The Government of Sweden started already in 1971 to give humanitarian support to the liberation movement MPLA, consisting mainly of food, medicines and vehicles. During the period before independence around 13 million Sw Crowns were channeled in that way to MPLA, as well as to a school run by the liberation movement in Kongo.

When Angola became independent emergency assistance from Sweden was immediately forthcoming. In fact, the whole Swedish contribution during the first years after independence, 1976 - 1978, consisted of emergency assistance to the tune of 65 million Sw Crowns. These funds were used for food, educational equipment, medicines, vehicles, as well as for equipment for repairing ferry-boats and floating bridges.

Cooperation of a more long-term nature started in 1979 with the signing of a two-year agreement on cooperation support to the Health and Fishery sectors. In subsequent biannual agreements these sectors have remained the main components together with a considerable amount of import support, primarily for the purchase of spare parts in the energy and transport sectors. The total contribution of Swedish bilateral assistance to Angola during the years 1979 to 1985 has reached more than 700 million Swedish Crowns. The annual contribution has been raised continuously and is now standing at 125 million.

Increased South African aggression and difficult weather conditions has prompted the Swedish government to also increase the emergency assistance to Angola, which is in addition to the bilateral funds already mentioned. Thus 5 millions were used in 1984 for the purchase of trucks for the Secretariat for Social Affairs, to be used for transports of food and other basic necessities and equipment for the internal refugees in the Central and Southern parts of the country.
Another large contribution combined with import support funds of 19 million Swedish Crowns was started in 1985 for internal refugees and small-scale peasants in the southern provinces of Huila and Cunene. 5 million Swedish Crowns were used to purchase 90,000 blankets, almost 6,000 kits of kitchen utensils, 4,000 pairs of shoes and 150 tons of soap for internal refugees in the Huila and Cunene provinces. 14 million Sw Crowns were utilized for the purchase of maize and rice seeds and agricultural equipment for the internal refugees, as well as for peasants in peasant associations, primarily in the Huila province. The equipment is composed of hoes, machetes, sickles, ploughs, mills, pumps, tool boxes, scales, motor bikes, bicycles, etc. The seeds arrived last year and were used successfully in last year's agricultural campaign. Most of the equipment arrived later and has been stored centrally for use for the next agricultural season. Since this is an entirely new sector for Swedish support, the implementation of the program will be carefully studied. The project will therefore be evaluated in two phases, before decisions on further large-scale support is given.

SIDA is at the moment processing new requests from the Angolan government concerning transport support to the Secretariat of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as agricultural equipment.

Decisions about Swedish support to emergency programs have always been taken after careful consultations with the Angolan authorities and the UNDP office in order to coordinate contributions from other sources, to achieve best efficiency and to channel assistance where it is most urgently needed. Previously a division of work has developed, where UNICEF and the International Red Cross has assumed a large responsibility with regard to health support, and WFP with respect to food contributions. Swedish support has then mainly been channelled to other areas, such as transport and agriculture.

The difficulties facing Angola at present due to increased external aggression and the drop in oil prices are very well described in the Country Brief. The Swedish government is deeply concerned about these developments and will therefore take concrete steps to increase the
emergency support to Angola. This will be done by increasing contribution to the International Red Cross, as well as the Angolan Red Cross, by increasing the emergency assistance and by making adjustments within the development cooperation program to include emergency components.

1) Sweden is already providing considerable financial support to the activities undertaken by the International Red Cross in the Central and Southern parts of the country. We are at present looking into the possibilities how these activities can further be strengthened. Sweden is also providing support directly to the Angolan Red Cross and will investigate how this could be increased.

2) We have already mentioned earlier that requests for further emergency support to SEAS and the Ministry of Agriculture are under consideration. It is clearly spelled out in the Country Brief that transport and logistics are major bottlenecks for increased emergency supplies to large parts of the country. Sweden would therefore like to contribute to an improvement of the situation. The problems with present transport organisation, spare parts and maintenance will have to be studied carefully before decisions are taken about a large increase in the vehicle fleet. We would like to continue a discussion about these matters together with the Angolan authorities as well as with UNICEF and UNDP before a final decision. A consultant is planned to arrive in Angola within short to reinforce our office to conclude these discussions.

Sweden is also following with great interest the regional planning exercise carried out in the Southern Provinces of Namibe, Huila and Cunene. We have already contributed a large part of our emergency support to that area, and we are looking forward to receiving concrete project proposals as a basis for further support to this region.

3) Finally, there should also be a possibility to make adjustments within the ongoing development cooperation program to incorporate components of emergency character. Some of the proposals made in
the Country Brief concerning the Health Sector are similar to what we undertake in our development program, which is basically oriented towards Primary Health Care. We are at present discussing an emergency purchase of medicines to the Ministry of Health, to be able to maintain a constant supply of drugs when the foreign exchange budget has been drastically cut. We are also discussing the purchase of more trucks to the Ministry to help to increase the capacity to distribute drugs now being in Luanda to other parts of the country. Sweden has given a large contribution to purchase spare parts for the existing fleet of Volvo and Scania vehicles in the country. These spare parts could in the future be planned to be used more directly for vehicles in emergency sectors.