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UNIAO DAS POPULACOES DE ANGOLA

B. P. 1320

LEOPOLDVILLE,

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

POST BOX 3558

GRAND CENTRAL STATION

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

NEW YORK, LE 19 December 62

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

On 27 November 1962, I addressed a letter to you in which I underlined the growing indignation of the Angolan people over the identification of United States policies regarding Angola with the aims of those of Portugal. There is strong pressure on me to abandon the course of reason and moderateness which I have followed up to now; my people cannot understand why I have failed to voice their protests in the same bitter measures they voice them to me.

Subsequent to my letter was the vote in the General Assembly of the United Nations on 18 December. I was extremely disappointed at the stand of the United States which voted, together with Portugal and South Africa, against the overwhelming majority of the world's states. In Angola, and in the rest of Africa as well, there is no possibility for the people to console themselves with an explanation of the vote. Such explanations receive neither publicity nor sympathy in any event. The fact of the vote remains and that is what counts.

I remember the warmth of our first meeting when you were a senator. You had already adopted a courageous position with regard to Algeria and you were concerned with the welfare of the people of Angola. My vivid recollection of the ideas you articulated made it possible for me to convey to my people the warmest evidence of sympathy and understanding for their plight.

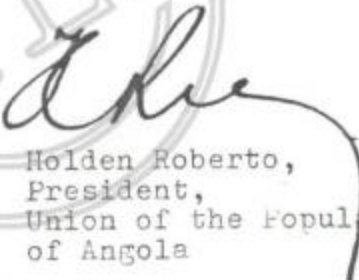
Now, however, the situation is reversed. Only last year the United States took a stand in the United Nations which was an indication of your country's willingness to cleave to morality and justice at the risk of severe criticism from some local elements and despite adding to the discomfiture of a NATO ally. Today, on the other hand, purely

humanitarian needs

humanitarian needs of our refugees and students must be left unattended, help cut off because of pressure from the Department of State, even when such help has been proffered by completely unofficial and private American relief and educational organizations. Portuguese officials have stated that they have received official assurances that no American assistance will be given to programs for medical relief and rehabilitation of Angolan refugees.

I would certainly welcome an opportunity to talk with you again in person but I am under no illusions as to the difficulties such a meeting could create. I do, however, request that you make possible a meeting with a White House representative to whom I could outline my views and who could discuss with me in detail what can be done to assist the people of Angola in this moment of their great sacrifice and struggle, a struggle to which you must certainly still subscribe.

In the name of the Angolan people at war for self-determination and independence, sincere best wishes and my own personal regards.



Holden Roberto,
President,
Union of the Populations
of Angola