social unrest that has been brewing over the past 15 days.

Several pamphlets were circulated in Luanda urging protest against low wages, miserable living conditions and widespread corruption. One youth group called on Angolans to participate in a mass 'demonstration against destitution'.

Government responded by banning the demonstration, placing anti-riot police on the streets and arresting several activists, including a Catholic priest from Germany who wrote and distributed one of the pamphlets.

Lavrador said on Saturday all foreign exchange transactions would resume today. Dos Santos had suspended foreign money transactions last week until a new government had been elected.

On the informal exchange market in Luanda, the readjusted kwanza strengthened against the dollar ahead of the announcement of the new cabinet. Government said last week it would begin circulating new 500 000 and 1-milion kwanza notes this week, which economists said would increase the inflation rate.

Inflation is running at an annual rate of 4 000%, while running water to the capital was halted one month ago and electricity goes off at night.

But as Angola edges towards peace after two decades of fighting, the former Marxist government can no longer blame the poor economic situation on war efforts.

— Sapa-AP, Reuter.
Diamond deal talks held in Angola

LUANDA. - Talks on the future of Angola's rich diamond provinces, largely left out of the country's peace deal, have been held at the bush headquarters of Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

The discussions at Bailundo brought together Dr Savimbi and Paulino Neto, director of the state-controlled Angolan diamond company Endiana.

The future of diamond-rich Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul, controlled mainly by Dr Savimbi's forces, had largely been untouched in peace talks between the former Angolan rivals who signed an accord in 1994 to end 20 years of civil war.

Under the Lusaka peace pact, Unita has to withdraw its fighters from the Lunda provinces and disarm them at UN-supervised assembly camps by July.

Dr Savimbi controls large tracts of diamond-rich country. It has been estimated that he earns between $200 million to $500 million a year from diamonds and is said to be reluctant to give up this control. - Reuter.
Angola's economic troubles continue
Angola: The Brazil of Southern Africa

Many Angolans draw parallels between Angola and Brazil, where the climate is similar and both are rich in natural resources. The economy of both countries is heavily dependent on oil and gas, and they share a similar geographical location in the southern part of Africa. The landscapes and cultural influences also show similarities, with both countries having a blend of African and European cultures. However, Angola has faced significant challenges in recent years, including political instability, corruption, and economic difficulties, whereas Brazil has managed to maintain a more stable and prosperous economy.
Savimbi hosts meeting on the future of diamond areas

By Lesley Wroughton

Luanda — Talks on the future of Angola’s rich diamond provinces were held at the bush headquarters of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi on Wednesday.

The provinces were largely left out of the country’s peace deal.

The discussions at Bellundo brought together Savimbi and Paulino Neto, the director of the state-controlled Angolan diamond company Endiama.

The future of diamond-rich Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul, which are mainly controlled by Savimbi’s forces, was largely untouched in peace talks between the former Angolan rivals, who signed an accord in 1994 to end 20 years of civil war.

Under the Lusaka peace pact, Unita has to withdraw its fighters from the Lunda provinces and disarm them by next month at assembly camps supervised by the United Nations.

Higino Carneiro, the government peace negotiator, and Isaias Samukuva, the Unita representative in a joint ceasefire commission, attended the talks.

“We prefer not to comment on the discussions,” Carneiro told reporters on his return to Luanda and before going to talks with Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan president.

Savimbi controls most of the Lunda Norte diamond area along the Cuango River. It has been estimated that he earns between $200 million and $500 million from diamonds and he is believed to be reluctant to give up this control.

A World Bank report in 1990 said that about $50 million worth of diamonds left Angola unofficially every year. They were either smuggled across the Zaire border for sale on the open market or smuggled to Lisbon.

Mining officials said the government had offered Unita at least three options to resolve the diamond issue. These included, offering Unita diamond concessions, the creation of Unita’s own diamond company which would have shares in Endiama; and joint projects with international companies.

“It is also known that Unita has been pressing to have a representative on the board of Endiama,” an official said.

Mechern, a South African company, is removing landmines from the main stretch of road between the city of Malange and Saurimo in Lunda Sul so that Unita troops can be withdrawn from the area.

“It still has to be decided where the Unita troops in the Lunda provinces will be disarmed. The chances are good that it will not be inside the Lunda provinces, but in the neighboring Malange province,” a peace observer said.

“It is also a guess as to how many troops Unita has in the Lunda provinces and if it will relinquish its control. This is a very sensitive issue.”

Unita has already disarmed more than 45,000 of its troops at 13 assembly camps in Angola. Tomorrow is the deadline for Savimbi’s promise to disarm a total of 50,000 soldiers. — Reuters
Cabinda is still fighting for freedom
Child soldiers want the war to end so that they can live normally

By Louis Okamba

CABINDA, ANGOLA - It's a war whose echoes rarely reach the outside world, but for the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC-FAC), there is a do-or-die struggle to free their territory from the rest of Angola.

Die they do, although there are few reliable body counts. And some of the victims are child soldiers like 16-year-old Cristiano Marrassa, in this small village, off about 500 people in the Cabindian forest.

Cristiano and a few of his comrades were keeping watch as the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), posted just about 600m away, fired at Coto with 88mm calibers.

"They're just poor shots," the youth told journalist. "They can't even hit the chickens, poor. They shoot at us everyday, but people are not afraid. Only the chickens - they hide every time those playthings (the cannon) make a noise."

"But the day we get some things, will be different because we know the bunch. It's our territory. And we know exactly where the enemy is."

Fighting really tough
Cristiano will never see that day - he and another young combatant were cut down by Kalachnikov bullets recently during a firefight with an FAA unit just about 100 metres from Coto.

"The fighting was really tough," said FLEC-FAC military operations chief Boniface Tchikaya. "Our forces defended themselves well and were able to contain the invader."

Cabinda, a 7 200 sq km exclave just south of Congo, is separated from the rest of Angola by a narrow, bauld of Zairean territory.

The 300 000 Cabindains, who make up less than three percent of Angola's population of 10.5 million, have more in common culturally and by way of language, with their neighbours to the north than with other Angolans, a fact the rebels like to point out.

During Angola's war of liberation from Portuguese rule which ended in 1975, the FLEC sought independence for Cabinda, whereas the MPLA, which now governs Angola, has always opposed the separation of the oil-rich enclave.

While the 19-year war between the FAA and the main Angolan rebel force Unita ended in 1994 following protracted negotiations brokered by international mediators, the conflict in Cabinda has dragged on, attracting little attention outside of the enclave.

FLEC-FAC, which later became FLEC-FAC, has stuck to its original demand. Unlike other groups that accepted the autonomy offered to the territory by the MPLA government, it wants nothing short of independence for Cabinda and claims to have freed 340 sq kms of the enclave, mainly forested areas such as Coto.

But its leaders have tended to play down the fact that many of the combatants they depend on to carry the struggle that has lasted more than two
Corruption rife in Angola's ruling party

The Angolan president is having his back on the wall.
Angolan war thrives in Cabinda

Nana Rosine Ngangoue

While there is peace in most of Angola now, the war continues in the Angolan enclave of Cabinda.

Women in Cabinda are used to the sounds of war but the boom of artillery fire is still frightening to most. "It's the Angolans who use heavy artillery," explained Siolu Tchibinda, a member of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), referring to the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA).

"We cannot respond because we don't have weapons like that," she adds. "They have more sophisticated, deadlier weapons than our people. We have been subjected to this since the Seventies. That's because we have dared to demand our independence from Angola."

Cabinda, a 2,200km² enclave just south of Congo, is separated from the rest of Angola by a narrow band of Zairean territory. About 300,000 Cabindans make up less than 3% of Angola's population of 10.5 million.

"During Angola's war of liberation from Portuguese rule, which ended in 1975, the FLEC sought independence for Cabinda whereas the now ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has always opposed the separation of the oil-rich enclave."

While the 19-year war between the MPLA and the main Angolan rebel force, the Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA) ended in 1994, the conflict in Cabinda has dragged on, with the FLEC insisting on independence for Cabinda.

The FLEC-Cabindanese Armed Forces (FLEC-FAC) claims to have freed 340km² of the enclave, mainly heavily forested zones along the border with Zaire. Its fighters are men and teenage boys. They women contribute in other ways.

Tchibinda is a member of a group of about 50 women who support the rebel group's struggle.

"Our role is to increase the fighting capacity of Cabinda's women," she says. "There are nearly 80,000 women in Cabinda and we are trying to make them understand the meaning of mobilisation."

"Every Cabindese is a combatant because this is a war that has been imposed on us," said one (male) FLEC-FAC fighter. "Even if someone is a civilian, he or she still plays a role in the revolution."

Some women contribute by teaching children who live in areas controlled by the rebel group. About 40 teachers give classes to about 600 children behind rebel lines.

"I teach in the schools in the bush so as to contribute to improving the intellectual capacity of Cabindese children who will continue this liberation struggle," says Siolu. "For that I don't need a salary."

Others help to feed the combatants, like one elderly woman who refused to give her name but said she had a 21-year-old son in the FLEC-FAC.

"By sending our young sons to the front, we are sacrificing ourselves for the independence of our country."

There are reportedly at least 100 child soldiers in the rebel army, whose total strength is a closely guarded secret. — IPS
Angola peace commitments still not met

New York - The United Nations is again unhappy about developments in Angola, where the quartering of Unita troops has fallen off substantially and the target of 62,500 quartered by the end of June went unmet.

Also, only 26,000 personal weapons have been surrendered, and Unita has yet to give up any heavy armaments, including rocket launchers and tanks, a UN spokesman said in a statement in New York.

The UN peacekeeping operation in Angola, numbering 7,282 soldiers and civilian police, is now the largest of its kind anywhere.

But UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is displeased with both President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi for failing to honour the peace commitments they made in March.

The number of Unita troops quartered so far is 52,127.

Notwithstanding his misgivings, Boutros-Ghali has proposed that the Security Council renew the peacekeeping mandate until October 11. - Star Foreign Service.
Angolan sunshine reverses to grappling of power

Diamond agreement may bring peace
Angola's odd man out

London – Angolan rebels are grossly violating the Lusaka peace accords, say campaigners who are calling on Western governments to apply concerted pressure on Jonas Savimbi and his rebel army to abide by the protocols of the 18-month-old truce.

They charge that the main obstacle to lasting peace is the refusal of Savimbi’s National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to honour its pledges under last year’s accord and hand over weapons and uncamp its fighters at United Nations-designated sites.

“Our ministers have been handed weapons and are delaying the quartering of their troops. They are committing these and other gross violations of clauses in the accords with impunity. Peace can only be achieved in Angola when Unita begins to comply with the Lusaka agreement.”

According to UN sources in London, at least half of the estimated 40,000 Unita “fighters” who have so far been registered at the 11 UN quartering sites around the country are not frontline guerrillas.

Confirmed claims

The UN has also confirmed claims by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government that only about a third of them arrived with weapons of any sort, and these were mainly small arms.

“Unita has not even begun a serious effort towards disarming and demobilising, 18 months after the Lusaka accord,” the UN source said. “And there is no sign of any change in their attitudes.”

These perceived “delaying tactics” by the rebel movement have led to doubts as to whether ongoing moves to select and incorporate 26,000 Unita fighters into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) – begun in June – will be completed by the end of July, the deadline set by FAA commander General Joao de Matos.

The unified national army had been billed to replace the UN military contingent – the upkeep of which is costing over R1.43 million a day. To date, only about 20 Unita officers have been inducted into the FAA.

And, with the UN Security Council itself questioning the commitment of Unita to the Lusaka accords, many observers maintain it would be irresponsible for the UN force to pull out.

Savimbi and his top lieutenants have been frequently accused of scuppering successive peace initiatives in the country’s two decades-long civil war, notably in October 1992 when, following an 18-month ceasefire, the rebels relaunched the war after losing elections which international monitors ruled free and fair.

For the duration of that ceasefire, as now, Savimbi had dragged his feet over the disarmament and encampment of Unita fighters.

Some observers believe Savimbi plans to resume hostilities again – if not immediately then sometime in the future – should the peace process unfold in a manner he finds unfavourable.

His steadfast refusal to occupy the vice-presidency in the government is seen as another indication that he is keeping his options open. Ironically he had been very insistent on it during the talks leading to Lusaka.

As Jackson said: “Even in March Savimbi, at the talks in Gabon with (Angola’s President José Eduardo) Dos Santos, said he was going to take up the post. Why this change of heart? It makes you wonder.”

The MPLA had also offered Unita several ministerial, ambassadorial and other top positions in government.

Savimbi’s game plan is bound to remain largely hidden until at least August, when Unita holds its congress. The rebel leader said this week that it is then that the decision on whether to join the government will be taken.

Many analysts, including UN sources, perceive this as another delaying tactic.

Meanwhile, international human rights activists say that abuses by both sides are being committed. There are numerous allegations of police brutality and arbitrary arrest in areas controlled by the government, while Unita has been accused of killings, torture and “disappearances”.

Angola’s conflict started immediately after independence from colonial Portugal in 1975, when Savimbi’s Unita, funded and armed by the then apartheid state of South Africa and backed by Portugal and the United States, pledged to remove the popular, left-wing MPLA government.

All that changed in the nineties with the ending of the Cold War, the dismantling of apartheid and the MPLA’s defeat of Unita in the 1992 elections.

Diamond sales

However, despite the current UN embargo on the rebel movement, arms and fuel supplies – for which it pays with proceeds of illegal diamond sales – continue to be flown in to Unita via neighbouring Zaire.

Although there are signs that Washington, London and other Wester governments are using diplomatic pressure to persuade Savimbi to bring an end to his marathon war, campaigners say they are not doing enough.

Britain dismisses this claim. “While we cannot speak for other governments,” says British Foreign Office spokesman Clive Thompson, “the British government has kept up pressure on both sides for a more rapid implementation of the Lusaka accords at every opportunity.”

Jackson said: “Unita will not budge until intense, coherent and concerted pressure is applied by the West. They should start by making the sanctions work and that means taking action on Zaire, which is violating UN sanctions by allowing supplies to reach Unita through its soil and airspace.

“When you look at how international sanctions are hitting Iraq and Libya, you can see that the West is not doing enough. When they want sanctions to work, they make them work. There is a lot more they can do to force Unita to respect the Lusaka accords.” – Sapa-IPS.
Angola's peace under threat.

The Angolan people are especially

Angola's peace process is under threat again, and any international pressure on Angola to honour its agreements with

An MFL can resolve the situation with the LAI ANAMBOSA ON AUSTRALIAN PRESS SERVICE in London.

1674 26/1/94
Kenyan MP stabbed in face by fellow politician

Nairobi — A Kenyan MP received eight stitches below the eye after he was stabbed by a fellow deputy in parliament, the Kenyan press reported yesterday.

Otiemo Kopilo, an opposition deputy, said fellow MP Farah Maalim rained blows on him and stabbed him in the face on Thursday. Both MPs belong to the official opposition Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya.

Maalim is also a founder member of the unregistered opposition Safina Party of wildlife conservationist Richard Leakey.

Maalim said he attacked Kopilo because he had repeatedly intimidated him with taunts about the low number of votes he had received.

In the 1992 first multiparty legislative elections, Maalim garnered 2,735 votes to take the Lagdera constituency in the sparsely inhabited Somali North Eastern Province.

Kopilo polled 30,018 votes to win the Kasipul-Kabondo constituency in the heavily populated Luo region on Lake Victoria in western Kenya. — AFP
Unita starts surrendering its weapons

JAMBA. – Angola's Unita opposition group, boosting a 1994 peace accord with the government, has begun to surrender its heavy weapons, some of it still in its original packaging.

Acting chief of staff, General Altino Sapalalo said Unita, which waged a guerrilla war against the government for more than 20 years, would hand over more weapons, including tanks, at other points in the Cuando Cubango province this week (5).

Unita officials yesterday handed over 770 tons of new weapons and ammunition including anti-tank grenades, rockets and mortars in a guarded tent at Mucusso, a town close to the Namibian border.

Most of the equipment was still sealed in its original packaging, some showing its origin in China and South Africa. – Reuter.
The committee has failed to produce an investigation report on the corruption cases mentioned in a report addressed to the office of the president.

The president's official record shows the money was transferred to the New York branch of the opposition party one day before the presidential election, contrary to the provisions of the constitution which requires a declaration of financial interests before participating in an election.

The opposition's demand for an explanation of the transactions has not been addressed.

Signed: [Signature]
Date: [Date]

Mo Implemeted in Committee's Calendar of Sins
Belgium’s Petrofina returns to its war-ravaged oil fields

By Lesley Wroughton

Soyo, Angola — Belgium’s Petrofina has returned to its war-damaged base in northern Angola and hopes to double its present oil production to 12,000 barrels a day by early next year.

The company’s wells officially resumed production at Soyo in February after a three-year break, pumping 5,000 barrels a day.

“Our production has reached 6,500 barrels per day in the first phase of reconstruction and we hope to be doing between 10,000 and 12,000 barrels per day by early 1997,” the company said.

“We hope to increase this by 10,000 barrels in 1998,” Philippe Remacle, the technical director, said.

Petrofina abandoned its Soyo operations in 1993 when Unita guerrillas captured the town near the Zaire border. About 14 employees were left behind by government helicopters during the evacuations. They were held prisoner by the rebels, but later released.

Full production would be achieved in three phases, Remacle said. The production is from the natural-flow wells close to Soyo. The oil is pumped offshore to a floating storage installation and then transferred to tankers.

Remacle said the company would move southeast to Pangala in the next phase and produce from wells averaging 1,600m in depth. The last phase would resume production from wells at Quinzuquena.

Damage to the oil installations is severe. Two 400,000-barrel storage tanks lay scorched and melted yesterday after they burned for 90 days at the Quinzuquena loading terminal.

Nearby warehouses are in ruin after looting, with equipment damaged by rust. Holding tanks and pumps lie lopsided, blown up at their bases.

South Africa’s Saracen International, contracted by the oil companies to remove landmines, has had to burn smaller pools of oil to clear the land for mine clearance.

“The extent of damage of facilities is between $30 million and $60 million. Fortunately the wells dried naturally. If it had happened at the start of production we would have something like Kuwait,” Remacle said.

“We are discussing now what we are going to do to clear the oil,” he said.

He said kilometres of pipelines laid along roads would have to be flushed with water to find leaks.

David Bax, the Saracen spokesman, said the company had cleared Soyo’s harbour and the beach area in the first phase of its operations.

After almost a year, Saracen’s workers have removed thick bush and cleared mines and unexploded ammunition from about 150km of roads.

“We have to give Fina access to the wellheads,” Bax said. “It appears there was no attempt to mine or booby-trap the pipelines, but we have found anti-tank mines on the shoulders of the roads and in the roads we are clearing.” —Reuter
Angolan oil starts to flow as peace prevails

SOYO — Belgium's Petrofina SA has returned to its war-damaged base in northern Angola and hopes to double its current oil production there to 12,000 barrels per day by early next year.

Its wells at Soyo officially resumed production at an initial 5,000 bpd in February after a three-year break. The company has operated fields around the port city since 1969. "Our production has reached 6,500 barrels per day in the first phase of reconstruction and we hope to be doing between 10,000 and 12,000 barrels per day by early 1997. We hope to increase this by 10,000 barrels in 1998," technical director Philippe Remacle said.

Petrofina abandoned its Soyo operations in 1993 when Unita guerrillas captured the town, near the Zaire border. At least 14 employees, left behind by helicopters during evacuations, were held prisoner by the rebels, but later released.

Full production would be achieved in three phases, Remacle said. Current production is from natural-flow wells close to Soyo town. The oil is pumped offshore onto a floating storage installation and then transferred to tankers. Remacle said the company would in the next phase move southeast to Pangala and produce from wells averaging 1,600m in depth. The last phase will be resumed production from wells at Quinhuquina.

Damage to oil installations is severe. Two huge 400,000 barrel storage tanks today lie scorched and melted after they burned for 90 days at Quinhuquina loading terminal. Nearby warehouses are in ruin after looting, with equipment damaged by rust. Holding tanks and pumps lie lopsided, exploded at their bases.

In at least three areas oil well heads, damaged by gunfire, have been leaking, creating lakes of oil and destroying vegetation.

SA's Saracen International Company, contracted by oil companies to remove landmines, has had to burn smaller pools of oil to clear the land for mine clearance.

"The extent of damage of facilities is between $50 or $60m. Fortunately the wells dried naturally. "If it had happened at the start of production of each well, we would have something like Kuwait," Remacle said. — Reuters.
Coalition moves on polio in Angola

According to Governor Martin J. Gerse, B.C., vice president of the World Health Organization's regional director for Africa, the successful vaccination program in Angola has resulted in a significant reduction in the incidence of polio. The governor noted that the program has been successful in reaching areas that were previously inaccessible to vaccination campaigns. The governor also praised the efforts of the local government and the international community in support of the program. He emphasized the importance of continued support for the program to ensure its success in achieving the goal of polio eradication by 2005.
Angola peace talks falter as Unita rejects Savimbi post

Luanda - Angola's Unita opposition has stalled the peace process in the southern African country by failing to agree to proposals for a government of national reconciliation acceptable to the Luanda authorities.

The former Unita rebels, who were yesterday winding up a congress at Bairro de Turi in central Angola, turned down a government proposal to give a vice-presidential post to their leader Jonas Savimbi. Unita information officer Marcel Dachala ruled out the prospect that Savimbi would accept one of two vice-presidential posts offered by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, saying it could go to another Unita representative.

The government, however, insists that the post is reserved for Savimbi only.

His future status had been deliberately set aside in a series of negotiations to end almost 20 years of a devastating post-independence civil war.

"No to war! War is over," Savimbi told the third Unita congress, adding: "Nobody of good faith can cast doubt on or suspect Unita's intentions."

Savimbi earlier told the meeting that his return to Luanda depended on the appropriate security arrangements.

Dos Santos last week called on the UN to set a three-week deadline for Unita to apply the terms of the Lusaka protocol signed by the two sides in November 1994. - AFP.
Angola expels foreign traders

Dakar — Angola yesterday expelled 162 Senegalese as part of a crackdown on foreign traders, three days after a French plane brought back 13 Senegalese deportees from Paris, officials said.

Witnesses said the deportees from Angola, including six women and five children, arrived at Dakar airport in an Angolan Tupolev plane. Officials said 57 other Senegalese were in detention in Luanda waiting to be sent home.

Senegalese traders are found all over Africa and in Europe and North America. Thirteen Senegalese were among more than 50 illegal immigrants deported from France at the weekend and scores more are expected to be affected by tougher rules for migrant workers announced by Sierra Leone on Monday.

Angola has thrown out hundreds of West Africans, Lebanese and Indians since the start two weeks ago of a campaign against foreign traders. — Reuters.
John Hembnber

Meetings: Agendas:

Days in Afghanistan

 ứng congress silence Angola town

Photograph: John Hembnber
Dos Santos to meet Savimbi in Angola for the first time

Luanda - Former Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi is ready to meet President José Eduardo dos Santos in the country before September 20, UN special envoy to Angola, Altounian Bléïdhin Boye, has announced.

Boye said on Thursday the former foes were due to discuss the extension of parliament's mandate beyond November and Unita's return to the National Assembly of elected deputies. The staging of a second round of presidential elections would also be discussed, Boye said after a visit to Unita headquarters at Balundo in the centre of Angola.

Observers hope the meeting will break a political deadlock caused by Savimbi's refusal to take up the vice-presidential post offered to him.

Boye said "a definitive solution concerning the government of national unity will be found during the meeting. Mr Savimbi has authorized me to state that publicly."

Dos Santos and Savimbi have met four times since the signing of the Lusaka peace protocol in November 1994 but never on Angolan territory since Unita has expressed concern for the safety of its leader.

Savimbi pledged that Unita generals would take up posts in the regular army from September 27, Boye said. - AFP
New-style diplomacy bears fruit in Angola

By JEAN-JACQUES CORNISH
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Behind the return of 18 South African diamond workers from Angola this week lie many months of this country's new-style diplomacy.

Officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs believe that what happened in both Luanda and Pretoria demonstrated the strength of bilateral ties and the efficiency of the machinery driving them.

After years of exhausting civil war, the Angolan bureaucracy is understandably not working as well as it might.

Nevertheless, it reacted with speed and sympathy to the arrest of the 18 men on charges including working without permits, illegally importing mining equipment and contravening aviation regulations.

Since the South African embassy opened in Luanda, staff there have identified and built a network of influential contacts that has made it possible to traverse the bureaucratic maze. The success of this is illustrated by the speed with which ambassador Roger Ballard-Truscott and his officials were able to make contact with the people in a position to get to grips with the problem; get a decision; and get that decision executed.

Airline sources confirmed that the 18 workers were put on board a plane before tickets had actually been bought — yet another illustration of the embassy's contacts.

All in all the exercise is being reviewed with satisfaction in both Pretoria and Luanda. Both sides acted in good faith and with mutual respect for each other's difficulties.

South Africa, for example, has considerable problems of its own related to illegal immigrants. Foreign affairs officials were sensitive to the Angolan need to establish a correct precedent in a field of such economic importance.

(5) Star 21/9/96
UNITA stays away from Angola talks

LUANDA — One of Angola’s two former warring parties boycotted peace talks yesterday, dashing the hopes of SA President Nelson Mandela and other regional leaders that their initiative could lead to a breakthrough.

Jonas Savimbi, head of the former rebel movement UNITA, failed to come to the government-held capital Luanda from his stronghold in Bailundo in the north of the still effectively partitioned country. “We are disappointed that Dr Savimbi is not here. He has given us his reasons,” said Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. “It is not wishes we want from him, instead the wishes should rather come from us.”

Portuguese radio said two of Savimbi’s aides came to the venue of the meeting to hand in their leader’s letter justifying his absence. The Angolan government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA are implementing a 1994 peace accord to end two decades of civil war.

SA leaders are keen to see the peace process completed to ensure stability in the region, but it is has slowed almost to a stop.

UNITA generals were integrated last month into the national army with their former enemies, but political rapprochement has hardly begun.

Savimbi has rejected the vice-presidency reserved for him under the peace accord. It would have meant moving to government-held Luanda, far away from his Bailundo base.

“We are at a dangerous crossroads between peace and war,” dos Santos told the 11 heads of state from countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the first peace summit of its kind.

“You are no carriers of a magic wand but your presence in Luanda is a stimulant for peace and a source of inspiration for national reconciliation.”

Mandela said before the meeting that instability in any country in the region could upset the situation in other countries too.

Peace would dent UNITA’s lucrative income from the sale of diamonds mined in areas it controls and would leave the movement playing second fiddle to dos Santos’ MPLA, which is currently struggling to keep its impoverished government going.

The MPLA won elections held in 1992 after a previous peace accord. But UNITA rejected the results and the peace collapsed.

Luanda’s streets were secured before the leaders arrived yesterday. Armed soldiers stood on each corner of the major routes to the meeting of the SADC states. — Reuters.
HOPES FOR STABILITY DASHED

Savimbi's boycott of summit condemned

LUANDA: "We are at a dangerous crossroads between peace and war," Angola's President José Eduardo dos Santos told Southern African leaders yesterday after Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi failed to turn up at a peace summit.

Southern African leaders meeting here to help Angola's peace process condemned Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi yesterday for his failure to arrive, which dashed hopes of a quick breakthrough in the stalled initiative.

The 11 Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders attending the one-day summit appealed to Savimbi's movement to fulfil its commitments in the Lusaka Protocol, signed by the Angolan government and Unita in 1994 to end two decades of war.

In a joint statement, the SADC also urged the United Nations' Security Council, which reviews its peace-keeping mandate in Angola today, to "develop measures which oblige Unita to fully respect deadlines" in a peace timetable.

The meeting decided too that the region would send five ministers to the Security Council in New York to present SADC's position on the Angolan peace process.

"He has given us his reasons," Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said.

Portuguese radio said two of Savimbi's aides came to the hotel where the meeting was being held to hand in their leader's letter justifying his absence.

Unita generals were integrated last month into the national army with their former enemies, but political rapprochement has hardly begun.

Savimbi has rejected the vice-presidency reserved for him under the peace accord. It would have meant moving to government-held Luanda, far away from his Bailundo base.

"We are at a dangerous crossroads between peace and war," Dos Santos told the 11 heads of state from countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the first peace summit of its kind.

President Nelson Mandela told reporters before the meeting that instability in any country in the region could upset the situation in other countries too.

Peace would dent Unita's lucrative income from the sale of diamonds mined in areas it controls and it would play second fiddle to Dos Santos' MPLA, which is struggling to keep its impoverished government going.

The SADC members are Mauritius, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana and South Africa. — Reuters
Unita boycott sets back new peace initiative

Angolan president warns SADC heads of state that Savimbi's absence from Luanda summit leaves the country at 'a dangerous crossroads'

The former Angola guerilla group Unita boycotted a peace summit yesterday, dashing the hopes of President Nelson Mandela and other regional leaders that their initiative could lead to a breakthrough.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi failed to come to the government-held capital Luanda from his stronghold in Bailundo in the north of the still effectively partitioned country.

"We are disappointed that Dr Savimbi is not here. He has given us his reasons," said Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe. "It is not what we want from him. Instead, the wishes should rather come from us."

Portuguese radio said two of Savimbi's aides had come to the hotel where the meeting was being held, to hand in their leader's letter justifying his absence.

The Angolan government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita are implementing a 1994 peace accord to end two decades of civil war.

Southern African leaders are keen to see the peace process completed to ensure stability in the region, but it has slowed almost to a stop.

Last month, Unita generals were integrated into the national army with their former enemies, but political rapprochement has hardly begun.

Savimbi has rejected the vice-presidency, reserved for him under the peace accord, as it would have meant moving to government-held Luanda, far away from his Bailundo.
SADC takes a dim view of Savimbi

Harare: Southern African leaders returned home yesterday from a summit in Luanda which was meant to shore up the deteriorating Angolan peace process, but which was rendered fruitless by opposition leader Jonas Savimbi's refusal to attend.

The leaders called on the United Nations Security Council to use its influence to get Unita to stick to the peace agreement.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, who chaired the meeting of the Southern African Development Community's organ on security, angrily told a press conference: "We condemn this attitude.

"We hope that it will never happen again".

President Nelson Mandela, who interrupted a state visit by Holland's Queen Beatrix, said he was disappointed.

Mugabe said he had been given a note from Savimbi in which the guerrilla chief said he had not been able to attend "because the political conditions were not there".

A Unita spokesman said Savimbi had been invited to the summit only on Saturday and had not had enough time to prepare for the meeting. — Sapa-DPA.
Savimbi under fire for peace talks breakdown

Luanda – Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has disclosed serious strains in relations with Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, saying he has not talked to him since early August.

The comments by Mr Dos Santos on national radio yesterday came a day after Southern African leaders attacked Unita for allegedly delaying efforts to shore up Angola's shaky peace.

Mr Dos Santos said he last spoke to Dr Savimbi several days before a special Unita congress in mid-August to decide the future of the movement.

The president also said he hoped the United Nations Security Council, reviewing its peacekeeping mandate in Angola, would put pressure on Unita to fulfil its obligations under the peace plan signed in Lusaka in 1994.

Eleven heads of state of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Luanda yesterday to try to end the deadlock.

Dr Savimbi did not arrive, citing "unfortunate political conditions".

The SADC group condemned Dr Savimbi's absence.

However, they added they would continue their contacts to get discussions going between the two Angolan leaders.

Mr Dos Santos told the summit: Angola had reached a dangerous crossroads. "We have the impression that someone wants to push the return of war. It is, however, not our wish."

Dr Savimbi has yet to tell Mr Dos Santos personally of a decision by Unita's congress not to accept the vice-presidency offered to him in a unity government.

Political analysts said the Unita leader had further isolated himself by ignoring efforts by African and Western governments to break the stalemate. – Reuter
Unita will comply with demands – envoy

SAPA-AFP

United Nations – The Angolan former rebel movement Unita has promised to comply with two key military demands after blocking implementation of the peace process, UN special envoy Aliouné Blondin Beye said yesterday.

Beye said he was confident Unita would fulfill its promises by tomorrow, when the UN Security Council meets to discuss renewing the mandate of the UN peacekeeping force in Angola, Unavem III.

The Luanda-based UN official also revealed that Unita had for the first time formally proposed a role for its leader Jonas Savimbi as part of a series of new political proposals.

The council meeting comes at a time when pressure is growing in southern Africa for possible economic sanctions against Unita for failing to fulfill all its commitments under the 1994 Lusaka peace accords.

Ministers from five members of the 12-nation Southern African Development Community, which last week urged the council to “adopt measures” in the light of Unita’s actions, are due in New York for the council session.

The Security Council must take a decision on the UN force’s mandate by Friday, when the current Unavem mandate expires.

Beye said Savimbi had assured him that the last four Unita generals would arrive in Luanda to join the integrated Angolan armed forces. Five other generals have been in the Angolan capital since last month in line with the peace accords.

Beye added that if the four generals failed to show up, he would recommend to the council a short extension of the Unavem mandate to “November 30th at the latest,” to keep up the pressure on Unita.

He also said that he had “just heard” that the number of Unita personnel to be selected for the Angolan armed forces now stood at 10,000. He expected the figure to rise to 15,000 by tomorrow, up from 3,000 last week.

Under the peace plan, a total 26,300 Unita personnel are to be incorporated into the armed forces.

UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said yesterday that the two issues should be the key factors in deciding how long the Unavem mandate should be extended.

He hinted that the council might consider sanctions if Unita failed to comply, saying that by extending the mandate for a short period until December 11, the council could “respond appropriately to continuing delays, especially by Unita”.

Western diplomats said Washington, which remains influential with Unita, its former Angolan civil war ally, would be opposed to sanctions against the rebels.

Beye also pointed to recent political concessions by Unita, notably concerning the future status of Savimbi, who has rejected a government offer to become Angolan vice president.
Unita proposes new plan for unity

Luanda - As the clock ticks towards Angola's November deadline to form a unity government, the former rebel Unita movement yesterday revealed plans for a new unity state with its leader Jonas Savimbi in the role of loyal opposition.

"People within the MPLA (government) are concerned that Unita wants to disrupt the process and are deliberately causing delays until November when the government's mandate expires," chief Unita negotiator in Luanda, Isias Samakwa, said.

"We feel the government is concerned with the end of the mandate and they are very nervous, so we have given them three documents which will serve as a smooth extension of the mandate.

"We want this to begin in October," he said.

Samakwa said concrete proposals on outstanding political issues were given to the government and the United Nations last week.

Days ahead of a UN Security Council meeting, where strong criticism of Unita's delays in implementing a 1994 peace plan is expected to emerge, Samakwa said his party was eager to show commitment to the blueprint, which ended 20 years of civil war.

Unita has rejected the resignation of its 63-year-old leader as vice president in a unity government.

Instead, it has proposed that Savimbi be given special status as leader of the largest opposition party and would consult with the president on national matters.

Savimbi's position and role would be akin to that of the majority opposition leaders of Britain or Mozambique.

Unita also tabled a plan for national reconciliation, which would include extending the state's administration to Unita-controlled areas and integrating Unita's public services into a single administration.

Unita has also proposed that the current national assembly be transformed from November for a maximum of two years into a constituent assembly to review the Angolan constitution.

Samakwa said immediate changes to the constitution were necessary for this transformation and beyond parliament's mandate.

He said revising the constitution should also enable postponing national and presidential elections until the UN had declared conditions in the country suitable.
Unit "is nudging Angola back to war"

NEW YORK — Angola has not known peace since 1960, and is creeping back to a tense, warlike state after new moves by Unita, UN diplomats warn.

Tens of thousands of Angolan government and Unita guerrillas signed peace accords in Luanda, Zambia, the UN is worried that the peace process has stalled badly, with too many soldiers still armed and deployed.

UN special envoy to Angola Alioune Blondin Beye has downplayed reports of conflict between the government and Unita in the past, but now acknowledges Unita especially has problems coming to terms with peace.

"Unita signed the accords in a weak position," Beye says, noting the Luaka accords were concluded only after a series of major government victories in the summer of 1994. But now Beye insists that, whether the party is happy with the peace process or not, it must retire more of its troops and turn in more of its weaponry.

So far Unita's scorecard on those subjects has been poor. "In Angola, the pattern has been one of grudging compliance with the provisions of the Luaka protocol, with protracted delays and last-minute concessions," UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted in a report last week. "This trend cannot continue."

By September, Unita had sent 63189 declared fighters to UN-guarded bases where they could turn in arms — well in excess of the 62500 guerrillas Unita originally claimed to have.

But the UN notes that about 25000 of these troops came without any weapons, while the overall quality of the weapons and ammunition surrendered remains low," Boutros-Ghali said. The UN Angola Verification Mission (Unavem), a 7000-soldier peacekeeping force, would check the quality and number of the weapons turned in so far by mid-October, Beye said.

There are many indications, however, that Unita, supported for many years by the US and SA in their battle against Angola's then-Marxist government, has run well armed and still can field a substantial fighting force.

"They have a lot of weapons," one UN envoy said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Every day, they receive weapons by plane from Zaire." The Zairian government has repeatedly denied the charges, which the UN has been unable to confirm.

Moreover, the UN source said, Unita had not sent as many real soldiers to the UN quartering sites as the numbers indicated.

"Many of the people in the camps were civilians," he said.
International community loses patience with Unita

United Nations - The international community yesterday piled pressure on Angola's former rebels to live up to its commitments under peace accords ending nearly two decades of fighting.

The UN Security Council formal debate was scheduled, as council members were discussing regional African proposals for a 30-day deadline for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to comply with its commitments under the 1994 Lusaka peace accords or face an assets freeze, the closure of its offices, and travel restrictions.

Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura listed the "systematic delays" by Unita which he said pointed to a "lack of political will" by its leader, Jonas Savimbi.

He noted that the quartering of Unita's 63,000 troops had dragged on for too long, that four Unita generals who were to join the integrated armed forces were still awaited in Luanda, and that Unita had failed to induct the planned 26,300 of its members into the joint army.

On the political front, De Moura complained that Unita deputies had failed to return to the national parliament which they had boycotted since 1992.

Angola's 16-year civil war formally ended in 1991 but fighting quickly broke out again, and a second accord was signed in 1994.

Four other foreign ministers of the 12-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) spoke at the debate which was to be addressed by 34 speakers. The SADC sent a delegation to New York after Savimbi boycotted an SADC summit in Luanda last week.

SADC ministers are from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

SADC delegation leader Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge said that, because of Unita's failure to fulfill its commitments, Angola "is now hovering between war and peace, as the implementation process of the Lusaka protocol is now stalled".

"The time has come to say enough is enough," said Mudenge. He said the Security Council should send a "clear, unambiguous message to Unita".

Sapa-AP/
Angola is told: ‘World won’t tolerate war’

Christopher is concerned peace accords will fail when troops leave in February

Reuters
Luanda

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday it was “imperative” that Angola’s rival factions honour peace accords and warned that the world would not tolerate renewed war.

He spoke after deciding to send a senior aide to deliver that message to Unita leader Jonas Savimbi at his highland stronghold following talks in Luanda with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Alfredo Luis, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is to see Savimbi, head of the former rebel movement who has been blamed for recent delays in implementing the peace agreement. “Much has been accomplished in bringing peace to Angola,” Christopher said.

But with UN peacekeeping troops due to begin leaving in February “it is imperative that both sides move rapidly to meet their obligations”, he said.

“Unita must fulfil its pledge to send its remaining generals to Luanda, to provide 26 000 volunteers for the combined armed forces, and to assure the free movement of goods and people throughout the country.

“The government must recover weapons from civilians and ensure that the Unita soldiers it integrates have real jobs, security, and respect,” he said.

UN peace troops are due to begin leaving Angola in February, when a 1994 peace agreement between the government and Unita is supposed to be fully in effect.

Although both parties have at times dragged their feet on the accord, the United States and the United Nations have blamed Unita this time.

Christopher stressed that “political integration is essential” and said the international community “will not tolerate any resumption of conflict.

“The United States is committed to a long-term partnership with Angola and we will pursue that partnership with all those who maintain their commitment to peace.”

Christopher, wrapping up a five-nation African tour, had wanted to meet Savimbi in Luanda. But Savimbi, who once depended on US and South African help in his guerrilla war against the then-Maoist Angolan government, said he could be in danger in the capital.

Christopher rejected Savimbi’s suggestion to meet in another country or at his base camp because it “would send the wrong signal”, US officials said. Instead he had decided to send Moore.

Dos Santos said his government was committed to the peace agreement but there had to be economic benefits to underpin stability.
IMF acts as economic peacemaker in Angola

Luanda — Michel Camdessus, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director, has urged the Angolan government and rebel Unita movement to work toward a joint reconstruction to restore confidence in its economy.

He told a joint ceasefire commission meeting on Monday that his visit was aimed at finding the best way to restructure Angola's war-ravaged economy.

"I have held meetings with the government and the economic team aimed at seeing how to establish the best possible programme to spare the Angolan people additional suffering," Camdessus said.

Economists in Luanda said the IMF would look specifically at government efforts to make its oil account more transparent and examine steps to reduce inflation and the budget deficit.

Camdessus' visit comes after the withdrawal of its representative by the IMF last year. The MPLA-led government had failed to implement economic reforms for the fourth time since 1987.
Unita leader Jonas Savimbi wants to rule Angola. But when the rebel leader agreed to a 1994 peace accord that ended one of Africa’s longest civil wars, it was a tacit admission that he could not take the country by force.

No one said peace would be easy, however, and Savimbi — with his chronic delays in implementing the peace accord and his oft-repeated fears for his personal safety — has proven as wily a brinkman during peace as during war.

As the nation tries to consolidate a peacetime political and military system after a ruinous 12-year civil war, keeping Savimbi’s failed wartime ambitions and his peacetime insecurities have become a nagging problem that complicates a crucial postwar period — one that will challenge the warring parties’ commitment to peace and their ability to share power, diplomats say.

Savimbi’s Unita and the ruling MPLA, bitter enemies even before Angola’s independence from Portugal in 1975, are hard up against a deadline for reform. The United Nations, whose mandate here ends early next year, is to begin phasing out its 7,000 peacekeepers. At the same time, the country needs a constitutional arrangement to run until the next elections.

The real test of Angola’s peace is about to begin, but Savimbi’s recalcitrance — including his refusal to travel to the capital, Luanda, to meet Secretary of State Warren Christopher — has caused the peace process to lag far behind schedule.

Savimbi’s troops have not turned in all their weapons and he is far behind in integrating his force into the national army. With each delay, each failure to fulfill a pledge, Savimbi adds to insecurity.

“The irreversibility of the peace process depends on the political will of Unita,” said Patshlinda Muteka, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos’s representative to the UN commission that is supervising the implementation of the 1994 peace accord forged in Lusaka, Zambia.

Muteka’s assessment is partisan but it reflects the consensus reached in the international community: that Angola cannot move forward until Savimbi fulfills his part of the peace bargain. The United States, which once funded Unita as a Cold War proxy to thwart communism in Africa, now is leading the campaign to force Savimbi to adhere to the timetable of peace.

The question hanging over the peace process is what Savimbi wants. Unita “has ambition to rule the country one of these days,” said Isaiah Samakawa, Unita’s representative at the UN commission. “That is our goal.”

A half-million people were killed in the war between 1975 and 1994, scores of thousands were maimed by land mines, and roughly a third of Angola’s 12 million people were displaced by fighting in the agriculturally rich interior.

What remains to be seen is whether Unita is able to make the transition from rebel army to political party, especially given its record of rejecting electoral results and flouting peace agreements.

But despite their penchant for war, Alioune Blondin Beyo, the special representative here for UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said last week that “Unita knows there is no other way or choice” than peace. “They know they can’t rule the country by the gun.”

In this chaotic capital of blackouts and beggars, amputee war victims and kerbside money changers, reading the tea leaves of the peace process is a daily obsession. Rumours fly about this or that side’s latest threat about the doings of 13,000 Unita troops who deserted the UN camps where 63,000 Unita fighters were quartered, or about secret Unita rear bases alleged to exist in border areas of neighbouring Zaire.

The movement denies that it has secret bases and has pledged to round up the deserters.

The Security Council threatens to add new sanctions to its oil and arms embargo on Unita if it does not speed up demilitarisation. Several Unita generals arrived here on Friday in compliance with the Lusaka accord and buoyed hopes they are back on track.

But the UN criticised the rebels for delaying the integration of 26,000 of its fighters into the national army; for interfering with peacekeepers, and for the age and paucity of the weapons turned in by Unita soldiers.

Unita claims all its troops are quartered and accounted for and that it has turned in its weapons.

A diplomat in the US-Portuguese-Russian troika assisting implementation of the Lusaka accord called it an imperfect process that is best viewed broadly. Seen that way, the peace is holding, the hostilities have ceased, and Angola has a shot at reviving its war-torn economy. Viewed in detail, however, many rough spots remain. — The Washington Post.
PRIVATE PANACEA?

While government has made spending on primary health care and free health services to the disadvantaged a priority, the first network involving two hospital groups and a managed health-care company has been formed with the aim of trimming medical costs for middle- and upper-income earners.

The network takes in 64 hospitals, of which 27 are in Gauteng, 14 in the Western Cape and nine in KwaZulu-Natal.

Southern Healthcare JV — owned by Anglo American and Southern Life Association — and US registered United Healthcare have joined forces with Clinic Holdings and Apex Healthcare Network (a division of Afrox and Medi-Clinic) which have more than half of the private hospital beds and cover the main cities.

United Healthcare is the largest managed care company in the US. It has about 40m members.

The venture will invest more than a billion rand over 10 years to develop health management technology.

Southern Healthcare external affairs GM John Wardie says Anglo joined the venture because of rising medical costs.

Together with Southern Life, it was looking for a new approach to managing private health care. "We do not believe there are fundamental flaws in the medical schemes system," he says. "We see opportunities in the management of the process which can result in a positive outcome for all participants."

He says Southern Healthcare would initially aim to capture a share of the medical scheme business in the middle to upper segments of the market.

Southern has already signed an agreement with the Medical Association of SA (Masa) to contract doctors and specialists to deliver managed health-care services to the group. CEO Kathy Walstead-Plumb says the target is to achieve a long-term partnership with the medical profession. Such a partnership has to be based on trust and Masa acceptance is the first step in that direction.

Under the contract, Masa will nominate representatives for the company's management advisory committee.

The committee considers issues such as confidentiality, guidelines, admission requirements and fees.

"One official seat on our quality assurance and credential granting committees will also be given to a participating provider nominated by Masa," says Walstead-Plumb.

Clinic Holdings and Apex will cooperate on asset management and quality assessment.
Savimbi: Casas doubts over unit govt.
Angola 'will form united govt soon'...

BRAZZAVILLE — The United Nations (UN) mediator for Angola announced yesterday the "imminent" formation of a new government of national unity following two years of wrangling.

"We will announce the formation of this government in a few days," Ahmad Blondin Beye said before the opening of a meeting of central African leaders in Brazzaville, Congo.

Beye gave no details of the planned government but said it would include Jonas Savimbi's former rebel movement, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' Popular Liberation Movement of Angola (MPLA). The joining of Unita and Dos Santos' leadership in a new government would close out Africa's longest civil war.

Savimbi first went to war against Dos Santos' then-Marxist MPLA on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975. Beye was appointed special UN mediator in 1993 and oversaw the signing of a peace accord in Lusaka, Zambia in November 1994 calling for a government of national reconciliation.

Clashes continued as the two sides repeatedly failed to agree on a power-sharing deal, raising fears of a renewal of all-out war. At a congress in August, Unita indicated it was willing to accept a vice-president’s post with guarantees it would not be mainly ceremonial.

Dos Santos had accused Savimbi of stalling to prolong the war and in October urged the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Unita to force compliance with the accord before the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops early next year.

Beye credited "reasonable dialogue" with the success in Angola and said he hoped it would serve as an example to African leaders meeting in Congo to discuss the Zairean crisis. Zaire accuses Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda of backing rebels who have run Zairean troops out of many eastern towns, and says its neighbours have declared war on it. —Saps-AP.
ANC government knew about Angolan deals

Roles played by Pik Botha and Magnus Malan

scrutinised by Mbeki and Mufamadi, trial told

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

President Nelson Mandela was fully briefed on alleged activities involving Angola said to have been carried out by two former senior cabinet ministers in the F W de Klerk government, the Pretoria Regional Court heard yesterday.

The roles played by former foreign minister Pik Botha and ex-defence minister General Magnus Malan were said by top police investigator General Karel "Suiker" Brits to have been scrutinised by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi in regard to claims that the two had been involved in alleged diamonds-for-weapons deals, ivory deals, and the trade in so-called red mercury.

The court heard that the ministers had also been told about secret Swiss bank accounts. However, no information about the accounts was given to the court.

Brits, who is a police commissioner, was giving evidence yesterday for the State against suspended Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit commander Colonel Charles Landman and former Civil Co-operation Bureau operatives Ferdie Barnard and Gert Marais. The trio are facing allegations of corruption and defeating the ends of justice.

Landman had been in charge of a special investigation squad which was looking into reports of red mercury, and in that capacity Brits said, Landman had briefed Mbeki and Mufamadi on several occasions in regard to weapons allegedly supplied to Unita’s Jonas Savimbi in return for diamonds and ivory.

Brits described Landman as “one of the top five” murder and robbery detectives in the country “up until today – he never told me something which I thought he lied about”, he said.

Brits’ disclosure follows similar claims made in evidence earlier by Senior Superintendent Casper Jonker, a member of the Transvaal attorney-general’s special investigations team, who said under cross-examination from former Witwatersrand attorney-general Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau – now an advocate in private practice and appearing for Landman – that he was aware Landman had been involved in investigations into various deals attributed to deals in red mercury, notably that of Alan Kidger, whose dismembered body was found in 1994 in a car boot at Johannesburg airport, and Don Lange, who was found gassed in his Umhlanga Rocks, Durban, apartment.

The court also heard that Lange – whom Landman had said, Von Lieres told the court, had contact with Botha – had carried a Philippine passport, which was produced in court.

Jonker confirmed under questioning that “the matter of red mercury” had appeared in all police files relating to the unexplained deaths.

Von Lieres told the court that Landman’s 1995 desk diary had included references to information he had received involving Botha and Malan in illegal diamonds and weapons deals, but Jonker was unable to say why the two had not been questioned.

There was no sign yesterday of a representative of Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, who was to have appeared in court to answer claims made earlier in the week by Von Lieres that a subpoena he had issued had not been adhered to. The subpoena related to a file in connection with the case and which Kahn was said to have declined to release to Landman.

Von Lieres earlier called on Magistrate WWP Moyes to issue a warrant of arrest for Kahn. Kahn retaliated by claiming that Von Lieres had acted irresponsibly and said he would report Von Lieres to the Bar Council for disciplinary measures to be taken against him.

There was no explanation yesterday from state officials as to why the representative had not made an appearance. Von Lieres earlier withdrew the subpoena temporarily following discussions with the state prosecuting team.