

Imprensa internacional sobre Angola 1999

End of Year Function

Luanda, Angola - December 30, 1999

An end of year function was held at the Futungo de Belas presidential palace in Luanda today. National Assembly Chairman Roberto de Almeida and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos addressed the function.

In his speech, Roberto de Almeida hailed the victories achieved by the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA), the National Police, and the Civil Defense against the enemies of peace.

[Begin De Almeida recording] As we hail the courage of our brave combatants, it is imperative to point out that this victory became self-evident when we adopted strategies that upheld our supreme interests in neighboring countries, notably the Democratic Republic of Congo. We gradually neutralized the support network and shady alliances that permanently endangered Angola's sovereignty.

The struggle for peace, which is being resolutely and calmly conducted by His Excellency engineer Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, has begun to bear fruit. This will certainly serve to consolidate democracy, revamp the productive sector, and promote stability and socioeconomic development. May lasting peace be restored in Republic of Angola in 2000. [end recording]

In his remarks, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said the final victory is around the corner. He was certainly referring to the renewed victories that the government forces have scored.

[Begin Dos Santos recording] I would also like to acknowledge our profound recognition for the support that has been given to the Angolan Government. It was important because it helped us bear the enormous pressure exerted by our enemy and its allies, and renew our efforts to find shorter ways of achieving peace and prosperity. We are winning the war because of that support and the decisive role that has been played by the FAA and the National Police. I would only ask all of you to make more efforts because final victory belongs to us.

We are all aware who is responsible for the war and the suffering and misery that it has caused to the Angolan people. All recent attempts to bring about peace and reconciliation among Angolans, have been thwarted by a man who craves power. In view of his arrogance and failure to honor his own word, he has excluded himself as a valid interlocutor for a lasting solution.

As a result, the attorney general and chief public prosecutor has issued a warrant for his arrest. That is to say that for the politician in question the writing is on the wall.

Excluding that man, the government should promote permanent dialogue with all leading Angolan forces. The dialogue should be between the government and citizens, or between the state and civil society. The aim is to overcome differences and strengthen national reconciliation. The merit of a democratic regime rests on one's continual willingness to exchange views, and to compete on the basis of individual merit and capacities, as well as on the acceptance of the verdict of the people at the ballot box. [end recording]

In his speech, President Dos Santos also outlined his priorities for 2000.

[Begin Dos Santos recording] The debates on the Draft Constitution Bill and the revision of the Electoral Law, as well as the discussion of the government's plan of action will promote democracy. The best way of cementing national unity and guiding those that have been misled would be for all of us to constructively contribute to those debates. In doing so, we would all be winners - for having pardoned others and acknowledged our faults.

It is often said that the magnitude of a people is measured by their ability to know how to win. Angolans know how to pardon and be generous. They have shown that as the Armed Forces and the National Police score victory after victory and are in the lead against the armed gangs. Our goal is not to crush the enemy at any price, but to make it realize that it is illegal to take up arms to overthrow a democratically elected government. Our government will continue to welcome and reintegrate into society all those who desist from waging war and turn themselves over to the authorities.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the time to be hopeful and trust our abilities. In 1999, we proved that we have a government that is capable to devise and execute programs to resolve national problems. The results are self-evident and I do not need to go into detail. I would like to ask the Angolan people to support this government, and that in January the Parliament approves our program of action and state budget. I would also like to ask Angolans to support the Armed Forces and the National Police so that more reforms may be introduced, and our lives improved. There is no magic wand that can resolve our problems. The solution rests with our work and discipline; on the fulfillment of tasks in compliance with the law; on the upholding of our duties as citizens; and on our commitment to the fatherland and our fellow countrymen. [end recording]

Luanda, 31 Dezembro - A indústria transformadora angolana manteve-se "apática", em 1999, apesar de existir boa vontade, quer do governo, quer do empresariado privado, de inverter o actual quadro sombrio.

Contribuíram para esta situação, a falta de recursos financeiros para o programa de investimentos públicos, factor preponderante para o

relançamento da produção interna.

A guerra continuou, por seu turno, a ter o seu maior peso na reindustrialização do país, devido a destruição constante das infraestruturas industriais ainda viáveis para a actividade produtiva.

Contribuíram também para a apatia da indústria nacional, as constantes desvalorizações do Kwanza reajustado, face ao dólar norte-americano, ocorridas durante os três primeiros trimestres deste ano.

Isto provocou uma profunda crise no sector contribuindo para sua apatia.

Com base nisso, o governo viu-se obrigado a elaborar um plano para a saída da crise, que contemplava, no sector industrial 31 projectos, avaliados em 38 milhões 904 mil 305 dólares.

Porém, este plano não conheceu a sua efectiva implementação, por questões financeiras, segundo revelou a ministra da indústria, Albina Assis Africano, em entrevista de balanço.

Na ocasião, Albina Assis caracterizou de "má", de um modo geral, a situação actual a indústria transformadora, embora, segundo ela, existir uma boa vontade do governo e da classe empresarial privada para uma mudança qualitativa e quantitativa.

A implementação do programa de saída da crise limitou-se, apenas, na resolução de questões organizativas, situação cambial, financeira e a tributação.

O fundo de desenvolvimento económico e social, criado em meados deste ano, no âmbito do programa global de saída da crise, que previa entre outras acções apoiar o desenvolvimento industrial, também não foi implementado, por a sua aprovação acontecer apenas no último trimestre do ano.

Quanto ao crescimento do sector em 1999, Albina Assis disse, sem indicar percentagens, que houve certa melhoria, através de fundos dos próprios empresários e parte de recursos disponibilizados pelo Banco Nacional de Angola, mas não no quadro que se pretendia.

"Cumprimos com algumas acções no âmbito do programa acelerado, como a recuperação de algumas indústrias, sobretudo alimentar, óleos, moagens, sabões e indústrias complementares para a agricultura", disse, sem avançar mais dados.

O desempenho das empresas industriais reflectiu o actual estado político, económico e social do país e os níveis de degradação atingidos deveram-se, não só a guerra, mas também a outros factores.

Entre esses factores, destacam-se as inadequadas políticas económicas,

elevado grau de deterioração das infraestruturas básicas, escassez de investimento estrangeiro e parque de máquinas degradado.

Uma das insuficiências que ainda continua a condicionar o desenvolvimento desejado da indústria nacional é a ausência de quadros qualificados nas especialidades de engenharia, mecânica e electricidade.

Para colmatar essa lacuna, o ministério da indústria tem já delineado no seu programa de acção para o ano 2000 acções dirigidas a formação de quadros para sector.

Durante o ano de 1999, a produção de diferentes ramos da indústria transformadora não conheceu melhorias significativas, exceptuando a produção de conservas de frutas que cresceu 47 por cento, comparativamente ao ano anterior.

A produção de óleo alimentar, confeitaria, farinha de milho e de trigo, e biscoitos registaram igualmente um incremento na ordem de 37, 32, 22 e 11 por cento, respectivamente.

Na indústria de bebidas, os incrementos registaram-se nas produções de refrigerantes (34 pc) e bebidas fermentadas (71 pc), enquanto na indústria têxtil registou-se uma redução de 43 por cento nos tecidos e oito por cento nos cobertores.

Quanto a incentivos produtivos, a classe empresarial ligada a industria viu, em 1999, a abolição do imposto de consumo sobre matéria-prima, medida necessária para reduzir o aumento do custo do produto acabado.

Entretanto, a estratégia do sector para o ano 2000 centrar-se-a no desenvolvimento, articulações entre diferentes órgãos do ministério e aproveitar as unidades industriais ainda viáveis para a produção industrial.

"ENANA" implementa estratégia para o desenvolvimento da empresa

Luanda, 31 Dezembro - A Empresa Nacional de Exploração de Aeroportos e Navegação Aérea (ENANA) vai, apartir do próximo ano, iniciar a "reduzir os custos dos seus clientes por via de um ganho de eficiência no trabalho" prestado as transportadoras aéreas.

O presidente do conselho de administração da "ENANA", Manuel Nunes Júnior, que prestou tal informação a Agencia Angolana de Noticias "ANGOP", anunciou que a referida posição insere-se na nova estratégia da direcção da empresa.

Para o novo Director-geral da "Enana", com esta medida, (a de reduzir os custos os seus clientes por via de um ganho de eficiência no trabalho da Enana), "estar-se-ah a contribuir para o crescimento macro-económico do pais e consequentemente para a baixa dos níveis de inflação (...)".

A entrada do novo milénio, a grande aposta da "Enana" será a realização de investimentos apartir dos seus próprios meios (tarifas aeronáuticas e extra-aeronáuticas), com vista a rentabilização económica da empresa, aumentando-se assim as estratégias para aquisição das referidas receitas.

"Aumentado-se as tecnologias para a captação das tarifas, disse, aumentam-se as receitas que, bem geridas com transparência, lesura e racionalidade, poder-se-ah fazer muita coisa importante para a empresa e também para o país", acrescentou, o novo director-geral da "Enana", empossado a 25 de Novembro de 1999.

Apartir dessa estratégia, afirmou, "se conseguir oferecer serviços com maior e melhor segurança aos clientes, mais companhias virão a Angola, o país terah maiores receitas e, conseqüentemente, haverá mais dinheiro para investimentos e ai garantir o ciclo de investimentos da empresa", realçou o economista Manuel Nunes Júnior.

Nesta base, a "Enana" actuara em duas áreas principais, por um lado, melhorar as infra-estruturas dos imóveis e, por outro, fazer tudo para garantir que os serviços de navegação aérea que garantem a segurança no espaço e em terra, sejam os mais adequados para aumentar o "ranking" dos aeroportos do país, com destaque para o de Luanda.

Segundo ele, a "Enana" eh uma empresa que joga um grande papel no desenvolvimento do país, sobretudo em termos de crescimento económico, dai que se deve "criar uma base de eficiência de trabalho muito boa no aeroporto de Luanda e nos aeródromos provinciais".

Apesar disso, em seu entender, nessa etapa inicial em que começou a dirigir a empresa, duas são as condições necessárias fundamentais para o desenvolvimento da "Enana" e, conseqüentemente de Angola.

Primeiro, reafirmou o novo presidente-director-geral da "Enana", eh necessário haver "estabilidade macro-económica (em Angola) e depois investimentos em termos de infra-estruturas (a vários níveis)".

Quanto ao segundo aspecto, reiterou a necessidade de as infra-estruturas aeroportuárias, sobretudo os aeroportos, estarem a funcionar de maneira eficiente e terem os custos operacionais estabelecidos na base da eficiência dos serviços prestados.

Assim sendo, as instituições que utilizam os aeroportos do país, principalmente as do sector privado, estariam mais beneficiadas, "visto que se prestaria um serviço, com reflexos positivos para os próprios custos das empresas que beneficiam dos serviços da Enana", o que poderah vir a dar também maiores rendimentos a empresa angolana.

Para o efeito, jah ao longo desses primeiros meses do sua liderança, esta a trabalhar-se para se definir as linhas de forcas e as medidas necessárias para

que tais infra-estruturas aeroportuárias funcionem de forma mais eficiente possível, "mas na base da racionalidade (económica e financeira)".

Alem deste aspecto, referiu ser também necessário que os serviços de navegação aérea do país "tenham os equipamentos e o capital humano necessário, no sentido de garantir uma melhor segurança no espaço aéreo nacional", assim como nos serviços de terra prestados pelos "serviços de informação aeronáutica (ais)" da "Enana" e outras áreas.

Ao acontecer e ao serem materializadas tais intenções, prognosticou, isso vai permitir que o "ranking" dos aeroportos de Angola, em particular o de Luanda - aeroporto internacional "4 de Fevereiro" - aumentem, por estarem actualmente muito baixos.

De acordo com o próprio director-geral, neste momento "o "ranking" dos nossos aeroportos eh considerado criticamente deficiente, uma estrela negra", daí que se deve fazer todo o esforço para que este quadro altere, acrescentou o interlocutor da ANGOP.

Desta forma, caso o "ranking" dos aeroportos nacionais aumentem, sobretudo o do "4 de Fevereiro", haverá grandes rendimentos económicos para o país, porque haverá mais companhias a voarem para Angola, apesar de agora estarem com alguns receios em relação a segurança dos serviços prestados na área da navegação aérea.

A partir desse momento, a "Enana" serah gerida na base do figurino em que o presidente do seu conselho de administração eh igualmente o director-geral, uma decisão adoptada pelo governo angolano, no sentido de facilitar a gestão das empresas publicas sem conflitos.

Manuel Nunes Júnior concluiu, no primeiro semestre de 1999, o seu doutoramento em ciências económicas numa das universidades de Londres, e exerceu jah o cargo de director da faculdade de economia da Universidade "Agostinho Neto".

Ministro do interior prioriza controlo das fronteiras

Luanda, 31 Dezembro - O ministro do interior, comissário-geral "nando", disse hoje que após as ultimas vitorias das Faa, uma das prioridades da sua instituição será a de guarnecer as zonas limítrofes de angola com policia de protecção fronteiriça.

O pronunciamento do ministro do interior, deve-se ao facto de, nos últimos tempos, as forças armadas angolanas tomarem dos rebeldes da unita localidades estratégicas no corredor fronteiriço sudeste, nordeste e leste.

Pelo facto, considerou ser necessário o controlo total das fronteiras, no

sentido de se garantir a estabilidade do país, particularmente na vertente politico-militar.

Quanto a formação da policia de intervenção rápida (Pir) na Espanha, o comissário-geral "nando" disse que o mesmo protocolo continua valido e que efectivos da sua corporação se especializam naquele país ibérico.

"Presentemente a nossa policia esta mais madura, ao ponto de estarmos a formar quadros do ramo das republicas democrática do Congo e "Congo brazzaville" - pontualizou.

Sambizanga, Luanda, 01 Janeiro - O presidente da Unita, Eugênio Manuvakola, disse sexta-feira, em Luanda, que o seu partido vai criar, este ano, condições condignas para alcançar resultados satisfatórios nas próximas eleições.

Eugênio Manuvakola manifestou este desejo durante o acto de cumprimento de fim de ano aos funcionários da organização.

"A referida acção (criação de condições) permitiria a satisfação das aspirações dos angolanos, que acreditam na Unita, na democracia e na reconciliação nacional", frisou.

Segundo Manuvakola, para se alcançar este objectivo é preciso "criar condições favoráveis que permitem a ampliação do tecido militante do partido e cultivar a disciplina dentro do espirito democrático".

Prestar uma maior atenção aos deslocados de guerra, especialmente aos que se libertam do cativeiro do criminoso Savimbi e o relançamento do sistema informativo para explicar os militantes e a opinião publica interna e internacional sobre os propósitos da Unita constam igualmente dos plano de acção da organização para este ano.

Para Manuvakola, o povo angolano vive décadas de guerra, com todos os males que dela advém, por isso é preciso que os dirigentes políticos e a sociedade civil encontrem caminhos que conduzam o país a uma paz duradoira.

Para isso, prosseguiu o político, é preciso que "o perdão seja um acto cívico de angolanos para angolanos, no quadro da reconciliação nacional".

"Na passagem ao terceiro milénio, somos todos angolanos. Identifiquemos os factores de unidade", sublinhou Eugênio Manuvakola.

Ao referir sobre os efeitos alcançados pelo movimento renovador da Unita, desde o seu surgimento, em 1998, Manuvakola fez saber que o protocolo de Lusaka é a única garantia para a pacificação do país.

"A Unita consagrou-se como um partido político civil, no estrito respeito a lei dos partidos políticos, evitou a suspensão do seu grupo parlamentar na Assembleia Nacional e permitiu a continuidade do Governo de Unidade e Reconciliação Nacional (Gurn)", disse.

Manuvakola que voltou a acusar Jonas Savimbi de mergulhar o país numa crise político-militar, mostrou-se optimista quanto ao fim da guerra no país, ainda este ano.

01-Jan-2000 04:12:44 pm
; 707 words

An end of year function was today held at the Futungo de Belas presidential palace in Luanda. National Assembly chairman Roberto de Almeida and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos addressed the function...

In his remarks, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said final victory is around the corner. He was certainly referring to the renewed victories that the government forces have been scoring.

[Dos Santos - recording] I would also like to acknowledge our profound recognition for the support that has been given to the Angolan government. It was important because it helped us bear the enormous pressure exerted by our enemy and its allies, and renew our efforts to find shorter ways of achieving peace and prosperity.

We are winning the war because of that support and the decisive role that has been played by the FAA [Angolan Armed Forces] and the National Police. I would only ask all of you to make more efforts because final victory belongs to us.

We are all aware who is responsible for the war and the suffering and misery that it has caused to the Angolan people. All recent attempts to bring about peace and reconciliation among Angolans, have been thwarted by a man who craves power. In view of his arrogance and failure to honour his own word, he has excluded himself as a valid interlocutor for a lasting solution. As a result, the attorney-general and chief public prosecutor has issued a warrant for his arrest. That is to say that for the politician in question the writing is on the wall.

Excluding that man, the government should promote permanent dialogue with all leading Angolan forces. The dialogue should be between the government and citizens, or between the state and civil society. The aim is to overcome differences and strengthen national reconciliation. The merit of a democratic regime rests on one's continuing willingness to exchange views, and to compete on the basis of individual merit and capacities, as well as on the acceptance of the verdict of the people at the ballot box. [End of recording]

In his speech, President Dos Santos also outlined his priorities for 2000:

[Dos Santos - recording] The debate on the Draft Constitution Bill and the revision of the Electoral Law, as well as the discussion of the government's plan of action will promote democracy. The best way of cementing national unity and guiding those that have been misled would be for all of us to constructively contribute to those debates. In doing so, we would all be winners - for having pardoned others and acknowledged our faults.

that
the

It is often said that the magnitude of a people is measured by their ability to know how to win. Angolans know how to pardon and be generous. They have shown

as the armed forces and the National Police score victory after victory and are in

lead against the armed gangs. Our goal is not to crush the enemy at any price, but to make it realize that it is illegal to take up arms to overthrow a democratically-elected government. Our government will continue to welcome and reintegrate into society all those who desist from waging war and turn themselves over to the authorities.

the

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the time to be hopeful and trust our abilities. In 1999, we proved that we have a government that is capable to devise and execute programmes to resolve national problems. The results are self-evident and I do not need to go into detail. I would like to ask the Angolan people to support this government, and that in January the parliament approves our programme of action and state budget. I would also like to ask Angolans to support the armed forces and the National Police so that more reforms may be introduced, and our lives improved. There is no magic wand that can resolve our problems. The solution rests with our work and discipline; on the fulfilment of tasks in compliance with

law; on the upholding of our duties as citizens; and on our commitment to the fatherland and our fellow countrymen.

Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1900 gmt 30 Dec 99

01-Jan-2000 04:12:39 pm
; 323 words

Angolan News Media Minister Pedro Hendrick Vaal Neto announced today that a department would soon be created to deal with the private media's editorial and technical issues. Minister Neto said a commission would be created to review the Press Law, and that the Anibal de Melo Press Centre would be transformed into a business centre.

Installations

[Neto] The modernization of news media outlets will continue in 2000.

will be built, and a new press will be bought for Jornal de Angola. A shortwave transmitter will be installed in Huambo, and Angola Public Television centres will be established in various parts of the country. Construction of the Journalists

Training Centre will be completed. The Anibal de Melo Press Centre will be transformed into a business centre.

with We intend to establish at the News Media Ministry a department that will deal technical and editorial aspects of the private press.

We are also planning to submit proposals on the review of the Press Law. The president of the republic has already appointed an interdepartmental commission to deal with this matter...

Violent We expect problems to continue in 2000. The domestic and foreign enemies of the Angolan people will not lay down arms, despite the resounding political and military defeats that they have suffered at home. Angolans will be faced with new economic, diplomatic and political constraints. Our detractors will use the news media and resort to international intrigue in their campaign against Angola.

be campaigns are under way in foreign countries with a view to discrediting Angolan leaders and political parties, and (?undermining) their ability to operate. (?Attempts) will be made to discredit our democracy, and civil disobedience will we encouraged. They will manipulate things so as to try to influence international financial institutions and certain diplomatic circles. It is, therefore, essential that remain vigilant...

Luanda, 14th December: In Paris on 13th December, Charles Josselin, the French secretary of state for cooperation, discussed bilateral cooperation with Boaventura Cardoso, Angola's outgoing ambassador to France. A press statement issued by the Angolan embassy cites Josselin as having said that the French Treasury and the French Development Agency were concerned about the payment of Angola's debt to them. Josselin asked Angola to make an effort to settle the debt. The amount was not disclosed.

Josselin said the French authorities would like the Angolan government to set a timetable for the payment of the debt. The press statement says Ambassador Cardoso pledged to refer the matter to the Angolan government...

Source: Angop news agency web site, Luanda, in Portuguese 14 Dec 99

Aprovação do oge e circulação da nova moeda constituíram os destaques económicos da semana - angola

Luanda, 18 Dezembro - A aprovação do orçamento geral do estado (oge) para o ano 2000 e a entrada em circulação da nova unidade monetária, o kwanza, constituíram os principais destaques dos assuntos económicos da

semana que hoje finda.

Em reunião do conselho de ministros, orientada pelo presidente angolano, José Eduardo dos santos, foi aprovado o oge para o próximo ano e tem como objectivo fundamental alcançar a estabilidade politico-militar, económica e social e o relançamento do sector produtivo.

Apesar do comunicado final do encontro não fazer qualquer referencia numérica do oge aprovado, apurou-se de fonte ligada a direcção nacional do orçamento que se cifra em 32 biliões, 58 milhões, 622 mil e 438 kwanzas (cerca de três biliões de dólares).

Para o próximo ano, o governo prevê implementar o programa integrado de relançamento produtivo em conjugação com o programa de reposição da administração do estado e o nacional de assistência humanitária.

A aplicação deste programa pressupõe a redefinição do papel do estado na economia e a ampla participação dos agentes privados, que terão no fundo de desenvolvimento económico e social a sua principal fonte de financiamento e de redinamização, ainda segundo o comunicado.

Por outro lado, constituiu igualmente destaque nos noticiários económicos a entrada em circulação da nova unidade monetária, o kwanza (kz), substituindo a anterior moeda, o kwanza reajustado (kzr).

O kwanza equivale a um milhão de kwanzas reajustados e tem como fracção o cêntimo, correspondendo a cada kz cem cêntimos.

A nova moeda é representada materialmente por notas de 100, 50, 10, cinco e um kwanza, e por moedas metálicas de cinco kwanzas, dois kwanzas e um kwanza. possui ainda moedas de cinquenta e dez cêntimos.

As notas de kwanzas reajustados circulam em simultâneo com as de kwanzas, assim como estão a ser trocadas regularmente por notas e moedas de kwanzas em qualquer instituição bancaria, até 31 de maio do ano 2000, podendo este prazo ser prorrogado.

Ao kzr foram-lhe suprimidos seis zeros da anterior unidade monetária, passando o poder aquisitivo equivaler: cinco milhões kzr (cinco kz), um milhão kzr (um kz), 100 mil kzr (0.10 cêntimos kz) e 50 mil kzr (0,05 cêntimos de kz).

Ainda durante a semana, os ministros angolanos que participaram em paris, num encontro com entidades francesas, apelaram aos homens de negócios franceses a investirem no país, com vista ao seu relançamento económico.

O encontro, de um dia, realizou-se no Senado por iniciativa do Circulo de Reflexão e Estudos sobre os Problemas Internacionais (CRESPI).

Outro assunto de destaque foram as sextas jornadas tecnico-cientificas de

pescas, realizadas em Luanda, numa promoção do instituto de investigação pesqueira (iip), do ministério das pescas e ambiente.

A margem do encontro, a directora do instituto de investigação pesqueira (iip), victoria de Barros Neto, considerou que Angola se encontra numa situação mais estável, em termos de pescas, comparativamente a outros países da região.

"Estamos preocupados com os recursos dos crustáceos, principalmente, e também com algumas mudanças no comportamento dos pequenos pelágicos, que sofrem diretamente o impacto das mudanças ambientais e que, muitas vezes, não se tornam acessíveis à pesca", afirmou a directora do iip.

Victoria de Barros justificou a sua preocupação dizendo que "cerca de 80 por cento dos recursos marinhos pesqueiros de Angola são constituídos por espécies de pequenos pelágicos, pois estes são mais baratos e mais acessíveis à população.

Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire, 07-Dec-1999 115 words.

Luanda, Angola (PANA) - The National Bank of Angola Monday set the exchange rate of the readjusted kwanza to 5,477,702 to the US dollar (selling). In the parallel market, the kwanza exchanges at 5,500,000 (buying) and 5,600,000 (selling) to the ...

Senior UNITA official says Angola movement split

10:22 a.m. Dec 01, 1999 Eastern

By Lara Pawson

LUANDA, Dec 1 (Reuters) - A former adviser to Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said on Wednesday the UNITA movement needed to reorganise itself into an official opposition to the government it has been at war with for the past 25 years.

In a rare interview, Abel Chivukuvuku, a UNITA representative in parliament and a one-time foreign affairs adviser to Savimbi, said UNITA needed to be honed into a "serious" political party standing against the ruling MPLA.

"I consider UNITA a piece of blanket made up of various shreds, various small pieces, that are characterised by different thinking and behaviour," he told independent Catholic radio station Radio Ecclesia.

Following a 1994 peace deal, which tried to close the book on

20 years of fighting, UNITA did briefly become an official opposition with cabinet posts and 70 parliamentary deputies.

But since fighting flared again in December last year, UNITA's representatives in Luanda have been sidelined by the government, which has established a shadow opposition called UNITA-Renovada, built around a core of UNITA defectors.

Chivukuvuku rejects both Savimbi's militarist opposition and UNITA-Renovada led by Eugenio Manuvakola, a one-time confidant of Savimbi's and the man who signed the 1994 peace deal.

While Chivukuvuku's comments may fall on the deaf ears of 30,000 UNITA guerrillas fighting in the bush, they follow a series of setbacks for the rebel movement in recent weeks.

Luanda, 08 Dezembro - O banco africano de investimentos (Bai) vai inaugurar, sexta-feira, a sua primeira agência bancária, em Luanda, acção que se insere na estratégia da instituição com vista a alargar o numero de balcões no país, apurou hoje a Angop.

Com a abertura desta agência, o Bai, que vê reforçada a sua presença neste mercado, face ao crescente numero de clientes (3.800), entre empresas e privados, eleva para dois o numero de balcões, após ter inaugurado em março de 1998 o primeiro na cidade de Cabinda.

Assim, o plano de abertura de agências a nível da banca comercial contempla, numa primeira fase, as províncias do litoral de Angola em franco crescimento económico, designadamente Benguela, Kwanza-Sul, Namibe e Huíla.

De acordo com uma fonte do conselho de administração do Bai, a instituição continuará a desenvolver a sua política de expansão a medida que as pressões do mercado assim o justificarem.

Paralelamente a isso, o Bai tem vindo a introduzir instrumentos financeiros e produtos que são essencialmente para área de retalho, como cartões de debito visa, o Homebanking e o Sac-serviço de apoio aos clientes.

Estes serviços, alguns já disponíveis estarão em funcionamento normalizado ainda ao longo do mês de janeiro do ano 2000.

O Bai, com um activo total que excede aproximadamente os 100 milhões de dólares, entre fundos próprios e de terceiros, projecta transformar-se num grupo financeiro, três anos após a sua constituição.

HINO E BANDEIRA MUDAM

Luanda - O MPLA e a UNITA chegaram a acordo na comissão de revisão da Constituição quanto aos futuros símbolos do país. Assim, dentro em breve, a Assembleia Nacional vai lançar um concurso público para escolha da nova bandeira e da insígnia da República, bem como do hino que vai substituir o "Angola Avante".

O concurso para a escolha dos símbolos nacionais será, em princípio, apenas extensivo aos cidadãos angolanos residentes no país e no exterior. Tanto a bandeira, como o hino e a insígnia deverão reflectir as mudanças políticas do país e a perspectiva de desenvolvimento que se pretende num futuro de paz.

A questão dos símbolos nacionais tem sido desde 92, bastante polemizada pelos partidos da oposição, sobretudo a UNITA que considera-os bastante ligados ao MPLA, que foi quem os adoptou em 1975 por altura da proclamação da independência. O vermelho e preto, acrescido da estrela amarela na bandeira, são as cores do MPLA, que apenas juntou ao pavilhão nacional a catana e a roda dentada.

O mesmo aconteceu com a insígnia da República, onde a estrela amarela, a roda dentada e a catana (referência ao 4 de Fevereiro) aparecem ao lado da espiga de milho, dos bagos de café e do algodão (símbolos da vitalidade da nossa agricultura) e de um livro que indiciava a prioridade à educação pelo novo país, objectivos que o futuro encarregou-se de provar o contrário.

Quanto ao hino nacional, para além das dísputas partidárias (o MPLA retrata nele o seu histórico), alguns trechos estão completamente ultrapassados face ao rumo político e económico que o país tomou principalmente depois de 1991. Embora o MPLA e o Governo nunca tenham revelado publicamente os autores do hino nacional, sabe-se que a letra é de autoria do escritor Manuel Rui Monteiro e a música de Rui Mingas, militantes de longa data do partido dos camaradas. (In Agora, 04/12/99).

wmac, soyo blend 123kbd in 97 to 96kbd this year, palanca blend from block 3 193k in 98 but 170k this year Cabinda and Nemba should continue to grow till 2002.

Environmental Law on Oil Activity Awaits Approval
Angop on November 30, 1999

The Angolan government has already elaborated on a specific law on the environment in the petroliferous activity, which awaits approval by the National Assembly (Parliament), it was announced on Monday in Luanda.

Angola's Oil Minister, Botelho de Vasconcelos, revealed this when voicing a communication at the first National Forum on Environment, which opened on Monday. The event is meant to reflect on the country's environmental problems.

The Minister sustained that, taking into consideration the pollution potentiality in the oil sector, the future law will have a preventive environmental character. He also explained that the Oil Ministry is working on the execution of a contingency national plan, following an initiative by the International Maritime organization (IMO) and the Oil Industry International Association for Environmental Protection (IPIECA).

To this end, he said a national commission to fight oil spill into the sea and integrated by several state institutions has been set up.

The first National Forum on Environment is a promotion by the Angolan Ministry of Fisheries and Environment with the collaboration of Eduardo dos Santos Foundation (FESA) and the Cabinda Association (Sonangol, Chevron, Elf and Agip). It is on until Wednesday.

Over \$250 Million UN Inter-Agency Appeal
Angop on December 3, 1999

The UN Inter-Agency Appeal for the year 2000, intended for Angola, totals \$258 million dollars, says a report from the Coordination Unit for Humanitarian Aid (UCAH). The document, made available to Angop in Luanda today, presents a report of the humanitarian situation in Angola during the November 20-26 period.

The appeal contains a common plan of action based on objectives and priorities agreed upon by humanitarian interveners, says the report. The document reads that, although the bulk of funding is intended for food

are security, other sectors such as health, water, sanitation and agriculture also important components.

wood Meanwhile, the report says, the ongoing relative calmness in most of the provinces has prompted the population to venture inland in search of or farmlands. It adds that there was not a substantial return of internal displaced to their areas of origin due to increasing risks by landmines and other security incidents.

the In certain areas, the widening of security perimeter belt is already being considered, says the report, adding that the extension of humanitarian presence in the areas where the population is not assisted depends on the improvement of security conditions. The humanitarian interveners are drawing up contingency plans meant to extend their activities to non assisted populations due to lack of access, especially on rehabilitation and food assistance, the document says.

Luanda - A produção industrial angolense cresceu nove por cento durante os primeiros nove meses do ano em curso, comparativamente ao meso período de 1998, um facto que foi influenciado por um crescimento da contribuição de alguns sectores ligados a actividade, soube este semanário de uma fonte do ministério da Indústria.

A ascensão do sector produtivo angolense, segundo a fonte, beneficiou do facto das "performances" de sectores como o de bebidas, calçado, madeira, plásticos, minerais não metálicos, produtos de metal e de máquinas e equipamentos, terem conhecido, naquele mesmo período, um incremento.

Naquele lapso de tempo, o maior indicador de crescimento industrial coube ao somatório das produções do sector plástico, com 89%, seguindo-se-lhe os sectores de couro e calçado (61%, madeira (31%), minerais não metálicos (13%), máquinas e equipamentos (11%), bebidas (10%) e produtos de metal (8%).

A entrada em funcionamento de três fábricas de colchões de espuma e a reactivação da produção da CIPAL, são indicadores positivos que se juntaram aos incrementos no fabrico de grades plásticas

(41%), produtos injectados (24%), tubo PVC (43%), tubo polietileno (54%) e colchões de espuma (20%), para garantir o incremento no sector de plásticos. Aqui, pesou, negativamente, a redução na produção de sacarias e de garrafas plásticas, com menos 20% cada, relativamente ao ano anterior.

Um outro sector de que o somatório da produção conheceu uma evolução é o da indústria de produtos de metal. Registaram aumento as produções de tubo galvanizado (34%), tubo preto (14%) e chapa de zinco (53%), enquanto que as reduções ocorridas, afectaram os níveis de fabrico de colchões de mola (menos 24%).

Os contrangimentos da actual conjuntura política, económica e social do país impossibilitaram não só a existência de um maior indicador de crescimento nestes sectores, como também, são apontados como sendo os principais motivadores dos decréscimos ocorridos em outras áreas da produção angolense.

Já na indústria química registaram-se reduções nas produções de gás carbónico (29%), pesticidas (44%), tintas (91%), colas (33%) e sabão (29%), tendo ocorrido incrementos, sem grandes resultados para o somatório total do sector, no fabrico de acetileno (22%), oxigénio (43%) e detergente líquido (31%). (In Angolense, 04-11/12/99).

Luanda - O Presidente da República de Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, deslocou-se ontem em visita privada à República Federativa do Brasil, por um período de sete dias.

De acordo com uma nota de imprensa dos Serviços de Apoio ao Presidente da República, naquele país o Chefe de Estado angolano "irá ser submetido à revisão médica na sequência da operação ao tendão de aquiles".

O documento acrescenta que está previsto um encontro entre o Presidente angolano, José Eduardo dos Santos, e o seu homólogo brasileiro, Fernandes Henriques Cardoso . (In Jornal de Angola, 6/12/99)

Resenha Económica da Semana

Luanda, 04 Dezembro - A aprovação do plano de caixa para o mês de Dezembro, pela comissão permanente do conselho de ministros, foi o principal acontecimento do noticiário económico nacional, na semana marcada para a entrada em circulação da nova unidade monetária, o kwanzas.

encargos O plano de caixa para este mês contempla preferencialmente os salariais da função pública e abrange a continuação dos investimentos públicos, sobretudo, no domínio do tratamento da água para consumo público e o apoio aos bolseiros no exterior do país, mantendo-se as despesas no sector da defesa e segurança.

Presidente da República, José Eduardo dos Santos, destaque para as linhas gerais da estratégia de amortização da dívida pública interna, registada até Dezembro de 1997.

em se A moeda que vai substituir definitivamente o actual Kwanza reajustado, Maio do ano 2000, não começou a circular esta quarta-feira, conforme previa.

O Governador do Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) pediu mais uma semana a fim de serem concluídos os procedimentos contabilísticos, informáticos e as condições logísticas necessárias, para que o Kwanza comece efectivamente a circular.

fabrico de antes da Agualdo Dado o carácter secreto que normalmente envolve o processo de uma moeda, não era possível que estes procedimentos vigorassem aprovação da moeda pela assembleia nacional, de acordo com Jaime.

Segundo o governador do BNA, existem alguns problemas a nível de sistemas informáticos, mas que são perfeitamente ultrapassáveis.

finalmente "Acreditamos que dentro, seguramente, de uma semana estarão reunidas as condições para que a circulação do Kwanza se inicie sem qualquer sobressalto para os particulares e as empresas", disse.

que
mercado

Aguinaldo Jaime referiu-se também a melhorias no combate a inflação, resultou numa certa estabilidade, de ha dois meses a esta parte, do cambial e dos preços de alguns bens, que tendem a baixar.

O esforço do governo vai ganhar novo impulso, quando no ano 2000 se passar para a segunda parte do programa de relançamento da oferta de bens e serviços e da produção material.

dar
parque
unidades.

Entretanto, a produção nacional continua, ainda que de forma tímida, a passos para a substituição de algumas importações. Nesta semana o industrial viu-se reforçado, com o arranque de mais uma das suas

Trata-se da antiga sociedade industrial de confecções (Socinfex), que doravante vai se dedicar ao fabrico de fardamento militar para as Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA).

fábrica
500

O ministro da defesa nacional, Kundy Payhama, inaugurou a referida situada no município do Cazenga e que diariamente pode produzir mil e fardas.

de

Em Viana, a ministra da industria, Albina Assis, "cortou a fita" inaugural um complexo turístico de 22 apartamentos, enquadrado num projecto da empresa de tubos de Angola (Fata), avaliado em 200 mil dólares americanos.

de
num

Outros acontecimentos de realce foram a reunião do conselho alargado direcção da "sonangol distribuidora", realizada em Cabinda, e a visita de dois altos responsáveis da "texaco", companhia que está interessada projecto de liquefacção de gás natural, em parceria com a Sonangol.

Luanda, 04 Dezembro - Um acordo de cooperação técnica no domínio da segurança interna foi rubricado hoje, em Luanda, entre os governos de Angola, da RD-Congo e do Congo Brazaville, no âmbito do aprofundamento das relações de boa vizinhança.

pessoal
equipamento

O acordo, válido por cinco anos renováveis, prevê a formação do da polícia, de forças de segurança, fornecimento de material e técnico, bem como a troca de peritos.

Para garantir a aplicação do tratado, as partes decidiram criar uma comissão mista tripartida composta por membros designados pelos ministérios competentes de cada um dos países, que devera reunir-se três vezes por ano.

Luanda, 02 Dezembro - A nova unidade monetária, o kwanza, só começará a circular efectivamente dentro de uma semana, revelou hoje, em Luanda, o governador do banco nacional de Angola (BNA), Aguinaldo Jaime.

O governador do BNA, que falava a imprensa, frisou que a entrada efectiva em circulação do kwanza só se fará quando os procedimentos contabilísticos, informáticos e uma série de condições logísticas que estão a ser preparadas entre o banco nacional de Angola e os bancos comerciais terminarem.

"nós pensamos que precisamos seguramente de mais uma semana para que este processo seja concluído e que o kwanza comece efectivamente a entrar em circulação, disse.

Segundo afirmou, não era possível estes procedimentos estarem em vigor antes da aprovação do kwanza pela assembleia nacional devido ao carácter secreto que normalmente o processo de fabrico de uma moeda envolve.

A acrescentou que não era possível que estes procedimentos tivessem sido discutidos antes com os bancos e "só estamos a fazê-lo agora.

"existem alguns problemas a nível de sistemas informáticos, mas problemas perfeitamente ultrapassáveis, afirmou, adiantando que "acreditamos que dentro, seguramente, de uma semana estarão finalmente reunidas as condições para que a circulação do kwanza se inicie sem qualquer sobressalto para os particulares e as empresas.

Por outro lado, Aguinaldo Jaime disse que o governo tem estado a fazer um esforço para combater a inflação e neste âmbito tem se registado algumas melhorias.

Declarou que de há dois meses a esta parte o mercado cambial tem manifestado uma certa estabilidade, assim como os preços, que tem tendência mesmo para o abaixamento em alguns bens e produtos.

da
Explicou que este é um trabalho que vai ganhar um novo fôlego no ano 2000, período em que se passará para a segunda parte do programa do governo que consiste no relançamento da oferta de bens e serviços e produção material.

estado a
"há perspectivas novas face a algumas vitórias importantes que tem ser conseguidas pelas forças armadas e é a partir daí que se vai passar efectivamente para a segunda fase, que é a da consolidação do binómio defesa/produção, referiu.

são
outras
Quanto ao problema das "kinguilas", Aguinaldo Jaime frisou que elas apenas a face visível do "iceberg", porquanto é um fenómeno que tem componentes.

permitir
economia,
"As medidas de policia e de fiscalização que estão em curso hão-de diminuir este tipo de fenómenos que ainda hoje temos na nossa fenómenos delituosos e ilícitos, afirmou.

são
Segundo afirmou, as medidas de policia só serão eficazes se forem complementadas com medidas de carácter económico e financeiro que as mais importantes e estão previstas no programa do governo e na sua estratégia de saída da crise.

nosso
carácter
"Se continuarmos como até aqui a aplicar com vigor e persistência o programa, estou convencido que fenómenos como estes vão ter um puramente residual, adiantou.

hilton ashton, december 2: total angola 1998 = 600m of which unita 140, total angola 1999 = 500m, of which unita 100m, catoca+SDM+dmw=160m, other govt and illegals = 240m. from late november, all certification has had to go through luanda (previously it could be done through regional offices)

Lei ambiental na actividade petrolífera aguarda aprovação

Luanda, 30 Novembro - O governo angolano dispõe já de uma lei específica sobre o ambiente na actividade petrolífera que aguarda apenas em Luanda pela aprovação da assembleia nacional, foi anunciado segunda-feira, Luanda.

O facto foi tornado público pelo ministro dos petróleos, Botelho de Vasconcelos, quando apresentava uma comunicação no primeiro fórum nacional do ambiente, aberto segunda-feira. O evento visa a reflectir sobre os problemas ambientais do país.

O governante sustentou que, atendendo a potencialidade de poluição do sector petrolífero, a futura lei terá um carácter ambiental preventivo.

E reconheceu, no entanto, que a actividade do ramo que dirige é contingente em matéria de segurança e compreende sérios riscos para a natureza.

Botelho de Vasconcelos considerou a defesa do ambiente de "extrema importância" para a actividade petrolífera, devendo, por isso, ser objecto de uma gestão preventiva adequada.

Fez saber que o ministério dos petróleos vem trabalhando na execução de um plano nacional de contingência, sequência de uma iniciativa efectuada internacional pela organização marítima internacional (imo) e pela associação da indústria petrolífera para a protecção ambiental (ipeace).

Para tal, frisou, foi já promovida a constituição de uma comissão nacional de resposta aos derrames petrolíferos no mar, integrada por várias instituições estatais.

O primeiro fórum nacional ambiental, promovido pelo ministério angolano do ambiente com a colaboração da fundação Eduardo dos Santos (fesa) e a associação de Cabinda (Sonangol, Chevron, Elf e Agip), tem o seu término previsto para quarta-feira.

Defesa do ambiente é de extrema importância, considera o ministro dos
petróleos

Luanda, 29 Novembro - O ministro dos petróleos, Botelho de Vasconcelos, disse hoje em Luanda, que a defesa do ambiente é considerada de extrema importância para a actividade petrolífera.

Por esse motivo, merece ser objecto de uma gestão preventiva adequada, associada a uma indispensável capacidade técnica, organizativa e operativa.

O governante angolano fez este pronunciamento quando hoje, a tarde, intervém no 1º fórum nacional do ambiente e recursos naturais, a decorrer até o próximo dia um de Dezembro.

Este fórum visa fazer uma reflexão sobre os problemas ambientais do país e sobre a adaptação de uma política ambiental nacional. Será dada especial ênfase a necessidade da utilização racional dos recursos naturais, mormente os renováveis, o que contribuirá para a definição de programas concretos sobre gestão ambiental.

Botelho de Vasconcelos deu a conhecer, aos participantes, que "tendo em vista a prioridade que atribuímos as questões ambientais, o ministério dos petróleos vem trabalhando seriamente na implementação em Angola de um plano nacional de contingências".

O referido plano é sequência da iniciativa global desenvolvida pela organização marítima internacional (OMI) e pela associação internacional da indústria petrolífera para a protecção do ambiente (IPIECA).

É neste contexto, frisou o ministro, que várias conferências foram realizadas relativas aos derrames na actividade petrolífera, em ordem a prevenção dos interesses que se prendem tanto com a exploração do mar como a manutenção da qualidade ambiental marinha.

Assim, o ministério dos petróleos promoveu a constituição de uma comissão

e nacional de resposta aos derrames petrolíferos no mar, cuja presidência
defesa, do coordenação nos cabe e fazem parte integrante os ministérios da
sonangol interior, das pescas e ambiente, dos transportes e o das finanças, a
e as operadoras da industria petrolífera.

assim O ministro dos petróleos explicou que, nessa sequência, Angola deu
conducentes já um passo significativo ao avançar e aprofundar os trabalhos
na a preparação e implementação de um plano nacional de contingências
actividade petrolífera.

para Tudo isto, com vista a obter o interesse dos parceiros internacionais
das que com a sua ajuda financeira e técnica, contribuam para a realização
acções integrantes do referido plano.

tempo os Com o desafio imposto as industrias neste final de século há algum
necessidade ambientalistas alertam as autoridades do mundo inteiro para a
de compatibilização de duas questões consideradas vitais para a
humanidade, designadamente o desenvolvimento económico e a
preservação ambiental.

para Não obstante a natural dificuldade de conciliação destes dois factores,
muitos especialistas é inquestionável o mérito da questão.

por O desenvolvimento científico e tecnológico os quais representam uma
conquista do ambiente, sob pena de o homem moderno passar a viver
um lado sem o risco de perda de auto-sustentabilidade do próprio
desenvolvimento.

mais O ministro Botelho de Vasconcelos referiu que em alguns países
da tecnologicamente mais avançados, providencias nessa direcção são
e a visivelmente percebidas e contam com a participação objectiva e activa
sociedade, para se poder chegar ao ponto do equilíbrio entre o homem
natureza.

Luanda - Os Estados Unidos da América enviam no próximo mês a Luanda duas importantes delegações. A primeira chefiada pelo seu embaixador na ONU, Richard Holbrook. Chega no nosso país na próxima sexta-feira, dia 3. A segunda será liderada por Thomas Pickering, secretário de Estado Adjunto, e número dois da Política externa norte-americana.

Pickering que deverá estar em Luanda entre 12 e 20 de Dezembro, trará na agenda a cooperação bilateral entre os dois países bem como o processo de paz. O número dois da diplomacia norte-americana foi um dos principais oradores durante a recente sessão da comissão conjunta bilateral realizada em Washington.

Por sua vez Holbrooke, vem no âmbito dos esforços da ONU para se pôr fim ao conflito no Congo-Kinshasa. Além de desiludido com o seu ex-pupilo Jonas Savimbi, Washington não perde de vista que o petróleo de Angola que hoje representa 8 por cento do petróleo importado pelos EUA deverá passar a representar cerca de 15 por cento no ano 2005, altura em que Angola passará a ser o principal produtor africano com uma produção acima do milhão de barris por dia. (In Angolense, 27/11-04/12/99).

Thanks much. You might see what you can turn up on SODIAM, the new j.v. btwn the GRA and a Russian fellow (not ALROSA) that is going to be an informal sector buying monopoly. Yuk. More later.

Empossamento dos responsáveis nomeados pelo presidente da república dominou a semana finda

Luanda, 27 Novembro - A tomada de posse dos governantes, magistrados e diplomatas recém-nomeados pelo presidente da república, José Eduardo Dos Santos, dominou a actualidade política da semana que hoje findou.

Durante a cerimonia, o chefe de estado angolano exortou os recém-empossados a continuarem a desempenhar com zelo, competência e muita dedicação as suas novas funções, que segundo José Eduardo Dos Santos, foram conquistadas por "mérito próprio".

Apelou ainda para que a experiência dos empossados e "as boas qualidades que possuem sejam postas ao serviço da nação, contribuindo, deste modo, para melhor gestão da coisa publica".

Foram empossados o conselheiro especial do presidente da república para os assuntos políticos, Santana André Pitra "Petroff", os procuradores gerais adjuntos da república, nomeadamente Agostinho Eduardo dos Santos e João Maria Moreira de Sousa, este para a esfera militar.

Tomaram também posse os vice-ministros da comunicação social e da

educação e cultura, respectivamente Manuel Augusto e Frederico e Silva Cardoso, bem como 14 embaixadores e 12 vice-governadores.

A visita do ministro das relações exteriores, João Miranda, a Zâmbia na busca de novas formas de cooperação também mereceu o devido destaque na semana que findou.

Durante a sua visita, o chefe da diplomacia angolana examinou com o seu homologo zambiano Kelly Walubita as relações diplomáticas entre os dois países, ensombradas devido ao posicionamento de alguns governantes zambianos face ao conflito angolano.

"Nos lutamos sempre para que as nossas relações sejam excelentes", clarificou João Miranda, acrescentando que "Angola e Zâmbia são países vizinhos e estão condenados a viver juntos.

Ainda durante a sua estada na Zâmbia, o chefe da diplomacia angolana foi recebido pelo presidente zambiano, Frederik Chiluba, a quem entregou uma mensagem do chefe de estado angolano, José Eduardo dos Santos, relativa as relações bilaterais e de cooperação.

Mereceu ainda destaque na semana finda, a acção militar das forças armadas angolanas (FAA) que culminou com a retomada da localidade de Cuangar, província do Kuando Kubango (próximo da fronteira com a república da Namíbia).

Da acção levada a cabo pelas FAA, 400 rebeldes savimbistas apresentaram-se de livre vontade as forças governamentais com todo o seu armamento.

Foi ainda destacada na semana finda as audiências que o presidente da república, José Eduardo dos Santos concedeu aos líderes da UNITA e FNLA, respectivamente Eugénio Manuvakola e Lucas Ngonda.

O chefe de estado angolano abordou com os dois dirigentes dos partidos da oposição questões relacionadas com a situação do país, face aos desenvolvimentos da actualidade.

Revelou também interesse na semana finda, a questão sobre o surgimento de uma terceira força política no seio da FNLA, mas Lucas Ngonda, presidente do partido disse que "esta informação não tem existência real".

Lucas Ngonda considera ser mais uma "manipulação" de Holden Roberto, acusado pelo departamento de estado Norte-Americano de ter mantido fortes ligações com os serviços secretos dos EUA (CIA) desde 1955, para desestabilizar o partido.

Ainda na semana que findou foi destacada a posição do vice-ministro da defesa nacional, Armando da Cruz, que saudou a medida do executivo Britânico de congelar as contas bancárias do terrorista-mor Jonas Savimbi,

cuja implementação vai impedir a continuidade da guerra em Angola.

Aprovação do projecto de lei da actividade seguradora marcou a semana

Luanda, 27 Novembro - A aprovação, pelo conselho de ministros, do projecto de lei da actividade seguradora constituiu o destaque do noticiário económico durante os últimos sete dias.

O documento define as condições e os princípios reguladores do sector, pondo fim ao monopólio até aqui exercido pelo estado através da empresa nacional de seguros e resseguros de Angola (ENSA).

A aprovação desta nova lei, que será remetida a assembleia nacional para ratificação, abre caminho a existência de novos agentes privados ou públicos no mercado de seguros.

Na mesma semana, o conselho de ministros procedeu, igualmente, a apreciação preliminar do anté-projecto do orçamento geral do estado (OGE) para o ano 2000, mantendo-se os sectores da defesa e segurança como prioritários.

O referido anté-projecto consagra o próximo ano como o do relançamento do sector produtivo e do início do programa monitorado pelo fundo monetário internacional e banco mundial.

Na mesma sessão, o governo aprovou o relatório final da comissão instaladora do fundo de desenvolvimento económico e social e nomeou o seu conselho de administração, criando deste modo as condições essenciais para o seu arranque em janeiro do ano 2000.

No decorrer da semana, o vice-ministro da indústria, Abraão Gourgel, anunciou, por ocasião do dia da indústria (23 de novembro), a anulação, pelo governo angolano, do pagamento de impostos de consumo para matérias-primas, no âmbito da criação de uma série de incentivos para o relançamento da actividade produtiva nacional.

outro destaque dos últimos sete dias foi a comemoração do dia das pescas, também na mesma data, durante a qual a ministra das pescas e ambiente, Fátima Jardim, afirmou que o aumento da produção e a melhoria da

nutrição

passam por uma maior qualificação do homem.

No mesmo dia, o ministério dos transportes completou igualmente 23 anos de actividade, tendo o titular da pasta, André Brandão, declarado que o seu pelouro esta a preparar-se para o processo de reconstrução nacional, no âmbito da perspectiva de paz que se vislumbra no país.

A visita que o presidente da companhia russa de diamantes "Alrosa",

Vitcheslav Chitrov, efectuou a Angola de 25 a 26 do corrente, também constituiu destaque da semana que hoje finda.

Vitcheslav Chitrov preencheu a sua visita com vários encontros, nomeadamente com o presidente e os membros do conselho de administração da endiama, vice-ministro da geologia e minas, Carlos Sumbula, e inaugurou, simultaneamente com o seu homólogo angolano, Agostinho Gaspar, uma exposição fotográfica dedicada a história e actividade da "Alrosa".

Outro realce da semana foi a realização do conselho consultivo alargado da polícia económica, em que foi recomendada maior dinâmica no combate as fraudes fiscais, açambarcamento, especulação e ao crime organizado.

Os participantes realçaram a necessidade de um melhor entrosamento entre a polícia económica e as procuradorias e tribunais para um eficiente combate as infracções e um maior relacionamento com os órgãos de direcção da economia.

O noticiário económico destacou igualmente a realização, de 24 a 26 do corrente, do seminário sobre o uso e aproveitamento de cactos (planta medicinal), orientado pela ministra das pescas, Fátima Jardim.

Esta foi também uma semana em que foram empossados os membros dos conselhos de administração da empresa nacional de navegação e manutenção de aeroportos (ENANA) e do porto de Luanda.

Senior UNITA Defector Gives News Conference

Radio Nacional de Angola on November 17, 1999

UNITA's Gen. Jacinto Bandua, who was head of the rebel movement's logistics department, surrendered to government forces "in the Andulo area"

on 10th November, he told a news conference broadcast by Angolan government radio on the 17th. He said that several other UNITA generals and senior officers had been "detained" by those loyal to UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, for alleged military mistakes. He also said that that UNITA's (number two), Secretary-General Lukamba Gato, is in Angola not in Europe, that the morale of UNITA's forces is "quite low" and they had lost a lot of materiel. The following is the text of the recorded news conference; monitored with poor reception; first five paragraphs are the radio's introduction:

Jonas Savimbi does not have the means to leave Angola and, since he will not surrender, he should be annihilated. This was stated in the town of Catumbela today by Gen. Jacinto Bandua, who, until 10th November, was Savimbi's aide-de-camp, and head of the logistics department.

Jacinto Bandua confirmed that Generals Bock, Numa, Antero, Tarzan and others have been detained. He denied that Paulo Lukamba Gato is abroad,

adding that he had last seen him and Alcides Sakala in October.

Jacinto Bandua surrendered to the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] in the outlying areas of Andulo on 10th November, after abandoning the UNITA HQ during the clashes that led to the seizure of that town.

Bandua met Savimbi in 1975 and joined UNITA the following year. He rose to the rank of general in 1993. He was trained in Angola, Morocco and South Africa. Jacinto Bandua accompanied Savimbi on all his visits abroad. Gen. Bandua was part of the UNITA delegation to the Lusaka peace talks. He had knowledge of materiel acquired in the past few years and delivered to UNITA.

Bandua. It has been mistakenly reported that Savimbi had murdered Jacinto

In fact, the one who was killed was his brother, Fernando Elias Bandua.

[Bandua - recording] Dr Savimbi [passage indistinct] for very simple reasons. After 16 years of war, I see no reason for UNITA to be armed and carry on fighting. Dr Savimbi has lost his senses.

I met Jonas Savimbi in 1975. [Passage indistinct] Savimbi was the one who designated the negotiating team to go to Lusaka (?for the talks). In 1995, he deprived Mr. Eugenio Manuvakola, the then party secretary-general, of the responsibilities (?that had been accorded to him) and [passage indistinct] he changes his mind quite easily.

So, what is our goal? And who will lead us?

A great many cadres [words indistinct] Dr Savimbi does not consult the other senior cadres. He is the leader... and has centralized power in his hands.

I have my reasons for [words indistinct] directly between 1976 and 1999. It has been a long time. Was I his bodyguard? It is written here on paper. I served him in many capacities.

[Unidentified journalist] How did you run away?

[A]I surrendered to the government voluntarily. I was not captured. I handed myself over in the Andulo area at 1000 [local time] on 10th November.

[Q] What about the morale of the UNITA forces, the materiel [passage indistinct]?

[A] It is the materiel that FAA forces have been capturing. As for the morale of the forces, it is quite low. It affects both generals and soldiers in view of the defeats that have been inflicted.

[Q] You have decided to abandon Savimbi. What about other [words indistinct]?

[A] [Passage indistinct].

[Q] [Words indistinct].

[A] That was my brother, Fernando Elias Bandua [words indistinct] I learned that he had been detained, and that Savimbi ordered him killed.

[Q] General Bock [words indistinct]?

[A] Generals Bock, Numa [names indistinct] and other officers were in detention. Gen. Bock's detention was as a result of the defeat his forces suffered in the attack on Kuito. Gen. Numa was detained because of his hasty attack on [words indistinct] and the same goes for Gen. Antero. As for Gen. Tarzan, he was detained because of suspicions that he had links with FAA.

[Q] Having lost Andulo and Bailundo, what resources does Dr Savimbi still have that would enable him to either leave the country or regain control of what he has lost?

[A] As you know [words indistinct] he only issues orders that should be executed. He avoids physical contact.

[Q] Could you tell me whether Lukamba Gato is in Angola or in Europe?

[A] Lukamba Gato is in Angola.

[Q] When last did you see him?

[A] In October.

[Q] Gen. Joao de Matos has urged UNITA members to abandon [words indistinct]?

[A] It was a humane and patriotic appeal. I think a great many cadres will answer his call.

[Q] What message would you like to convey to those who are still in [words indistinct]?

[A] My message would be the same. I would like to appeal to the others to follow (?my example).

[Q] Are there prospects of a guerrilla war [words indistinct] guerrilla strategy?

[A] UNITA was founded during the anticolonial struggle. I think the goals

for which UNITA was created have been achieved. One would need to have new conditions, a new source of inspiration [words indistinct] to wage another guerrilla war. [Passage indistinct]

[Q] Are you surprised that even Savimbi's son shows (?hatred for him)?

[A] The son has his motives. A father cannot kill the mother of his son and expect him to be on his side [words indistinct].

[Q] [Words indistinct]?

[A] My statement shows that. It has been claimed that Savimbi is not the same person any more, he has changed.

[Q] Do you think he is on drugs? Does he have a drinking problem?

[A] I think [words indistinct].

[Q] The military situation shows that Savimbi has been pushed into a corner and that he has been pinpointed by the armed forces. Before you left, were you aware of any attempts to extricate Savimbi from that (?area)?

[A] (?There was no attempt).

[Q] Does Savimbi have the means to carry on [words indistinct]?

[A] He does not have the means, except for the two feet on which he stands. He would have to walk on foot.

[Q] How did [words indistinct]?

[A] By walking on foot.

[Q] For how long will Jonas Savimbi and the people around him be able to survive [words indistinct]?

[A] It all depends on the strategy that the FAA has been following.

[Q] Would it take long?

[A] I am not in the field.

[Q] Would it take a day, a week?

[A] I (?do not know).

**Investments in Power and Water Sectors Far From Real Needs
Angop on November 16, 1999**

Investments in water and power infrastructures in Angola remained too far

from the real needs since independence, the Angolan Minister of Energy and Waters said today. According to Luís Filipe da Silva, the investments made after independence were inadequate due to the lack of qualified manpower and financial resources.

highland
in

The Minister recalled that Angola has the second water potential within the Southern Africa Development Community, after DR Congo, with hydro resources estimated at 158 cubic kms a year. But he also stressed the existence of an important network of rivers in the north and central regions contrasting with few rains in the south and coastal regions, namely Namibe, Kunene and Kuando Kubango provinces.

The Minister said that, at the national level, only 15 percent of households have canned water, while in urban areas the figure rises to 35 percent of the families. Mr. da Silva added that at the national level only 31 to 40 percent of the population have access to drinking water, with 46 to 61 percent in urban areas and 22 to 27 percent in rural areas, respectively.

According to the Minister only 15 percent of the population has access to electric power, representing only 2.5 percent of the energy used countrywide. He said that in 1999/2000, his Ministry will secure the power and water supply to the thickly inhabited areas.

According to a short term plan for water supply to Luanda, prepared under a World Bank financed project, \$384 million will be invested in the rehabilitation and expansion of water supply systems to reach 3.8 million people by the year 2005, while \$650 million is the amount to be disbursed for investments in the power sector between 1997/2002.

Nov 11

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos today said that the Angolan government will speed up the constitutional reform, the revision of the electoral law and organize soon the electoral census. Addressing a rally in Lubango, southern Huila province, marking the 24th anniversary of Angola's Independence Day, the President stated that security conditions may be created soon for the holding of free and democratic elections both legislative and presidential.

are

He also announced the implementation of a national program for humanitarian assistance, with the contribution from the international community, to cope with the increasing number of war displaced. "These

Angolan

immediate tasks which will follow and complement the efforts of the

Armed Forces and the national police" to disarm the rebel forces of Jonas Savimbi and restore the state authority throughout the country, said the Angolan head of state. He also confirmed that the Angolan government will

push on the economic reforms and continue to negotiate an understanding with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Luanda - Algumas fontes dignas de fé deixaram escapar ao ANGOLENSE que, o Presidente Eduardod dos Santos, dependendo do evoluir mais próximo da situação militar, poderá em breve anunciar um regresso ao anterior quadro constitucional, com a nomeação de um primeiro-ministro, sendo já muito badalado o noem do ministro da Administração do Território, Faustino Muteka, antigo homem forte do Governo na Comissão Conjunta, rapidamente guindado a membro do bureau político do MPLA no último Congresso.

A esta desenhada alteração, que visa libertar de algumas tarefas que desde Janeiro passado foram assumidas pessoalmente por Dos Santos, poderá encebeçar igualmente uma remodelação na actual equipe governamental. Nomes como o de Joaquim David, ministro das Finanças e de Albina Assis, poderão não constar da nova equipa.

Sobre o primeiro por alegadas razões de saúde, que estariam até na base de um não confirmado pedido de demissão, embora alguns sectores comentem que David, saído de uma super-empresa como a Sonangol, não se encontrava à altura para responder aos desafios de um sector vital como o das Finanças.

Comenta-se ainda que David, que aspirava ir muito mais longe, se mostrou pouco dialogante, assumindo raramente algumas das suas compreensíveis falhas. Albina Assis, que havia deixado a pasta dos Petróelos para se ocupar da Indústria não é, como seria de esperar, membro da Comissão Permanente do Conselho de Ministros, não se sabendo muito bem porquê, sendo esta situação paradoxal já que, o sector que dirige é uma das peças vitais para a recuperação económica.

Muitos são os nomes apontados para deixarem vazias as cadeiras ministeriais e há quem aponte Vaal Neto, da Comunicação Social, Malungo, da Reinserção Social entre outros, enquanto que, a nível da governação provincial, nomes como o de Pedro Pacavira, do Kwanza Norte, Luís Paulino dos Santos, do Bié e Flávio Fernandes, de Malanje, só por verdadeiro milagre poderão sobreviver nos seus postos, uma vez que existe um quase consenso, a nível do partido maioritário, que são pesados os danos que vêm causando à imagem do MPLA nas suas respectivas províncias, apesar de, de tempos a tempos, desenvolverem algumas acções cosméticas.

FIM DOS BRI'S E BRE

12/11/99

Luanda - O ministro do Comércio, Victorino Hossi, anunciou ontem, em Luanda, a abolição, dentro de dias, dos BRI's e BRE, com vista a dar uma nova dinâmica na rede comercial do país.

O governante, que anunciou o facto durante uma conferência de imprensa, indicou que após a eliminação destes documentos (BRI's e BRE), o Ministério vai substituí-los por novos certificados comerciais, que entrarão em vigor tão logo sejam aprovados pelos órgãos afins.

Segundo o articulista do "JA", a aplicação da nova filosofia comercial,

segundo o ministro Hossi, passará por uma parceria de trabalho entre as direcções do Comércio e das Alfândegas, com vista a permitir uma fiscalização adequada na importação de bens para o país.

Das novas medidas da política comercial anunciadas por Victorino Hossi, consta ainda a reclassificação de estabelecimentos comerciais e a definição de uma política do concessionário e assistência técnica de bens.

O ministro defende ainda a eliminação completa das cantinas, dando primazia à criação de cooperativas, que na sua óptica dá vantagens ao consumidor e ao utente.

Anunciou, por outro lado, que o Ministério do Comércio está actualmente a trabalhar em parceria com a rede empresarial nacional para o abastecimento regular à população com bens de primeira necessidade.

Cabinet Approves Bill on Insurance

Angop on November 22, 1999

Angola's cabinet council approved today in Luanda a draft law on the insurance policy, which brings the state's monopoly on the matter to an end. A press release issued at the end of today's cabinet council meeting, chaired by President dos Santos, says that the law will be tabled for Parliament decision and paves the way for new public and private operators to intervene in Angola's insurance market. According to the document, the newly approved law will permit the creation of a system capable to attract individual and collective savings and optimize the insurance social function

in

the country.

New Currency Available From December 1st

Angop on November 22, 1999

Angola's new currency, kwanza (kz), which the National Assembly officially approved on November 9, will be circulating beginning on December 1st this year, said a National Bank (BNA) release. With the enforcement of the newly adopted laws, the BNA will issue bills worth one, five, ten, fifty and one hundred kwanzas and coins of one, two and five kz, in addition to five, ten and fifty cents. However, the kzs will remain legal until May 31, 2000. The BNA will issue the new currency gradually to avoid troubles with the current "kwanza reajustado" due to economic and management needs for liquidity.

10/06/99 ANGOLA: CENTRAL BANK TO END ILLEGAL CURRENCY OPERATIONS.

Text of report by Noticias de Angola web site on 2nd October

Luanda: The Angolan government has decided it is necessary to end the special exchange systems very soon. According to the governor of the Angola National Bank, Aguinaldo Jaime, who spoke yesterday to reporters in Washington at the end of the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance will launch a programme very soon to combat tax evasion, so that all those who are in business in Angola will pay their taxes to the state.

07/27/99 ANGOLA: GOVERNMENT APPROVES CREATION OF DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Source: Televisao Publica de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1930 gmt 21 Jul 99

Excerpt from report by Angolan TV on 21st July

The cabinet today approved the creation of a 150m-dollar socioeconomic development fund. Chaired by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, today's session of the cabinet approved a revised version of the 1999 State General Budget [OGE].

The fund will cater for small and medium-scale private businesses involved in the agricultural, livestock, fisheries, civil construction, construction materials, medicines, and hotel industry sectors, as well as health and education projects.

[National Bank of Angola governor Aguinaldo Jaime - recording] This is in line with government's programme to end the Angolan crisis. Government has decided to assist the Angolan business sector because it lacks investment credit facilities. I think this is a very important decision because credit is in short supply and is costly. The fund will finance projects. Very attractive interest rates will be charged.

[Unidentified correspondent] What should businessmen do to benefit from the fund?

[A] In due course we will brief the business sector as a whole. Economic management agencies will take part in briefings, during which we will give details about procedures as well as the aims of the fund.

[Q] When will the fund take effect?

[A] Now it is a matter of publishing the decree that established the fund and which was approved today. A constituent commission will be appointed at once to deal with technical and organizational issues so that the fund takes effect as soon as possible. I believe everything will be in place next month. [End of recording]...

(c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

BBC MONITORING SERVICE

BBC MONITORING SERVICE: AFRICA 27/07/1999

09/07/99 ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE BANK INVESTING 10M DOLLARS.

Source: Angop news agency web site, Luanda, in Portuguese 27 Aug 99

Text of report by the Angolan news agency Angop web site

Luanda, 27th August: The Totta and Azores Bank's investment portfolio for Angola up to 2000 is in the region of 10m dollars, of which 3.5m dollars has already been spent. According to the bank's officials, the amount invested by the Portuguese bank was for opening seven branches, purchasing of equipment, and human resources training. The bank intends to increase its fully localized staff

from 129 to 160. Totta and Azores opened a branch in Lobito in July, the second in Benguela Province. Like Portugal's Banco de Fomento Exterior [Foreign Investment Bank], Totta and Azores intends to introduce an autobank system. (c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

09/09/99 ANGOLA: CREDIT BANK SUSPENDS LOANS TO CUANZA SUL PROVINCE.

Text of report by Angolan newspaper `Agora' on 4th September, republished by Noticias de Angola web site on 8th September

Luanda: The Agriculture and Fisheries Credit Bank (CAP) has suspended loans to Cuanza Sul Province's businessmen because most of the borrowed money has not been repaid, making the bank technically bankrupt. The province's businessmen received loans of about 5bn readjusted kwanzas, but only half of them paid the money back.

CAP has so far suffered losses of about 17m dollars in arrears. Debtors claim that they cannot honour their commitments because they have a "rope around their neck", as they have earned no profits from the money that has been invested. Sources told Agora that most of the businessmen misused the money borrowed from the CAP, spending it on superfluous items. They could face legal action. The bulk of the money disbursed by the CAP was for the industrial sector, which has ground to a halt as most of the province's infrastructure has been destroyed by the war.

There are four CAP branches in Cuanza Sul Province, namely in Sumbe, Porto Amboim, Gabela and Uacu Cungo. There have been irregularities at the branches, leading to the dismissal of several officials, including the provincial manager.

Source: Noticias de Angola web site in Portuguese 8 Sep 99.
BBC Worldwide Monitoring/ (c) BBC 1999.

09/28/99 ANGOLA: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDS CUTS IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

**Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1900 gmt 22 Sep 99
Text of announcer read "press statement" issued by the Angolan Council of Ministers in Luanda on 22nd September 1999; broadcast by Angolan government radio on 22nd September**

The Council of Ministers held a session at the Futungo de Belas Palace in Luanda today, during which it discussed the evolution of the foreign exchange market, following the introduction of a number of measures.

In line with those measures, the government has recommended cuts in public expenditure, and that priority should be given to the payment of salaries, interest rates and dues owed to international agencies, as well as foreign debt repayments.

The government recommended the scaling down of official visits abroad, and a reduction in the number of officials in delegations as well as in the duration of each visit. In view of these measures, government public expenditure for September 1999 has been reduced by about 50 per cent.

The country's foreign reserves permitting, the Angola National Bank should continue to provide foreign currency to the local foreign exchange market.

In line with government's strategy to stabilize the economy, it has been decided to abolish the payment of revenue levies on foreign exchange transactions. New foreign exchange regulations have been adopted for the mining sector. The first measure is aimed at increasing the flow of foreign currency into the financial system, considering that the levy made each transaction more costly. The second measure is designed to retain the mining sector's earnings in the country and to increase the banks' foreign currency reserves.

The government has recommended the immediate introduction of measures to curb tax evasion, hoarding of merchandise, speculation and the illegal remittance of foreign exchange. Additional measures would be introduced to encourage enterprises to deposit in banks a significant percentage of their earnings.

The Council of Ministers Standing Commission discussed the ongoing preparations for the 1999-2000 agricultural year, which is scheduled to begin at the end of September. The government checked whether the ongoing preparations complied with

its general socioeconomic stabilization strategy, and recommended ways of dealing with prevailing constraints. The aim is to revamp the production of staple crops, namely corn, cassava, potatoes, beans, groundnuts, fruit, produce and so forth.

For the 1999-2000 agricultural year, government has spent 35 per cent of what was earmarked for the renovation of irrigation infrastructures, and 99 per cent of what was allocated for the vaccination of livestock.

Finally, the Standing Commission accorded public utility status to the Sacred Hope Foundation, a cultural, scientific and educational institution.

(c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

Luanda, 30 Setembro - Angola e os estados unidos da América (EUA)

reúnem hoje em Washington, a nível da comissão consultiva bilateral, para analisar as várias vertentes da cooperação político- económica entre os dois países.

O encontro que terá a duração de dois dias vai proceder a análise da situação político-militar em Angola, a segurança regional e as transgressões na fronteira angolana.

Dentre outros assuntos a serem abordados, constam ainda do programa de trabalhos da reunião as estratégias de paz, as relações militares, o reforço das sanções, o tráfico de drogas e o terrorismo.

A delegação angolana encontra-se em Washington desde segunda- feira e é chefiada pelo vice-ministro das relações exteriores, George Chicoty.

Integram ainda a delegação o secretario do conselho de ministros, Tony Van-Dunem, o assessor diplomático do presidente da república, Victor Lima, e o vice-ministro das finanças, Job Graça.

**WFP to Request \$160 Million Humanitarian Relief
Angop on September 23, 1999**

\$160
executive
not
disastrous"
to
visit is

The World Food Program will ask the international community for a million worth of humanitarian assistance for Angola, WFP deputy director disclosed Thursday at the end of a meeting with President José Eduardo dos Santos.

Namanga Ngongi said the request to be made next month in Rome will be enough, due to the rising number of war displaced in Angola.

He termed the humanitarian situation in the country as "really adding that by mid-next year the UN agency will ask for additional funds to try to cope with the plight of over 1.6 million war displaced in Angola.

Mr. Ngongi said to have discussed with the Angolan head of state the relations between Angola and his institution stating that his weeklong visit is mainly aimed at assessing the humanitarian situation in the country.

Government Eliminates Tax in Banking Transactions Angop on September 23, 1999

The Angolan cabinet approved Thursday the law eliminating the tax in bank transactions of bills, foreign currency and travel checks. Henceforth a one percent tax of exchange has been established on interests charged by banking institutions over the bills and treasury bills by loan, issued national checks or any banking transfers.

A press release issued at the end of the meeting of the council of ministers, chaired by President José Eduardo dos Santos, states that the government wants "to soften the costs bore both by companies and individuals in banking transactions".

The meeting also approved diplomas from the Justice Ministry on the inefficacy of the registration of annulment of civil records and the convalidation of notarial records. The council of ministers also approved the organic statute of the Health Ministry aimed at creating institutional conditions for improvement of the health service.

Government and World Bank to Discuss New Cooperation Program Angop on September 24, 1999

said The Angolan Planning Minister Mrs. Ana Dias Lourenço on Thursday
the Angolan government will discuss its projects and will establish a new cooperation program with the World Bank later this month in Washington.

for Mrs. Lourenço was addressing Angop in Luanda shortly before leaving
the United States, to attend the World Bank / IMF annual assembly to happen later this month.

Monetary "We are going to discuss new perspectives of cooperation with the World
monitored Bank and we will proceed with negotiations with the International
Fund (IMF), started in August in Luanda, with a view to reach a
program", she said.

financial She added that the Angolan delegation will hold contacts with all
institutions attending the annual World Bank / IMF meeting.

Angola's National Bank (BNA) governor, Dr. Aguinaldo Jaime, who also
traveled to Washington with the same purpose, said, "We are close to
reaching a monitored agreement with the IMF because this is Angola's
government political will".

already "We had some disturbances within the exchange market for reasons
the identified, and some goals were not met, but, despite this light sideslip on
difficult program, the IMF has appreciated the solutions to overcome this
moment", he underlined.

and According to the BNA Governor, the government has already been
a accomplishing IMF recommendations, particularly on tributary evasion
public expenditures. "We will continue working jointly to quickly reach
monitored accord with the fund", he voiced.

and On tax evasion, he said if the state has no incomes then the deficit rises
government there is no way to cover its expenditures, "That is the way the
will take very rigorous measures".

rising in "The Finance Ministry will restructure the customs and every revenue-
process as a way to lessen tax evasion, which has reached alarming levels
in Angola", Dr. Jaime said.

by The Angolan delegation to the World Bank / IMF annual assembly is led
Finance Minister Joaquim David, who left the country few days ago.

FACED WITH NEW CIVIL WAR, ANGOLAN GOV'T SEEKS TO CUT PUBLIC SPENDING

LISBON Sept 23 Sapa-AP

The Angolan government announced Thursday it would slash public spending by half as it scrambles to cope with the financial drain of renewed civil war, a news report said.

It will also try to persuade companies to keep their cash in Angola rather than transfer it abroad, a news report said.

The government will give priority to paying public-sector wages and meeting foreign debt payments, according to a press communique released after a Cabinet meeting, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

Angola, a former Portuguese colony which has been engaged in a civil war for much of the past 25 years, owes some dlrs 11 billion to foreign creditors.

Foreign exchange requirements for the mining sector, which includes lucrative diamond mines operated in conjunction with foreign companies, are to be altered, Lusa reported.

The aim is to keep cash generated in Angola within the country's banking system, according to the communique cited by Lusa.

Other planned measures include a crackdown on the illegal transfer of currency abroad and on tax evasion, Lusa said.

The report gave no date for the introduction of the measures, nor did it provide figures.



Luanda - Várias personalidades nacionais e estrangeiras têm pressionado sem cessar o Governo do presidente José Eduardo dos Santos a reiniciar negociações com a Unita a fim de pôr cobro à guerra civil angolana. Dentre essas personalidades, há que destacar o SG da ONU, Kofi Annan, o SG da CPLP, Marcolino Moco, SG do partido Frelimo, Manuel Tomé, a alta hierarquia da Igreja Católica através da CEAST onde pontificam o Cardeal D. Alexandre do Nascimento, D. Zacarias Kamuenho, D. Francisco da Matta Mourisca, bem como os intelectuais nacionais que subscreveram recentemente o "Manifesto para a Paz em Angola".

Nesta quinta-feira, 20.07, o Governo angolano através do ministro das Relações Exteriores, João Miranda, recebeu o texto da mais recente declaração da Presidência da União Europeia sobre Angola publicada em Bruxelas e Helsínquia em 22.07. No documento, a UE faz saber às autoridades angolanas que continua convencida que uma paz duradoura só será possível estabelecer-se no nosso País por intermédio de meios políticos.

A UE apela à Unita e seus dirigentes a cessarem as suas actividades militares e a manifestar claramente a sua vontade de retomar o diálogo com o Governo angolano, com base nas resoluções do Conselho de Segurança da ONU que estabelece a desmobilização das suas forças e permite a extensão da administração do Estado ao conjunto de todo território nacional. (In Folha 8, 31/07/99).

Iki The Company's losses in its Angolan operation during its fiscal fourth quarter resulted from a series of compounding events. During the quarter, Angola experienced increased military activity between the Government of Angola and the UNITA forces, heavily concentrated in the diamond-producing regions. This resulted in fewer diamonds and significantly less profitable diamonds available for purchase. This was compounded by relatively high fixed infrastructure and security costs which could not be quickly reduced, and purchases which resulted in significant losses upon resale, as well as the defection of a significant portion of the Company's expatriate rough diamond buying team.

As a result of these events, the Company sustained after-tax losses of \$2.8 million in Angola. The Company has reorganized its Angolan operation, dramatically lowered operating costs, reduced its Angolan country exposure and restaffed with a new team of professionals who have extensive diamond buying and selling experience throughout Africa. In conjunction with this reorganization which has occurred concurrently with the dry season in Angola (the time of increased availability of diamonds), the Company believes that its lowered exposure, lower expense posture and a better-equipped team can substantially improve the outlook for the remaining portion of the calendar year in this country.

Luanda, 5 Agosto - O embaixador de Angola junto das Nações Unidas,

Afonso Van-dunem "Mbinda", disse hoje, em Nova Iorque, que "o governo angolano deu o aval positivo sobre a presença das Nações Unidas no país".

O diplomata angolano fez esta afirmação a rádio nacional de Angola (rna), anunciando que "essa decisão vem expressa numa carta do governo de Angola que foi entregue quarta-feira ao secretário geral da ONU, Kofi Annan".

Acrescentou que "neste momento estão a ser discutidos aspectos internos sobre a presença física das nações unidas no território angolano".

Afonso Van-dunem "Mbinda" sublinhou que "o governo angolano esteve sempre á favor de uma presença física das nações unidas em Angola não tão grande, mas que corresponda a realidade da situação no nosso país".

Governo assume responsabilidade da assistência humanitária

Luanda, 5 Agosto 1999 - A Unidade Técnica de Coordenação da Ajuda Humanitária (UTCHh), reunida quarta-feira na 4/a sessão do seu conselho técnico consultivo, decidiu atribuir ao governo angolano a responsabilidade da assistência humanitária no país.

definir Segundo uma fonte da "UTCAH", a medida deve-se ao facto da situação humanitária estar a degradar-se diariamente e vai permitir ao governo

as áreas prioritárias, encarregando-se de fazer chegar a ajuda aos necessitados, trabalho ate então feito pelos doadores internacionais e agências da ONU.

O referido conselho decidiu ainda abrir, nos próximos dias, corredores humanitários para a província de malange, definida como prioridade, de formas a fazer chegar as ajudas as populações mais carentes. As províncias do Bié e Kuando Kubango contam também das prioridades.

O conselho técnico e um órgão consultivo de actuação periódica, ao qual compete pronunciar-se de assuntos metodológicos e de índole tecnico-científico relativo as acções da "UTCAH".

Angola possuía ate ao mês de Julho cerca de dois milhões de deslocados internos, dos quais apenas um milhão e 300 mil (65 por cento) recebiam ajuda de emergência.

Luanda - A Assembleia Nacional (AN) retoma hoje a sessão plenária extraordinária, com a discussão do projecto de lei da aviação civil.

O referido projecto apresentado, pelo ministro dos Transporte. André Brandão, visa regulamentar a actividade da aviação civil no país, garantindo o seu exercício e desenvolvimento ordenado e disciplinado. Os parlamentares angolanos vão ainda debruçar-se sobre os projectos de lei de revisão do Orçamento Geral do Estado (OGE) de 1999 e da lei geral do trabalho.

Vai merecer igualmente a atenção dos deputados o acordo de cessar-fogo na República Democrática do Congo, para o qual será aprovada uma resolução. (In Jornal de Angola, 27/07/99).

Diallo, who was in the Angolan capital Luanda during the breakdown of the peace accord, said the U.N. was considering re-establishing a political office in Angola and creating a top-level international contact group.

“We are concluding negotiations now on a small U.N. presence in Angola, what we call a U.N. antenna group,” Diallo told Reuters by telephone from Geneva.

“The antenna is a multi-disciplinary group aimed at ensuring a U.N. presence on the ground which will be able to be in contact with the (warring) parties and which will inform the Security Council on the evolution of the situation.”

The office would be staffed by about 30 people and be responsible for political, humanitarian and human rights issues while also carrying out a military liaison role, Diallo said. If all went to plan it would be in place within weeks, he said.

“We agree that it's an urgent matter, so we will do it as soon as possible,” he said.

Plans were also afoot to form a contact group of African and non-African states, including permanent members of the Security Council, which would analyse Angola's situation, Diallo said.

“They will advise the secretary-general on lines of action regarding the peace process in Angola,” he said. “(The contact group) will allow the international community to...come up with suggestions on how to find peace in Angola.”

The contact group is expected to comprise around 15 members and would almost certainly include the United States, Russia and Portugal, the so-called “troika” of nations which oversaw and guaranteed the Lusaka agreement.

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 13 (Reuters) - The United Nations, which pulled peacekeepers out of Angola earlier this year after the country plunged back into civil war, plans to open a new office there to try to help restore peace, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Friday.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, he said the office would be manned by 30 professional staff, assisted by administrative and support personnel.

Its task would be to liaise with political, military, police and other civilian authorities “with a view to exploring effective measures for restoring peace,” Annan said.

The office would also assist the Angolan people in the area of human rights and coordinate other activities.

Luanda - A Comissão de Gestão e Reestruturação da Caixa de Crédito Agro-Pecuária e Pescas (CAP) cessou segunda-feira (19) os trabalhos de diagnóstico sobre a instituição, com base num mandato do Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) datado de Junho, com fortes probabilidades de poder a vir a ser nomeada para dirigir o banco em regime efectivo.

Segundo fontes do Angolense, a comissão vai propor às autoridades a viabilização financeira do banco, por via da cobrança do crédito mal parado, uma soma equivalente a uns 100 milhões de dólares concedidos em financiamentos entre 1996 e 1997.

Nomeada a três de Junho pelo governador do BNA, Aguiinaldo Jaime, a comissão coordenada por um quadro bancário que foi alternadamente vice-governador do BNA e administrador do Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC), Paixão Júnior, identificou durante os 45 dias de vigência do seu mandato, "activos e passivos de boa e má qualidade", tendo adoptado um cronograma de medidas para o saneamento dos últimos.

Sabe-se que a comissão entregou ao governador do BNA "um borrão" do diagnóstico que efectuou, mas durante a semana que termina, Aguiinaldo Jaime não esteve propriamente disponível para se debruçar sobre o assunto, ocupado com o "dossier" do Conselho de Ministro e uma viagem a Cabinda. A comissão tinha competência de seleccionar os quadros ligados à anterior gestão que pela sua idoneidade e capacidade, se revelasse úteis ao cumprimento das suas atribuições e suspender, nos termos da lei e regulamentos em vigor, os que comprovadamente estivessem envolvidos em acções irregulares ou contratuais a ética bancária. (In Angolense, 24-31/07/99).

Benguela - O Banco TOTTA & AÇORES vai concluir no ano 2000 uma carteira de investimentos na ordem dos dez milhões de dólares. Segundo apurou-se de fonte do mesmo banco, cerca de 3,5 milhões de dólares foram investidos pelo grupo na reabertura de sete balcões no país. Mais quatro agências serão abertas dentro de um ano, empreendimento em que serão gastos mais de 6,5 milhões de dólares. De acordo com Mário Nelson, director Totta & Açores, os investimentos reflectem o programa de expansão do Grupo Confiança que apostou, há seis anos, no "reinvestimento total" dos lucros do Totta & Açores em Angola.

Com este programa de investimentos, este banco elevará de 128 para 160 o número de trabalhadores exclusivamente angolanos ao seu serviço. A instituição bancária abriu na semana passada, no Lobito, a segunda dependência na província de Benguela, prometendo lançar brevemente uma caixa automática para depósitos, levantamentos e consulta de contas fora das horas normais expediente. (In Agora 24/07/99).

Savimbi: 9908

war will end by talks. It is not possible to win militarily

we are ready to talk at any time that president dos s wants to talk to us. I am the one who is prepared to negotiate.

it was president dos s who declared war on unita on dec 5 last year (partition) - we never said so, and we don't see it as a solution.

021 give some power to the regions.

the mulattos are not a problem unless they make themselves a problem.. if they control everything, arms, guns, finance they are the ones who are becoming the problem. but from a starting point they are not a problem because they are also angolans. it is not a racial war.

we are fighting for equal rights, equal opportunities but we don't ask second class angolans 040

we control diamond mines... those people who want diamonds come to pick them up from here.... they are coming here almost from everywhere and they are buying diamonds.

lusaka is not involved.. 062 . even ukraine - we are not buying from there, we are buying from arms dealers and they do not have nationality. where they buy - I don't know. But they sell to me.

sanctions -

I am living under sanctions. I don't want to extend the sanctions to my friends.

105 we are all africans

even, if I have to go, because I will have to go one of these days

war go on forever. that is what we want to avoid. there is also civil society which is asking for talks.

luanda? in war the plan is a multi-dimensional. we don't say I go for luanda or I don't go. if the opportunity is there I go, if not I don't go. all the provincial capitals cannot live without the countryside. they don't have food.

in the past we had humabo and we learned a lesson. It is costly to maintain our provincial capitals. it's not because we don't have the armour, the artillery, the weapons to do that. there are 2 reasons. 1 it is expensive 2. govt has made a very nasty plan.. either capture people from the countryside, or to force them into those towns, where they don't have food. 148

we don't have a plan of taking a port because we have modern airports. we can change our plans any time we want.

(do people love you are they frightened of you?) I think frightened of me, as we have an army of more than 50,000, if the people are frightened of you they kill you. 164. The government has been there too long. high level defections is part of political life

even if I go, because I have to go one of these days, the words, the deeds, have to remain

(if a bomb falls on you tomorrow?) vice president dembo is there that is why he is appointed vice president gato is there, to carry on, the secretary-general.

if the three of us go - too bad, we do not live in the same place... but we don't think that the same tragedy will just fall upon us all on one place on one day. one of us has to survive

People rang us up from south africa about their families who had been taken away from a mine in lunda norte and they wondered what had happened.

"we have the russians here, maybe we have south africans, it is only up to them to contact us. They are not contacting us, but they are contacting other people. But they are with us. It happened during the resistance against the russians and the cubans, and every time we took British, Czechs, we gave them back . the problem is that the government has to care about ... if they are captured, they are treated humanely and we hand them over to their own country. group taken from diamond mine? Let the people first come, and talk to us, and we will give them back

white...

PRESS RELEASE - IHC Caland N.V. 1 September 1998

1. IHC Caland's 100% subsidiary receives Angolan order

On 29 August, 1998, SBM Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the IHC Caland Group, in joint venture with Sonangol, the national oil company of Angola, received a Letter of Authorisation for the time-charter of a deep water FPSO for an initial period of 5 years.

The contract will also include the supply of subsea facilities (trees, manifold and flowlines) and the CALM buoy export system for the Phase 1 development of Kuito field/Block 14 offshore Angola. The contract will be awarded by CABGOC Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevron Corporation acting as operator on behalf of a licensee group that includes Sonangol, Agip, Total and Petrogal.

SBM Inc. will be the manager of a consortium of companies that together will also design, construct and install the whole Kuito field Phase 1A facilities.

Upon first oil, during the fall of 1999, the subsea facilities and the CALM export system will be handed over to CABGOC and the lease of the FPSO will commence. The unit will be owned by a joint venture company consisting of SBM 50%, Sonangol 40% and Nissho Iwai 10%, and SBM will operate the FPSO through the charter period. The time-charter will include provisions for year by year extension options.

From a random web page US firm [Latham & Watkins](#) acted for Nissho Iwai Corporation as lead lender and arranger on downstream oil facilities in Angola worth US\$285m. It

International firms advise on Angolan oil financing

24 sept 1999 International Legal News

The London office of international law firm Latham & Watkins advised the Japanese trading company, Nissho Iwai Corporation, in connection with a series of oil-backed financings recently concluded in the Republic of Angola.

The credit facilities, in an aggregate amount of \$359m, are being advanced to Sociedade Nacional de Combustiveis de Angola Sonangol UEE, the state-owned oil company of Angola, to finance the maximisation of existing opportunities and to develop new ones for the production of crude oil in Angola. The facilities were made available through Nissho Iwai Corporation's UK subsidiary, Nissho Iwai Europe Plc.

Latham & Watkins advised Nissho Iwai on all aspects of the financings, including the negotiation and conclusion of the underlying crude oil sales contracts pursuant to which Sonangol, represented by Norton Rose, will effect repayment of the facilities.

Then from Nissho Iwai UK's web page: Nissho Iwai's specialty is to arrange non-recourse finances typically combined with a long term products off-take arrangement, whenever necessary to realize a project. We conduct an extensive and intensive feasibility study and formulate a security package most suitable to each project.

The following are some of the examples of such projects as have been performed by combining our expertise in the divisions of Energy&Chemical, Machinery, Energy, Project Finance and Legal&Credit.

- Aircraft, car, oil tank, housing supply with finance backed by a long term Crude Oil purchase contract with Sonangol, Angola. (Crude offtaking contract : 25,000B/D)

INTERVIEW-Texaco bullish on Angola oil projects
08:43 a.m. Sep 10, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 10 (Reuters) - Oil exploration hot spot Angola could provide U.S. major Texaco Inc with 10 to 15 percent of its global output in 15 years' time under a best case scenario, a senior company official said on Friday.

The African country could also be the location of a \$2 billion liquefied natural gas project the company plans to bring to fruition in 2004/2005 subject to a development study with state oil company Sonangol.

"My vision would be that Angola would provide a solid proportion of Texaco's global production, somewhere between 10 to 15 percent, if potential opportunities are fully realised over a 15-year timeframe," Martin Eldon, managing director of Texaco's Angola operation, told Reuters in an interview.

"Angola is a world class oil patch. We've been here for 30 years and we intend to be here for many more."

Texaco is the third largest offshore acreage holder in Angola after Exxon Corp and Sonangol and the third largest foreign oil producer after Chevron Corp and Elf Aquitaine. Capital employed in Angola stands at \$85 million.

The company, which pumps about 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) globally and operates fields pumping 85,000 bpd in Angola, will also consider taking positions in any more deep and ultra deep offshore Angolan acreage that comes up for grabs.

"We are interested in whatever comes up here," Eldon said, explaining that West Africa, Gulf of Mexico and Brazil were the company's three core exploration provinces.

Texaco would be interested in farming into the highly prospective block 34, and bidding for acreage in the ultra deep and deep waters of the Congo and Kwanza Basins if they were opened up to foreign oil companies, he said.

TEXACO PLANS LNG PROJECT IN ANGOLA

Texaco is busy planning the development of a three million tonne a year LNG project on a consortium basis that would require about 500 million cubic feet per day of gas to start operations in late 2004 or early 2005, he said.

The project would draw gas from eight offshore blocks -- numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 17 and 18 -- that Texaco estimates could hold well over four trillion cubic feet, easily enough to feed a one-train LNG plant and possibly sufficient for a second train.

``We're talking multiple trillions of cubic feet of associated and non associated gas. We have pretty high confidence (the reserves are there)," he said.

The gas would be exported to Europe and South America and a marketing team in Houston was busy exploring potential demand in those areas, he said.

Participants in the eight blocks would contribute gas in line with Angola's desire to end flaring of its associated natural gas -- burning of gas emitted when crude is produced.

With no domestic industry to use it, the country flares some 80 percent of the gas it produces. The remainder is used in production to keep pressure in the oil wells and in liquefied petroleum gas output.

Eldon said Angolan domestic power generation would not be Texaco's top choice for the gas but some opportunity for electricity existed.

``If we bring gas onshore to an LNG plant at a site adjacent to the Luanda refinery, the incremental investment needed for electrical power generation is relatively minor," he said.

Texaco is operator of closely-watched exploration blocks 22 and nine in the Kwanza Basin, an untested Angolan oil province. Drilling of block nine would start later this year or early next year.

Three-D seismic has been shot on Block 22 and will take some time to interpret. Drilling might start late next year or early in 2001.

INTERVIEW-Elf says key Angola project on budget
09:59 a.m. Sep 10, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 10 (Reuters) - Elf Aquitaine's deepwater Girassol oilfield project is proceeding smoothly and within budget on Angola's mighty Block 17, the source of some of the industry's most spectacular recent finds, a company official said on Friday.

“More than one year after project sanction, Girassol is within budget and advancing steadily,” Olivier de Langavant, the French company's deputy general manager in Angola, told Reuters in an interview.

“The reality of Girassol today is that all contracts have been awarded and all engineering and procurement is very well advanced,” he said, taking issue with some analysts' views that Girassol had been hit by cost-overruns.

Elf, Angola's second largest foreign producer and fifth largest offshore acreage holder, has big plans for developing its holdings in the world's top exploration province.

Its assets include a prized position as operator of Block 32 and shares of adjacent blocks 31 and 33, which together are believed to hold billions of barrels of oil.

De Langavant said the company expected to raise output from Elf-operated Angolan fields fivefold to about 500,000 barrels per day (bpd), and perhaps as much as 700,000 bpd by the middle of the next decade.

Block 32 might start output in 2007 or 2008, he said.

He added that Elf was the lowest cost foreign producer in Angola, achieving \$1.30 a barrel operating cost at its Elf-operated Block 3.

He said the latest Block 17 find announced last week, Orchidea-1, was an excellent prospect and was close to the Rosa/Lirio discoveries on the block, which also boasts the Dalia field and which some experts say may hold more than three billion barrels.

“Orchidea is a high potential well. It can produce at a very good rate,” he said.

Angola's oil ministry says it expects first output from Block 17's Girassol B project in 2001, from the Dalia field in 2003, from Rosa/Lirio in 2005 and from Girassol C in 2008.

EXOTIC NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR DEEPWATER OILFIELDS

De Langavant said he felt it was important to emphasise the high-tech \$2.5 billion Girassol project was now firmly on track because too much had been made of an earlier delay to the venture.

Elf announced in February that first output from Girassol, alone

thought to hold one billion barrels of oil, would be put back to about the first half early 2001 from an original 2000 start because it needed to optimise technical costs.

Since the novel technology used for Girassol will be a test bed for further Block 17 projects, the move raised questions about how best to apply exotic new hardware in deep water amid oil price volatility.

But De Langavant said the project, a subsea development in 1,350 metres of water using a giant floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel, was running very satisfactorily.

Riser towers will start construction in Angola's Lobito port town early next year, work on all manifolds and wellheads was on schedule and the construction of the topsides of the FPSO vessel would start in November.

The floating site will be able to produce 200,000 bpd and store two million barrels. An army of underwater robots will be connected to a network of 23 underwater production wells, as well as water injection wells and subsea gas injection wells.

INTERVIEW-Angola's Sonangol seeks overseas finance

01:10 p.m Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - State oil firm Sonangol will have to borrow overseas to fund its share of Angola's world-class offshore exploration projects and is ready to open its books to IMF scrutiny to help win the financing, the company's chairman said on Thursday.

“Our oil discovery results are beyond expectations. However we are not fully confident of funding investment from existing resources,” said Manuel Vicente, in charge of the hottest property in global oil exploration.

“We will have to look at international sources of finance,” he said in an interview.

Vicente acknowledged that an agreement on economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund was a prerequisite for obtaining foreign commercial financing and added that Angola made progress towards such an accord in meetings with an IMF team last week.

“We are trying to negotiate with the government on how far we

can go in obtaining funding," he told Reuters.

ANGOLA HAS POOR DEBT REPAYMENT RECORD

Angola's cash-starved government has a poor repayment record on official external debt of about \$11 billion and this has choked off most traditional types of lending.

Instead the government has had to mortgage its oil export revenues for years in advance through deals reached between Sonangol and international commercial banks, much of which goes to service previous state loans.

In contrast, Sonangol's repayment record is exemplary and the company, one of Africa's most powerful concerns, has retained its credibility with providers of the oil-backed loans.

Diplomats say the government draws on oil investment pouring into the country to fund purchases of weapons to use in its fight against the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Vicente said he was in talks with the government on how best to obtain funding for the multi-billion dollar projects but suggested Sonangol had to compete with other government spending priorities following a resumption last December of the 25-year civil war.

"We have to cope with the political and economic situation as it is. We cannot be separate from that," he said.

SONANGOL MAY HAVE TO DRAW ON RESERVES TO FUND PROJECTS

Vicente said Sonangol would have to draw on both its reserves and international financing to fund its investments in projects aimed at almost doubling oil output to 1.3 million barrels per day by 2005.

Under most production sharing contracts foreign partners have to carry Sonangol's costs through exploration and development, with the Angolan company only required to pay up when production starts.

Vicente suggested it was mistaken to think the government was reluctant to concede oil account transparency and indicated that any difficulties with the IMF centred more on overall economic restructuring such as taxation and subsidies.

Both Sonangol and the Angolan government were willing and able to comply with an IMF request to open the state oil accounts to IMF scrutiny to meet international standards of

accountability and transparency.

“Sonangol and the government are talking the same language. We are ready to talk to the IMF about the petroleum sector anytime they want.”

“The world is increasingly becoming a global village and you can't stand outside the boundary,” he said.

An IMF team last week asked Sonangol to provide data about its operations to try to learn more about a complex and opaque network of funding which links the central bank with the treasury and the oil company.

The IMF has complained for years that huge oil revenues are diverted from national accounts via dual exchange rates and other accounting mechanisms and end up in a murky web of funds centred on Sonangol.

Vicente added Sonangol wanted to create further joint ventures in the oil services sector to complement its deep and ultra deep water oil projects, eventually partially or wholly privatising such concerns.

The company already has joint ventures in such areas as drilling, supply boats, and marine and air services.

INTERVIEW-Angola could triple oil output - BP

Amoco

08:35 a.m. Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Angola could more than triple oil output to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2015 in a best case scenario assuming optimum performance from new discoveries, a BP Amoco executive said on Thursday.

Forbes McLean, the company's general manager in Angola, said in an interview that the African country could expect to double state oil revenues to \$5 billion annually assuming an average \$14 a barrel oil price in that period.

“This is a world class oil province,” he told Reuters. “It's a North Sea scale opportunity.”

McLean said that the best case scenario for oil output assumed a reasonable oil price and resolution of outstanding gas issues.

Other factors were optimum results from exploration of reserves yet to be found, best possible development of projects on the way and an end to all constraints imposed as a result of the

Angola's nearly 25 years of civil war.

BP Amoco was interested in all oil exploration opportunities yet to be offered to international oil firms in Angola, he said.

“We are in Angola for the very long term,” McLean said. He added that the company would be interested in ultra deep acreage west of the highly-priced block 31 to 33 as well as any future opening for additional partners in ultradeep block 34.

He added, however, that the company placed a higher value on acreage in the Congo basin region compared to the Kwanza basin.

BP Amoco expects to be producing between 350,000 and 400,000 bpd of its own equity crude by 2009, the bulk of which will come from blocks 17, 18 and 15, with a smaller contribution from Block 31.

McLean said he expected this would represent between five and 10 percent of BP Amoco's oil production at that time.

BP Amoco currently produces about three million bpd.

Analysts have described BP Amoco's Angolan expectations as extremely bullish but acknowledge that they could be achievable if future deep and ultradeep water discoveries prove commercial.

BP Amoco hit the jackpot this year by winning a 40 percent operating share in Block 31, one of four Angolan blocks regarded as the most highly sought after in global ultradeep opportunities.

The company had to pay more than \$300 million in non-recoverable signature bonus to the Angolan authorities as did the operators of blocks 32 and 33.

McLean said the company would be prepared to consider paying competitively for similar opportunities in the Angolan ultradeep waters as they arose.

“We will do our economic evaluation and we will bid what we believe can be sustained,” he said.

Sonangol USA-sees bigger role for Shell in

Angola

02:22 p.m Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

LUANDA, Sep 9 (Reuters) - State-owned oil firm Sonangol said on Thursday that it would like to do more business with Royal Dutch/Shell RD.AS. to widen Angola's access to the

latest technology and other expertise.

Company Chairman Manuel Vicente said in answer to a question that it was a shame that the Anglo-Dutch giant had failed to win the operatorship of any of the country's prized ultra deepwater blocks up for grabs over the past two years.

“We would like to see a company like Shell, one of the biggest majors, play a role in our industry,” Vicente said in an interview.

“Our industry is a sort of gamble. Sometimes things go well and sometimes they don't,” he continued. “It's a shame because one of our policies is to promote investment by all the major companies.”

Industry sources say Shell submitted the highest bid in a contest over signature bonuses -- payments for the right to operate a property -- for at least two of the three blocks which lie in 1,500 to 2,50 metres of water off the West African coast.

But Angolan authorities decided to award the blocks to rival majors BP Amoco, Exxon and Elf Aquitaine based on a range of other criteria, they said.

Shell has not had much luck in Angola. It failed to find commercial quantities of oil during its operatorship of Block 16 and has since withdrawn from the acreage. It has 50 percent of Block 18, shared with BP Amoco, and 10 percent of Block 21.

INTERVIEW-Chevron eyes Angolan ultradeep oil

12:22 p.m. Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - U.S. major Chevron has its eye on Angola's highly prospective ultra deepwater block 34 oil exploration area and would be interested to farm into it if an opportunity arose, a company executive said on Thursday.

Mark B. Puckett, managing director of Chevron in southern Africa, added in an interview that the block looked like it had the same potential as three other blocks where the operatorship was snapped up this year by Exxon, BP Amoco and Elf Aquitaine.

“Yes definitely, we have looked at it,” Puckett told Reuters. “Our reading is that it is in the ballpark with those blocks (31-33).”

Blocks 31-34, in 1,500 to 2,500 metres of water, look particularly prospective because of their potential to mirror

Brazil's Campos Basin on the other side of the Atlantic, where giant fields such as Marlim and Roncador all occur in similar reservoir rocks.

EXECUTIVES HOPING FOR BILLION BARREL DISCOVERIES

Oil industry executives are hoping for billion barrel discoveries on the blocks.

Pucket said there had been no substantive discussions as yet on opening up Block 34 and he knew of no formal call or bids or negotiations, but Chevron was ready to discuss opportunities if they arose.

Asked if Chevron was prepared to pay what it took in terms of signature bonuses to enter Block 34, he replied: "Sure."

Industry sources say state Angolan oil company Sonangol wants to offer out a non-operating 40 percent of block 34, retaining 30 percent for itself and 30 percent for partner Norsk Hydro of Norway.

Under original plans to develop the block lying in the world's most sought after offshore exploration acreage, the block was reserved in its entirety for SONAP, a 50-50 joint venture between Sonangol and the Norwegian company.

But officials of Sonangol favour opening up some of the property to other partners to help fund the development, which like blocks 31-33 is at the frontier of oil industry technology.

Large signature bonuses will have to be paid by any foreign participants, as was the case with adjoining blocks 31, 32 and 33, and Sonangol's costs will have to be carried by the foreign partners through exploration and development.

Block 31 is operated by BP Amoco, block 32 by Elf Aquitaine and block 33 by Exxon. Each paid signature bonuses of \$300 million or more for the right to operate the blocks.

Puckett added that Chevron and Sonangol were in the early stages of discussing the framework for negotiating an extension to the U.S. company's exploration and production licence arrangements in the country's Cabinda enclave, which start to expire in about 10 years' time.

CABINDA CONCESSIONS TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

The companies are addressing the issue now because investment decisions have to be made in the next few years that will affect

operations in the enclave well beyond the 10-year horizon.

“Our joint expectation is that the agreement should happen in the near term,” Puckett said.

Chevron, the largest foreign investor and oil producer in Angola, operates a concession in Cabinda's offshore Block 0 that produces just under 500,000 bpd, the bulk of the country's 770,000 bpd output.

The San Francisco-based company will be the first to produce in Angolan deepwaters, with the Kuito field in Chevron-operated offshore block 14 expected to pump first oil in late 1999 or early 2000.

Chevron and its partners expect to invest about \$5 billion in Angola over the next five years, with Chevron's contribution stacking up to about \$2 billion of that, Puckett said.

ANALYSIS-Oil firms stay in Angola despite war
10:59 a.m. Sep 05, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

TAKULA PLATFORM, Angola (Reuters) - Foreign oil companies developing Angolan energy riches are staying put despite the resurgent civil war in the world's No. 1 petroleum exploration hot spot.

Simple geography explains why -- the enormous fields they are drilling lie offshore, almost completely insulated from the turmoil on land.

Just ask Chevron's Terry Hurst, a Louisiana oilman who lives and works aboard a little piece of America perched in placid Angolan waters a few minutes helicopter ride off the southwest African coast.

“I feel as safe here as any tourist does in downtown New Orleans -- safer probably,” said Hurst, superintendent of a 328 yard-long platform developing the large Takula oilfield.

Hurst is in day-to-day charge of the single biggest flow of oil exported from Angola on behalf of Chevron and partners Sonangol of Angola, France's Elf Aquitaine and Italy's AGIP.

His multinational team of neatly uniformed workers manage 240,000 barrels per day, around half the production from Angola's oldest and most prolific oil area off the politically troubled enclave of Cabinda.

“The war has been going on for many years and it's a shame.

But it's just not on our minds," he said, as service helicopters buzzed overhead and staff monitored computer screens. "We're just too darn busy."

Chevron's Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (CABGOC) has worked in Angola largely untroubled by war for more than 40 years, carefully avoiding the politically volatile hinterland.

It helped export the country's first cargo of crude in 1968 and produced continuously during the anti-colonial war and the civil war that followed independence from Portugal in 1975.

Other companies are rushing in as new big finds are made to the south, off the main part of Angola.

"It is a truly staggering anomaly," Paul Hare, head of the U.S.-Angola Chamber of Commerce said. "On the one hand you have a booming oil sector, and on the other a resumption of the war and humanitarian disaster that is only going to grow worse."

Another help for Big Oil in Cabinda is its geographical separation from the rest of Angola and the main war there between the government and the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The poverty-stricken enclave, incorporated into Angola in 1956 by the former colonial government, is cut off from the rest of the country by a corridor that gives the Democratic Republic of the Congo access to the sea.

The separatist Front for the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), which is splintered into rival factions, has been fighting for the independence of Cabinda since Portuguese rule ended and diplomats say many in the province are sympathetic to its aims.

But the groups have never seriously threatened Angolan control of Cabinda.

A network of landmines and Angolan troops and police guard the nearly 5-square-mile onshore compound at Malongo port, where more than 1,000 mostly Angolan CABGOC and service staff manage and support the offshore fields.

Foreign oil personnel are discouraged from roaming too freely in nearby Cabinda town after separatists recently warned that all foreigners working in the enclave were targets.

Four employees working for contracting companies were kidnapped in March by FLEC-Renovada, which freed them in July, saying it had exchanged them for ransom money to buy arms.

“Separatists are active in the province. They can create mischief, but I don't think they have the capability to put together anything like UNITA would,” CABGOC general manager of operations Jim Henley said.

Among the well-tended lawns and trees that border the buildings at CABGOC's compound, self-sufficiency is the watchword.

The township boasts a nine-hole golf course, tennis and handball courts, a fire station, eating hall and dormitories as well as a state of the art hydroponic greenhouse growing vegetables.

There is a small power station, and a mini-refinery makes 3,500 bpd of diesel plus smaller amounts of jet fuel for oil sector helicopters, as well as kerosene and cooking gas.

“The government hasn't done a great deal to develop the province. It is just happy for the oil to keep flowing,” Roger Dunn of the business consultant firm Control Risks said.

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Angolan state oil firm Sonangol
01:45 p.m Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Angolan state oil firm Sonangol said on Thursday it planned to offer international oil companies acreage in Angola's tempting ultra deepwater Block 34 to give the project access to a range of expertise.

“It is true that we will try to accommodate other companies. It will be a farm out,” Chairman Manuel Vicente said in an interview.

“We want to diversify and acquire expertise that gives us the best strategy and technology,” he added.

Under original plans to develop the block lying in the world's most sought after offshore exploration acreage, the block was reserved in its entirety for SONAP, a 50-50 joint venture between Sonangol and Norwegian company Norsk Hydro.

Industry sources earlier said Sonangol wanted to offer out a non-operating 40 percent of block 34, retaining 30 percent for itself and 30 percent for partner Norsk Hydro.

Vicente did not say what percentage of the acreage he would offer.

He said he hoped the block had the same potential as three other blocks -- numbers 31 to 33 -- snapped up this year by some of the world's largest oil companies.

The blocks, in 1,500 to 2,500 metres of water, drew intense international interest because of their potential to mirror Brazil's Campos Basin, where giant fields occur in similar reservoir rocks.

Block 31 is operated by BP Amoco, block 32 by Elf Aquitaine and block 33 by Exxon Corp. Each paid signature bonuses of \$300 million or more for the right to operate the blocks.

Vicente added that Angola was in no rush to delineate and offer out a region west of Blocks 31 to 33, because it wanted to wait to see how deep and ultra deep fields tested and that could take some time.

Sonangol was also thinking about delineating another swathe of acreage south of Block 34 in the Kwanza Basin. But he Vicente again said there was no rush.

INTERVIEW-Chevron eyes Angolan ultradeep oil

12:22 p.m. Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

LUANDA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - U.S. major Chevron has its eye on Angola's highly prospective ultra deepwater block 34 oil exploration area and would be interested to farm into it if an opportunity arose, a company executive said on Thursday.

Mark B. Puckett, managing director of Chevron in southern Africa, added in an interview that the block looked like it had the same potential as three other blocks where the operatorship was snapped up this year by Exxon, BP Amoco and Elf Aquitaine.

``Yes definitely, we have looked at it," Puckett told Reuters. ``Our reading is that it is in the ballpark with those blocks (31-33)."

Blocks 31-34, in 1,500 to 2,500 metres of water, look particularly prospective because of their potential to mirror Brazil's Campos Basin on the other side of the Atlantic, where

giant fields such as Marlim and Roncador all occur in similar reservoir rocks.

EXECUTIVES HOPING FOR BILLION BARREL DISCOVERIES

Oil industry executives are hoping for billion barrel discoveries on the blocks.

Pucket said there had been no substantive discussions as yet on opening up Block 34 and he knew of no formal call or bids or negotiations, but Chevron was ready to discuss opportunities if they arose.

Asked if Chevron was prepared to pay what it took in terms of signature bonuses to enter Block 34, he replied: "Sure."

Industry sources say state Angolan oil company Sonangol wants to offer out a non-operating 40 percent of block 34, retaining 30 percent for itself and 30 percent for partner Norsk Hydro of Norway.

Under original plans to develop the block lying in the world's most sought after offshore exploration acreage, the block was reserved in its entirety for SONAP, a 50-50 joint venture between Sonangol and the Norwegian company.

But officials of Sonangol favour opening up some of the property to other partners to help fund the development, which like blocks 31-33 is at the frontier of oil industry technology.

Large signature bonuses will have to be paid by any foreign participants, as was the case with adjoining blocks 31, 32 and 33, and Sonangol's costs will have to be carried by the foreign partners through exploration and development.

Block 31 is operated by BP Amoco, block 32 by Elf Aquitaine and block 33 by Exxon. Each paid signature bonuses of \$300 million or more for the right to operate the blocks.

Puckett added that Chevron and Sonangol were in the early stages of discussing the framework for negotiating an extension to the U.S. company's exploration and production licence arrangements in the country's Cabinda enclave, which start to expire in about 10 years' time.

CABINDA CONCESSIONS TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

The companies are addressing the issue now because investment decisions have to be made in the next few years that will affect operations in the enclave well beyond the 10-year horizon.

“Our joint expectation is that the agreement should happen in the near term,” Puckett said.

Chevron, the largest foreign investor and oil producer in Angola, operates a concession in Cabinda's offshore Block 0 that produces just under 500,000 bpd, the bulk of the country's 770,000 bpd output.

The San Francisco-based company will be the first to produce in Angolan deepwaters, with the Kuito field in Chevron-operated offshore block 14 expected to pump first oil in late 1999 or early 2000.

Chevron and its partners expect to invest about \$5 billion in Angola over the next five years, with Chevron's contribution stacking up to about \$2 billion of that, Puckett said.

FEATURE - Angola's Cabinda has little to show for oil wealth
02:14 a.m. Sep 09, 1999 Eastern

By William Maclean

CABINDA TOWN, Angola, Sept 9 (Reuters) - More than 30 years after striking oil, Angola's fabulously productive Cabinda enclave has yet to join the rich man's club.

In this tiny corner of Africa, there are no fashionable shopping malls, no new motorways, no gleaming sports cars, no showpiece hotels, science parks or universities, and no Cabindan oil barons building petrodollar investment empires around the world.

While spared the civil war devastating other parts of Angola, the province remains a dusty centre of underdevelopment despite pumping almost 500,000 barrels -- currently worth about \$9.5 million -- every day, almost half of which goes to the Angolan state.

“I see the local population just getting poorer,” said Angolan management consultant Emilio Moreso Grion.

Home to one of Africa's lesser known independence struggles, Cabinda is plagued by political tensions with some areas

paralysed by separatist guerrillas demanding a greater cut of oil revenues for the 250,000-strong population.

The situation poses a tricky diplomatic test for oil multinationals such as Chevron, the U.S. firm which runs the offshore fields and whose imprint is everywhere in Cabinda town, a sleepy settlement of 80,000 people.

So far there has been none of the mass community unrest that has shaken the larger Niger delta oil province in Nigeria, largely because Cabinda's oil fields are safely located offshore.

Yet while there are no reports in Cabinda of the starvation occurring elsewhere in Angola, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, malaria and other ailments aggravated by malnutrition are common.

WALKING A TIGHTROPE OF POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

Chevron and its partners Elf Aquitaine of France, AGIP of Italy and Angola's state Sonangol must walk a tightrope of political neutrality in their dealings with the community as they fulfil a busy schedule of corporate good works.

“Social responsibility, well done, is the best investment a company can make,” said Chevron public affairs manager Jonathan Lifa.

Chevron has to juggle sensitive relationships with pro-independence local people against provincial bureaucrats and officials in the Angolan capital Luanda bent on keeping control of the enclave's resources.

Executives acknowledge that some of the Cabindan aid workers and businessmen they deal with daily might also be separatist activists in their private lives, but they don't discuss politics with Cabindans.

“We don't get into labels,” said Lifa. “We just see human beings who have needs. War or no war, life has to go on.”

Cabinda province, sandwiched between the two Congos, produces about 70 per cent of Angola's oil output and accounts for nearly all of its foreign exchange earnings.

Separatists argue Angola's central government takes Cabinda's oil wealth and gives little in return to the local population.

“The Cabinda tragedy is due to its oil reserves,” says a publicity leaflet by the main separatist group FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda)-Renovada. “Let's end this big treachery of history.”

The government responds that it needs oil revenues to fund its near 25-year civil war against rebels elsewhere in Angola.

And it also points to tough legislation requiring oil companies to build some of their industrial infrastructure locally and adopt the eventual goal of almost 100 percent Angolanisation of their workforces.

CABINDA'S SPECIAL STATUS

The Cabindans base their independence claim on the Treaty of Simulambuco of 1885, which first linked Cabinda to Angola but recognised its special status. The treaty was part of Portugal's attempt to consolidate its empire during the European powers' scramble for Africa in the late 19th century.

Separatists have been fighting for independence on and off since 1975 when Portuguese rule ended but have not seriously threatened central government control.

FLEC-Renovada says it is not opposed to the foreign oil companies but wants Cabinda to control 30 percent of the province's production, a vastly bigger slice of the petroleum pie than it currently enjoys.

Since 1996 the provincial government has received 10 percent of the taxes paid by Chevron and its partners -- some \$4 million to \$6 million a month depending on the oil price and equivalent to a tiny percentage of the province's physical production.

Some diplomats say Big Oil philanthropy -- some of it mandatory under the terms of commercial arrangements and carried out in concert with aid groups -- has made life more bearable for Cabindans and especially for the families of the hundreds employed by the industry.

In the past two years Chevron and its partners have doubled their annual spending on social responsibility to \$5 million, not counting salaries, business development projects and travel costs for Cabindans and Angolans training abroad.

The money has helped fund schools, teachers' houses and a medical clinic for employees and relatives that conducts 100,000 consultations a year. Other projects include a teacher training college, plans for an industrial park and work on local business development.

Chevron is also orchestrating contacts between Angolan teachers and African-American counterparts to upgrade Cabinda's schools, and is sponsoring training in the United States for Cabindan farmers.

But Cabindans complain oil companies should buy more from local agriculture, timber and fisheries firms instead of importing services duty-free and writing off many other in-country costs as exploration or development expenses.

Chevron would like to buy more locally but says it cannot obtain the quality and volume it wants from firms handicapped by a run-down infrastructure.

“Compare what oil companies import to what they buy in the local economy. It's a very tiny amount,” said Grion. “Almost the only thing oil companies get locally is labour, most of which is unskilled.

“The final cost is born by Angola.”

07/13/99 UK: ANGOLA LEADS WORLD OIL EXPLORATION LEAGUE - REPORT.

LONDON, July 13 (Reuters) - Angola's debilitating civil war did not stop it being the world's hottest spot for oil exploration last year, consultants IHS Energy Group said in a new report out on Tuesday.

Foreign explorers helped Angola add over 2.25 billion barrels of oil finds last year, nearly double its closest rival Nigeria, with Algeria third at 500 million barrels, the report said.

"West Africa was the place to be in 1998 - and 1997 - in terms of new liquid resources added," it added.

Angola has topped the list for the last two years and the bunch of big deepwater finds in prized deepwater blocks 31 to 34 has spurred rapid new drilling from international oil firms.

Industry sources say Angola, sub-Saharan Africa's largest oil exporter after Nigeria, aims to license more ultra deep water acreage next year.

The most prolific sources of new gas finds were China at 7.6 trillion cubic feet (tcf), Pakistan with 4.2 tcf and Saudi Arabia with 3.4 tcf, IHS added.

Saharan Africa enjoyed a busy year for exploration with a 12 percent rise in the number of new field wildcat wells drilled there.

"There were significant increases in wildcat drilling in both Algeria and Tunisia," the IHS report said.

This ran counter to a global trend which saw activity outside North America fall by 10 percent as last year's oil price collapse hit home. The number of North American wells slid by 24 percent.

Harsh oil company budget cuts means drilling activity this year is likely to fall by up to another 50 percent, the report said.

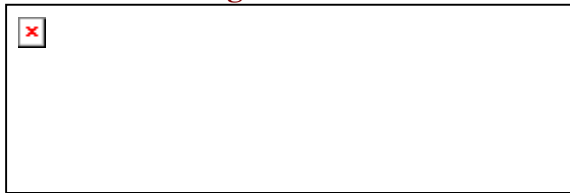
Drilling success rates worldwide last year fell sharply, to 29 percent from 38 percent. Only 300 new oil and gas discoveries were made, nearly 30 percent down. The poor record meant only 7.6 billion barrels were added to global oil reserves, just a third of all oil produced in the same period.

In the past five years only 38 percent of all oil output has been replaced by new discoveries, with big producers outside OPEC faring particularly badly. Last year not one major non-OPEC producer found more oil than it produced.

((Andrew Mitchell, London newsroom, ++44 171 542 5024, fax ++44 171 542 4453)).
(C) Reuters Limited 1999.
REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

In the first half of 1998, Angola's daily crude oil output reached 735,000 barrels, up from 713,583 barrels in 1997. Of this amount, Angola exported 664,312 barrels per day, an increase of 7.4 million barrels over that of 1996. The substantial increase in total oil exports was due in large part to the increased production from Cabinda, where some new oil fields went into production, and other onshore fields in the lower Congo Basin that resumed production after years of war. Unfortunately total revenue from the sector did not increase proportionally. Decreasing world oil prices resulted in a lower average per barrel price of \$18.54 for Angola's oil, down \$1.78 dollars from the 1996 average price.

Diamonds in Angolan Coastal Areas?



At a diamond seminar in Luanda on August 27, Ian Corbett, head of the resources department of diamond giant De Beers, suggested that there could be "rich reserves" of diamonds in Angolan coastal areas. Corbett noted that diamonds may have been washed down to coastal areas from traditional diamond areas in the interior by the many large rivers traversing the country. According to Corbett, the greatest prospects are located around the outlet of the Kwanza River in the mid-northern coast of Angola. Corbett thought exploration of the area would be a worthwhile investment. Angola's diamond reserves are significant, with the country producing approximately 15 percent of the world's output. In 1997, the state-run mining companies produced 43,170,000 carats of diamonds worth \$120 million. The "informal" diamond mining output for the same time period was estimated to be 88,200,000 carats worth \$239 million. Angola's diamonds are also among the highest quality, selling as much as three times more per carat than South African diamonds. In 1996, De Beers invested \$50 million in the exploration and production of diamonds in Lunda Norte province alone.

Angola to Institute a Trade Licensing System

Officials from the Ministry of Planning announced on September 22 that the Ministry has decided to institute a licensing system for merchandise trade. Under the new system, any merchandise trade between Angolans and foreign entities will require import/export licenses that will be issued by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Exemptions to the new system include provisional trading, small quantity trading, and

the provision of goods and logistics services for foreign maritime or air shipping companies. Licenses will be effective for a period of 180 days after issuance, with an extension to a maximum of 360 days. The Trade and Commerce Ministry will work with the National Bank of Angola to verify foreign exchange volumes for importers. The system is being established so that the government can better control the currency and exchange rate within the country.

Ministry of Industry Announces Ambitious Development Plan



Under its 1998-2000 industrial development plan, the Angolan government plans to invest \$308 million in the industrial sector as a way to boost industrial growth in the country by 25 percent. Under the plan, \$195 million will be devoted to supporting the establishment of 100 new industrial enterprises, thus creating 10,000 jobs for Angolans. Another \$140 million will be invested in the food processing industry, a priority area of development for the government. It is hoped that with this investment the Angolan government will be able to reduce food imports by \$172 million. To encourage investment, the government plans on granting exemptions from tariffs and taxes for capital goods and domestic goods. In addition, the government will improve efficiency by reducing "red tape" and streamlining the process for establishing and operating new businesses. The government also plans on privatizing 24 percent of state-run enterprises in Angola by the end of 1998. In 1997, Angola's industrial output increased by 92 percent.

Government to Crack Down on Illegal Fishing

Maria Nelumba, a senior official at the Ministry of Fisheries, announced at a science symposium in Luanda that the Ministry is establishing a monitoring system to protect Angola's marine environment. The system will make use of new satellite global positioning system (GPS) technology to track the location of all fishing vessels to reduce the number of illegal fishing vessels in Angolan waters. The Angolan government prohibits industrial fishing within 13 nautical miles of its territorial waters in order to protect small fish and their spawns in shoreline areas. In addition, under current fishing regulations, foreign fleets fishing in Angolan waters are required to hand over part of their catch to the government by unloading the fish in stipulated ports in Angola. Under the new GPS system, the government will be able to track where the vessel is at all times to ensure they are not fishing within the 13 nautical mile limit as well as whether they sail to designated ports to report and unload their catch.

According to the latest Ministry statistics, there are about 850,000 tons of commercially viable fish resources in Angolan waters. In 1997, Angola's fishing production was 241,800 tons, of which 141,300 were caught by Angolan vessels and the remainder was harvested by foreign vessels. Domestically, in 1997 Angola consumed 199,600 tons of fishing products, 77 percent of which was for immediate domestic consumption or was frozen. Another 14 percent was used in the production of dried fish, canned fish, fish powder or for export.

Electrical System Renovation Planned for Huila Province

Lubango, the capital of Huila province, will be the site of major electrical upgrades next year. Angola's National Electric Company (ENA) plans to begin construction in early 1999 of a diesel-powered thermal station in Lubango with loans of \$3.5 million from Spain. Then, beginning in the year 2000, ENA plans to renovate an existing generator and install two new generators on the Matala hydroelectric dam on the Cunene River, also in Huila province. This project will be funded by the Portuguese government. Both renovations will greatly enhance electrical capacity and delivery within the province.

10/06/99 ANGOLA: CENTRAL BANK TO END ILLEGAL CURRENCY OPERATIONS.

Text of report by Noticias de Angola web site on 2nd October

Luanda: The Angolan government has decided it is necessary to end the special exchange systems very soon. According to the governor of the Angola National Bank, Aguinaldo Jaime, who spoke yesterday to reporters in Washington at the end of the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance will launch a programme very soon to combat tax evasion, so that all those who are in business in Angola will pay their taxes to the state.

07/27/99 ANGOLA: GOVERNMENT APPROVES CREATION OF DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Source: Televisao Publica de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1930 gmt 21 Jul 99
Excerpt from report by Angolan TV on 21st July

The cabinet today approved the creation of a 150m-dollar socioeconomic development fund. Chaired by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, today's session of the cabinet approved a revised version of the 1999 State General Budget [OGE].

The fund will cater for small and medium-scale private businesses involved in the agricultural, livestock, fisheries, civil construction, construction materials, medicines, and hotel industry sectors, as well as health and education projects.

[National Bank of Angola governor Aguinaldo Jaime - recording] This is in line with government's programme to end the Angolan crisis. Government has decided to assist the Angolan business sector because it lacks investment credit facilities. I think this is a very important decision because credit is in short supply and is costly. The fund will finance projects. Very attractive interest rates will be charged.

[Unidentified correspondent] What should businessmen do to benefit from the fund?

[A] In due course we will brief the business sector as a whole. Economic management agencies will take part in briefings, during which we will give details about procedures as well as the aims of the fund.

[Q] When will the fund take effect?

[A] Now it is a matter of publishing the decree that established the fund and which was approved today. A constituent commission will be appointed at once to deal with technical and organizational issues so that the fund takes effect as soon as possible. I believe everything will be in place next month. [End of

recording]...

(c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

BBC MONITORING SERVICE

BBC MONITORING SERVICE: AFRICA 27/07/1999

09/07/99 ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE BANK INVESTING 10M DOLLARS.

Source: Angop news agency web site, Luanda, in Portuguese 27 Aug 99

Text of report by the Angolan news agency Angop web site

Luanda, 27th August: The Totta and Azores Bank's investment portfolio for Angola up to 2000 is in the region of 10m dollars, of which 3.5m dollars has already been spent. According to the bank's officials, the amount invested by the Portuguese bank was for opening seven branches, purchasing of equipment, and human resources training. The bank intends to increase its fully localized staff from 129 to 160. Totta and Azores opened a branch in Lobito in July, the second in Benguela Province. Like Portugal's Banco de Fomento Exterior [Foreign Investment Bank], Totta and Azores intends to introduce an autobank system.

(c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

09/09/99 ANGOLA: CREDIT BANK SUSPENDS LOANS TO CUANZA SUL PROVINCE.

Text of report by Angolan newspaper `Agora' on 4th September, republished by Noticias de Angola web site on 8th September

Luanda: The Agriculture and Fisheries Credit Bank (CAP) has suspended loans to Cuanza Sul Province's businessmen because most of the borrowed money has not been repaid, making the bank technically bankrupt. The province's businessmen received loans of about 5bn readjusted kwanzas, but only half of them paid the money back.

CAP has so far suffered losses of about 17m dollars in arrears. Debtors claim that they cannot honour their commitments because they have a "rope around their neck", as they have earned no profits from the money that has been invested. Sources told Agora that most of the businessmen misused the money borrowed from the CAP, spending it on superfluous items. They could face legal action. The bulk of the money disbursed by the CAP was for the industrial sector, which has ground to a halt as most of the province's infrastructure has been destroyed by the war.

There are four CAP branches in Cuanza Sul Province, namely in Sumbe, Porto Amboim, Gabela and Uacu Cungo. There have been irregularities at the branches, leading to the dismissal of several officials, including the provincial manager.

Source: Noticias de Angola web site in Portuguese 8 Sep 99.

BBC Worldwide Monitoring/ (c) BBC 1999.

09/28/99 ANGOLA: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDS CUTS IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 1900 gmt 22 Sep 99

Text of announcer read "press statement" issued by the Angolan Council of Ministers in Luanda on 22nd September 1999; broadcast by Angolan government radio on 22nd September

The Council of Ministers held a session at the Futungo de Belas Palace in Luanda today, during which it discussed the evolution of the foreign exchange market, following the introduction of a number of measures.

In line with those measures, the government has recommended cuts in public expenditure, and that priority should be given to the payment of salaries, interest rates and dues owed to international agencies, as well as foreign debt repayments.

The government recommended the scaling down of official visits abroad, and a reduction in the number of officials in delegations as well as in the duration of each visit. In view of these measures, government public expenditure for September 1999 has been reduced by about 50 per cent.

The country's foreign reserves permitting, the Angola National Bank should continue to provide foreign currency to the local foreign exchange market. In line with government's strategy to stabilize the economy, it has been decided to abolish the payment of revenue levies on foreign exchange transactions. New foreign exchange regulations have been adopted for the mining sector. The first measure is aimed at increasing the flow of foreign currency into the financial system, considering that the levy made each transaction more costly. The second measure is designed to retain the mining sector's earnings in the country and to increase the banks' foreign currency reserves.

The government has recommended the immediate introduction of measures to curb tax evasion, hoarding of merchandise, speculation and the illegal remittance of foreign exchange. Additional measures would be introduced to encourage enterprises to deposit in banks a significant percentage of their earnings.

The Council of Ministers Standing Commission discussed the ongoing preparations for the 1999-2000 agricultural year, which is scheduled to begin at the end of September. The government checked whether the ongoing preparations complied with

its general socioeconomic stabilization strategy, and recommended ways of dealing with prevailing constraints. The aim is to revamp the production of staple crops, namely corn, cassava, potatoes, beans, groundnuts, fruit, produce and so forth.

For the 1999-2000 agricultural year, government has spent 35 per cent of what was earmarked for the renovation of irrigation infrastructures, and 99 per cent of what was allocated for the vaccination of livestock.

Finally, the Standing Commission accorded public utility status to the Sacred Hope Foundation, a cultural, scientific and educational institution.

(c) BBC Monitoring Summary of World Broadcasts.

Luanda, 30 Setembro - Angola e os estados unidos da América (EUA)

reúnem hoje em Washington, a nível da comissão consultiva bilateral, para analisar as várias vertentes da cooperação político- económica entre os dois países.

O encontro que terá a duração de dois dias vai proceder a análise da situação político-militar em Angola, a segurança regional e as transgressões na fronteira angolana.

Dentre outros assuntos a serem abordados, constam ainda do programa de trabalhos da reunião as estratégias de paz, as relações militares, o reforço das sanções, o tráfico de drogas e o terrorismo.

A delegação angolana encontra-se em Washington desde segunda-feira e é chefiada pelo vice-ministro das relações exteriores, George Chicoty.

Integram ainda a delegação o secretário do conselho de ministros, Tony Van-Dunem, o assessor diplomático do presidente da república, Victor Lima, e o vice-ministro das finanças, Job Graça.

**WFP to Request \$160 Million Humanitarian Relief
Angop on September 23, 1999**

\$160 million worth of humanitarian assistance for Angola, WFP deputy executive director disclosed Thursday at the end of a meeting with President José Eduardo dos Santos.

Namanga Ngongi said the request to be made next month in Rome will not be enough, due to the rising number of war displaced in Angola.

He termed the humanitarian situation in the country as "really disastrous" adding that by mid-next year the UN agency will ask for additional funds to try to cope with the plight of over 1.6 million war displaced in Angola.

Mr. Ngongi said to have discussed with the Angolan head of state the relations between Angola and his institution stating that his weeklong visit is mainly aimed at assessing the humanitarian situation in the country.

**Government Eliminates Tax in Banking Transactions
Angop on September 23, 1999**

The Angolan cabinet approved Thursday the law eliminating the tax in bank transactions of bills, foreign currency and travel checks. Henceforth a one percent tax of exchange has been established on interests charged by banking institutions over the bills and treasury bills by loan, issued national checks or any banking transfers.

A press release issued at the end of the meeting of the council of ministers, chaired by President José Eduardo dos Santos, states that the government wants "to soften the costs bore both by companies and individuals in banking transactions".

The meeting also approved diplomas from the Justice Ministry on the inefficacy of the registration of annulment of civil records and the convalidation of notarial records. The council of ministers also approved the

organic statute of the Health Ministry aimed at creating institutional conditions for improvement of the health service.

**Government and World Bank to Discuss New Cooperation Program
Angop on September 24, 1999**

The Angolan Planning Minister Mrs. Ana Dias Lourenço on Thursday
said
the Angolan government will discuss its projects and will establish a new
cooperation program with the World Bank later this month in
Washington.

Mrs. Lourenço was addressing Angop in Luanda shortly before leaving
for
the United States, to attend the World Bank / IMF annual assembly to
happen later this month.

"We are going to discuss new perspectives of cooperation with the World
Bank and we will proceed with negotiations with the International
Monetary
Fund (IMF), started in August in Luanda, with a view to reach a
monitored
program", she said.

She added that the Angolan delegation will hold contacts with all
financial
institutions attending the annual World Bank / IMF meeting.

Angola's National Bank (BNA) governor, Dr. Aginaldo Jaime, who also
traveled to Washington with the same purpose, said, "We are close to
reaching a monitored agreement with the IMF because this is Angola's
government political will".

"We had some disturbances within the exchange market for reasons
already
identified, and some goals were not met, but, despite this light sideslip on
the
program, the IMF has appreciated the solutions to overcome this
difficult
moment", he underlined.

According to the BNA Governor, the government has already been
accomplishing IMF recommendations, particularly on tributary evasion
and
public expenditures. "We will continue working jointly to quickly reach
a
monitored accord with the fund", he voiced.

and **On tax evasion, he said if the state has no incomes then the deficit rises**
government **there is no way to cover its expenditures, "That is the way the**
 will take very rigorous measures".

rising **"The Finance Ministry will restructure the customs and every revenue-**
in **process as a way to lessen tax evasion, which has reached alarming levels**
 Angola", Dr. Jaime said.

by **The Angolan delegation to the World Bank / IMF annual assembly is led**
 Finance Minister Joaquim David, who left the country few days ago.

FACED WITH NEW CIVIL WAR, ANGOLAN GOV'T SEEKS TO CUT PUBLIC SPENDING

LISBON Sept 23 Sapa-AP

The Angolan government announced Thursday it would slash public spending by half as it scrambles to cope with the financial drain of renewed civil war, a news report said.

It will also try to persuade companies to keep their cash in Angola rather than transfer it abroad, a news report said.

The government will give priority to paying public-sector wages and meeting foreign debt payments, according to a press communique released after a Cabinet meeting, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

Angola, a former Portuguese colony which has been engaged in a civil war for much of the past 25 years, owes some dlns 11 billion to foreign creditors.

Foreign exchange requirements for the mining sector, which includes lucrative diamond mines operated in conjunction with foreign companies, are to be altered, Lusa reported.

The aim is to keep cash generated in Angola within the country's banking system, according to the communique cited by Lusa.

Other planned measures include a crackdown on the illegal transfer of currency abroad and on tax evasion, Lusa said.

The report gave no date for the introduction of the measures, nor did it provide figures.



Luanda - Várias personalidades nacionais e estrangeiras têm pressionado sem cessar o Governo do presidente José Eduardo dos Santos a reiniciar negociações com a Unita a fim de pôr cobro à guerra civil angolana. Dentre essas personalidades, há que destacar o SG da ONU, Kofi Annan, o SG da CPLP, Marcolino Moco, SG do partido Frelimo, Manuel Tomé, a alta hierarquia da Igreja Católica através da CEAST onde pontificam o Cardeal D. Alexandre do Nascimento, D. Zacarias Kamuenho, D. Francisco da Matta Mourisca, bem como os intelectuais nacionais que subscreveram recentemente o "Manifesto para a Paz em Angola".

Nesta quinta-feira, 20.07, o Governo angolano através do ministro das Relações Exteriores, João Miranda, recebeu o texto da mais recente declaração da Presidência da União Europeia sobre Angola publicada em Bruxelas e Helsínquia em 22.07. No documento, a UE faz saber às autoridades angolanas que continua convencida que uma paz duradoura só será possível estabelecer-se no nosso País por intermédio de meios políticos.

A UE apela à Unita e seus dirigentes a cessarem as suas actividades militares e a manifestar claramente a sua vontade de retomar o diálogo com o Governo angolano, com base nas resoluções do Conselho de Segurança da ONU que estabelece a desmobilização das suas forças e permite a extensão da administração do Estado ao conjunto de todo território nacional. (In Folha 8, 31/07/99).

Iki The Company's losses in its Angolan operation during its fiscal fourth quarter resulted from a series of compounding events. During the quarter, Angola experienced increased military activity between the Government of Angola and the UNITA forces, heavily concentrated in the diamond-producing regions. This resulted in fewer diamonds and significantly less profitable diamonds available for purchase. This was compounded by relatively high fixed infrastructure and security costs which could not be quickly reduced, and purchases which resulted in significant losses upon resale, as well as the defection of a significant portion of the Company's expatriate rough diamond buying team.

As a result of these events, the Company sustained after-tax losses of \$2.8 million in Angola. The Company has reorganized its Angolan operation, dramatically lowered operating costs, reduced its Angolan country exposure and restaffed with a new team of professionals who have extensive diamond buying and selling experience throughout Africa. In conjunction with this reorganization which has occurred concurrently with the dry season in Angola (the time of increased availability of diamonds), the Company believes that its lowered exposure, lower expense posture and a better-equipped team can substantially improve the outlook for the remaining portion of the calendar year in this country.

Luanda, 5 Agosto - O embaixador de Angola junto das Nações Unidas,

Afonso Van-dunem "Mbinda", disse hoje, em Nova Iorque, que "o governo angolano deu o aval positivo sobre a presença das Nações Unidas no país".

O diplomata angolano fez esta afirmação a rádio nacional de Angola (rna),

anunciando que "essa decisão vem expressa numa carta do governo de Angola que foi entregue quarta-feira ao secretário geral da ONU, Kofi Annan".

Acrescentou que "neste momento estão a ser discutidos aspectos internos sobre a presença física das Nações Unidas no território angolano".

Afonso Van-dunem "Mbinda" sublinhou que "o governo angolano esteve sempre a favor de uma presença física das Nações Unidas em Angola não tão grande, mas que corresponda a realidade da situação no nosso país".

Governo assume responsabilidade da assistência humanitária

Luanda, 5 Agosto 1999 - A Unidade Técnica de Coordenação da Ajuda Humanitária (UTCHh), reunida quarta-feira na 4/a sessão do seu conselho técnico consultivo, decidiu atribuir ao governo angolano a responsabilidade da assistência humanitária no país.

Segundo uma fonte da "UTCAH", a medida deve-se ao facto da situação humanitária estar a degradar-se diariamente e vai permitir ao governo definir

as áreas prioritárias, encarregando-se de fazer chegar a ajuda aos necessitados, trabalho até então feito pelos doadores internacionais e agências da ONU.

O referido conselho decidiu ainda abrir, nos próximos dias, corredores humanitários para a província de Malange, definida como prioridade, de formas a fazer chegar as ajudas as populações mais carentes. As províncias do Bié e Kuando Kubango contam também das prioridades.

O conselho técnico é um órgão consultivo de actuação periódica, ao qual compete pronunciar-se de assuntos metodológicos e de índole técnico-científico relativo às acções da "UTCAH".

Angola possuía até ao mês de Julho cerca de dois milhões de deslocados internos, dos quais apenas um milhão e 300 mil (65 por cento) recebiam ajuda de emergência.

Luanda - A Assembleia Nacional (AN) retoma hoje a sessão plenária extraordinária, com a discussão do projecto de lei da aviação civil.

O referido projecto apresentado, pelo ministro dos Transportes, André Brandão, visa regulamentar a actividade da aviação civil no país, garantindo o seu exercício e desenvolvimento ordenado e disciplinado. Os parlamentares angolanos vão ainda debruçar-se sobre os projectos de lei de revisão do Orçamento Geral do Estado (OGE) de 1999 e da lei geral do trabalho.

Vai merecer igualmente a atenção dos deputados o acordo de cessar-fogo na República Democrática do Congo, para o qual será aprovada uma resolução. (In Jornal de Angola, 27/07/99).

Diallo, who was in the Angolan capital Luanda during the breakdown of the peace accord, said the U.N. was considering re-establishing a political office in Angola and creating a top-level international contact group.

“We are concluding negotiations now on a small U.N. presence in Angola, what we call a U.N. antenna group,” Diallo told Reuters by telephone from Geneva.

“The antenna is a multi-disciplinary group aimed at ensuring a U.N. presence on the ground which will be able to be in contact with the (warring) parties and which will inform the Security Council on the evolution of the situation.”

The office would be staffed by about 30 people and be responsible for political, humanitarian and human rights issues while also carrying out a military liaison role, Diallo said. If all went to plan it would be in place within weeks, he said.

“We agree that it's an urgent matter, so we will do it as soon as possible,” he said.

Plans were also afoot to form a contact group of African and non-African states, including permanent members of the Security Council, which would analyse Angola's situation, Diallo said.

“They will advise the secretary-general on lines of action regarding the peace process in Angola,” he said. “(The contact group) will allow the international community to...come up with suggestions on how to find peace in Angola.”

The contact group is expected to comprise around 15 members and would almost certainly include the United States, Russia and Portugal, the so-called “troika” of nations which oversaw and guaranteed the Lusaka agreement.

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 13 (Reuters) - The United Nations,

which pulled peacekeepers out of Angola earlier this year after the country plunged back into civil war, plans to open a new office there to try to help restore peace, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Friday.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, he said the office would be manned by 30 professional staff, assisted by administrative and support personnel.

Its task would be to liaise with political, military, police and other civilian authorities “with a view to exploring effective measures for restoring peace,” Annan said.

The office would also assist the Angolan people in the area of human rights and coordinate other activities.

Luanda - A Comissão de Gestão e Reestruturação da Caixa de Crédito Agro-Pecuária e Pescas (CAP) cessou segunda-feira (19) os trabalhos de diagnóstico sobre a instituição, com base num mandato do Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) datado de Junho, com fortes probabilidades de poder a vir a ser nomeada para dirigir o banco em regime efectivo.

Segundo fontes do Angolense, a comissão vai propor às autoridades a viabilização financeira do banco, por via da cobrança do crédito mal parado, uma soma equivalente a uns 100 milhões de dólares concedidos em financiamentos entre 1996 e 1997.

Nomeada a três de Junho pelo governador do BNA, Aguinaldo Jaime, a comissão

coordenada por um quadro bancário que foi alternadamente vice-governador do BNA e administrador do Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC), Paixão Júnior, identificou durante os 45 dias de vigência do seu mandato, "activos e passivos de boa e má qualidade", tendo adoptado um cronograma de medidas para o saneamento dos últimos.

Sabe-se que a comissão entregou ao governador do BNA "um borrão" do diagnóstico que efectuou, mas durante a semana que termina, Aguinaldo Jaime não esteve propriamente disponível para se debruçar sobre o assunto, ocupado com o "dossier" do Conselho de Ministro e uma viagem a Cabinda. A comissão tinha competência de seleccionar os quadros ligados à anterior gestão que pela sua idoneidade e capacidade, se revelasse úteis ao cumprimento das suas atribuições e suspender, nos termos da lei e regulamentos em vigor, os que comprovadamente estivessem envolvidos em acções irregulares ou contratuais a ética bancária. (In Angolense, 24-31/07/99).

Benguela - O Banco TOTTA & AÇORES vai concluir no ano 2000 uma carteira de investimentos na ordem dos dez milhões de dólares. Segundo apurou-se de fonte do mesmo banco, cerca de 3,5 milhões de dólares foram investidos pelo grupo na reabertura de sete balcões no país. Mais quatro agências serão abertas dentro de um ano, empreendimento em que serão gastos mais de 6,5 milhões de dólares. De acordo com Mário Nelson, director Totta & Açores, os investimentos reflectem o programa de expansão do Grupo Confiança que apostou, há seis anos, no "reinvestimento total" dos lucros do Totta & Açores em Angola.

Com este programa de investimentos, este banco elevará de 128 para 160 o número de trabalhadores exclusivamente angolanos ao seu serviço. A instituição bancária abriu na semana passada, no Lobito, a segunda dependência na província de Benguela, prometendo lançar brevemente uma caixa automática para depósitos, levantamentos e consulta de contas fora das horas normais expediente. (In Agora 24/07/99).

U.N. Chief Calls For Withdrawal From Angola Civil War
03:04 a.m. Jan 18, 1999 Eastern

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Secretary-General Kofi Annan recommended the United Nations shut down peacekeeping operations in Angola because the government and UNITA rebels were bent on wiping out each other militarily, according to a 26-page report circulated on Monday.

Annan told the Security Council there was no more peace to keep and U.N. personnel could no longer function. The shooting down of two U.N. aircraft last month was "an outrageous crime" aimed at intimidating the world body, he said.

"The events of the last few months have clearly demonstrated that, for all intents and purposes, the Angolan peace process has collapsed and the country is now in a state of war," Annan said.

He said he expected most of the 1,000 U.N. military, police and civilian personnel to be out of the southwest African country by March 20. Some 200 infantry soldiers would be asked to protect

U.N. property for another 4 to 6 months until the withdrawal of the U.N. Observer Mission in Angola, known as MONUA, was complete.

“In light of the expressed determination of the parties to test their fortunes on the battlefield, the steadily worsening security situation and the inability of MONUA to carry out its mandate, it has become increasingly clear that, for the time being, the conditions for a meaningful United Nations peacekeeping role in Angola ceased to exist,” he said.

He said both the Luanda government and UNITA had “committed themselves either to ‘neutralize’ their opponent politically or to escalate the military confrontation.”

Annan said he hoped a U.N. human rights unit would be able to stay in the country. He also said it was necessary, in view of thousands of displaced people and untold brutalities against civilians, for relief workers to carry on their work. But this meant assurances from all parties for their safety.

The United Nations has been in and out of Angola since 1989. In 1994, it brokered a peace accord that ended for nearly four years the country's two-decade old civil war.

Annan said he expected all parties to help U.N. rescue teams reach the crash sites of two U.N.-chartered planes with 23 passengers and crew board. The first one was shot down on December 26, the second one on January 2.

A U.N. search team briefly visited the first crash site, about 18 miles (30 km) east of Huambo in Angola's central highlands. They found charred wreckage, but were unable to carry out an investigation because of fighting in the area.

“The presumed shooting down of two United Nations aircraft was a particularly outrageous crime apparently intended to intimidate the United Nations and force it to curtail its operations,” he said.

Annan attributed the collapse of the peace process to UNITA, the Portuguese acronym for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, because it refused to comply with the 1994 accord, called the Lusaka Protocol. This demanded UNITA demilitarize its forces and allow a national administration in territories it controlled.

He noted that the Luanda government, which had escalated an anti-U.N. media campaign, had asked MONUA to leave. Diplomats believe it wanted to remove the last restraint and witnesses to full-scale civil war.

“Obviously the organization cannot impose its presence on the Angolan parties, nor can it play an effective role without their cooperation,” he said.

He estimated the United Nations, its programs and relief agencies, had spent up to \$1.5 billion in support of the peace process in Angola, a former Portuguese colony.