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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 5, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter from H. Kamuzu Banda, President
of the Republic of Malawi

Attached is a letter dated January 13, 1976,
from President Banda to President Ford in response
to his letter on the situation in Angola. President
Banda encloses with his letter a copy of a statement
on Angola which he made at a press conference.

This letter was hand-delivered to the State
Department on March 4 by the Malawi Embassy.

We believe that no response is necessary.

George S. Springsteen
George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Letter from President Banda
dated January 13, 1976
2. Copy of Statement on Angola made by
President Banda at a press conference

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GDS

Wm 3/6/04





STATE HOUSE,
ZOMBA,
MALAWI.

13th January, 1976.

The Honourable Gerald R. Ford,
President of the United States of America,
White House,
Washington, D.C.
United States of America.

Dear Mr. President,

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January the 5th, on the situation in Angola. It was a joy to me to hear from you on the problem.

It so happened that your views are exactly in line with those of my own. Before your statement reached me, I called a press conference on Angola. At that press conference, I expressed my views, which are not far from those of your own.

...

I enclose the statement I made at the press conference, on the problem.

Yours sincerely,

H. KAMUZU BANDA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI



PRESS CONFERENCE AT STATE HOUSE, ZOMBA : 5/1/76

Gentlemen, I have asked you to come, in the way of a press conference, because of false reports in certain newspapers. These false reports are to the effect that Malawi is sending or supplying arms, money and men to certain political factions in Angola. For example, in its issue of the 10th November of the Weekly Review, a paper published in Nairobi, on page 9, there is a statement which says:

"Other suppliers of arms, money and men include South Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, the United States, West Germany, Malawi and Zambia."

There is absolutely no truth whatsoever in the statement made in the Weekly Review of November the 10th, on page 9. This is one of the usual fabrications, malicious fabrications, by journalists, third class journalists. You have heard me say, time and again, that, in general, I have nothing but contempt for journalists. This statement in the Weekly Review of November the 10th, on page 9, once more, justifies my contempt for journalists, justifies my statement that journalists often invent things and present them to the public as truth, when they are, in fact, inventions and fabrications by the journalists concerned.

The man who wrote that statement in the Weekly Review of November the 10th, on page 9, has never been here. If he had been here, he would

have /...



have discovered that Malawi is not doing what he says we are doing: sending arms, money and men to one of the factions in Angola. Because we are doing no such thing. The man simply invented and fabricated the story.

Because, to begin with, here in Malawi, we do not believe in interfering in the internal affairs of any other country. Because we, here in Malawi, do not permit anyone to interfere in our internal affairs.

Secondly, we have no arms, no money, no men to send to any country. We do not have enough arms for our own Army, enough money for our own Army, and we need all the men in our Army at home. We cannot spare any man for foolish or mad ideological adventures outside our own country.

And thirdly, which is even more important, in the case of Angola, we believe that the people of Angola should be left alone to decide their own political future. For the people of Angola to be left alone to decide their own political future, we, in Malawi, believe that there should be a government of national unity in that country, Angola. The three factions, MPLA, FNLA and UNITA should come together and form a government of national unity. They should not be fighting each other. They should sit around a conference table and resolve their differences by discussions, and not by guns.



As a corollary, they, the three factions, MPLA, FNLA and UNITA should not allow themselves to be proxies of foreign powers, foreign countries, great, medium size, or small; communist, capitalist or socialist. They must not allow themselves to be used by outside powers to fight their ideological war on their soil and through their people.

We believe here, in Malawi, that the people of Angola should be left entirely to themselves to solve their political problem. No country, great, medium size, or small; communist, capitalist or socialist has any business in Angola. Therefore, all foreign troops, no matter from what country, which are now in Angola, should be withdrawn or should leave the country.

Very soon, there is to be a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity on Angola, among other subjects. This is our line at that conference. We will insist, at the conference, that the people of Angola must be left to themselves to solve their political problem, without any interference by or from any country outside Angola; that all foreign troops now in Angola must leave the country; and that the three factions must form a government of national unity.

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DOC		RECD			LOG NUMBER
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SUBJECT: *Ack ltr to Pres from Pres Banda of Malawi
 re situation in Angola*

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DUE DATE: 3/13

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

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