

National News

Savimbi got little backing in D.C.

Jonas Savimbi, leader of the pro-Western National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), got little real support on his recent visit to Washington and meetings with President Reagan. Savimbi came in early February to seek material support in his fight against the Marxist regime of José Eduardo dos Santos in Angola.

For all the well-publicized, head-of-state courtesies accorded him, he received no more than promises of support from the administration, with no real change forthcoming in U.S. policy toward Angola, and southern Africa in general.

The \$15 million figure in covert assistance reportedly being considered by the administration, is insufficient to back Savimbi in any substantial way, as has been attested by conservatives like Rep. Mark Siljander (R-Mich.), who calls for providing Savimbi with \$27 million.

The Soviet Union gives \$2 billion annually to the Angolan regime, which is trying to annihilate Savimbi's UNITA and maintain Angola as a staging area for destabilizing southern Africa.

Nevertheless, Savimbi expressed confidence that he would receive U.S. military aid before the Luanda government launches its expected major offensive in April. He also told reporters on Feb. 16 that he would look favorably on any request to free Cuban prisoners he is holding in return for the release of South African army Capt. Wynand du Toit, being held by Luanda.

Congress wants to 'ration care'

"It does cost more to keep people alive than to let them die, and there does seem to be some sentiment around Washington for rationing care," Dr. James H. Sammons, chief executive officer of the American Medical Association, said in an interview in *Ameri-*

can Medical News published in mid-February.

"Congress has overpromised and underfunded the Medicare program, and they ought to have the courage now to simply face up and say to the elderly in this country: 'We are going to ration your care because that is exactly what this budget does and it is exactly what Gramm-Rudman does.' If they are going to do that, they ought to get out of the closet and say it out loud where everybody can respond. . . ."

In a related development, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, James Miller, the man who told President Reagan where to cut the budget, testified to the Senate Budget Committee that homeless Americans are not the responsibility of the U.S. federal government. Rather, the states and localities must take care of them.

After Miller pointed to the Community Block Grants as an example of how the federal government helps ease this burden for the states, a committee member reminded him that it was a program Reagan considers doing away with (at Miller's orders).

The government estimates that as many as 350,000 Americans are homeless.

McFarlane attacks Gramm-Rudman

In an attack on the "Gramm-Rudman gridlock" which now grips Washington, former Reagan national security advisor, Robert McFarlane charged, in a *Washington Post* Op Ed on Feb. 16, that defense should not be made the scapegoat for budget deficits.

A "note of rationality" must be introduced into the discussion, says McFarlane. "Few people have thought much about the significance of linking defense spending to the deficit as distinct from linking it to the threat to which it is meant to respond. . . . No one had the temerity to urge that a message be sent to Mr. Gorbachov, noting that because of short-term fiscal imbalances, we were going to bill the Pentagon for the 50% shortfall and so would appreciate his reducing the threat by a corresponding amount."

If we lower our guard at this time, says McFarlane, we run the risk of Soviet expan-

sionism. "We cannot 'de-link' defense from the Soviet threat."

To those who criticize wasteful defense spending, MacFarlane called this an attack on the "restoration of our strength." As for Congress, "it should drop the pretense that it understands how to manage defense programs."

Texas suffers Satanist outbreak

Fourteen-year old Christene Mireles recently attended what she thought was a "regular" party with some classmates and their friends, when suddenly she was attacked and beaten by a group of girls. She called out to one of the adults present for help, but the adult encouraged the attack. The girls were angry at Christene because she refused to become a Satanist. Mireles spent eight hours in the hospital.

"I didn't know they were all Satanists," she said.

Local authorities cite this as just one example of the growing devil-worshipping fad in El Paso. Florence Luke of the El Paso Hotline, says some of the teens who have been counseled live in great fear that the devil is trying to kill them.

"The animal sacrifices and the drinking of blood is very real to these children. Most of them can't even sleep at night," she said.

It is hardly coincidental that El Paso/Ciudad Juarez was the host of a Mexican witches' convention in 1985.

Senatorial candidate denounces 'rock museum'

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia's "business, civic, and political leaders transformed themselves into rock and roll animals . . . [on Feb. 7] to attempt to woo the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum to Philadelphia." The rock museum is a project of Atlantic Records, and various U.S. cities are bidding to be the site

of the museum, including Cleveland, Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Steve Douglas, campaigning for the Democratic nomination for the Senate, held a press conference to denounce the plan. Quoting further from the *Inquirer*: "All but unnoticed in the lobby [of City Hall, outside of which the rally for the museum was announced] was Steven Douglas, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor [sic] and who held a news conference to announce his opposition to the museum. Douglas called it 'an obscene insult to the memory of the founding fathers' and compared city leaders who are promoting the museum to flies swarming around cow dung."

Press attending the Douglas press conference on Feb. 6 were throwing away Douglas's critical press release, insisting that the rock museum was "the best thing that has ever happened to Philadelphia."

Gov. Richard Thornburgh sent a telegram to the event, which read, "We're ready to 'rock around the clock' in Philadelphia," to get the museum there, in a reference to the theme song of the movie, *Blackboard Jungle*, which many claim began the well-orchestrated "rock music" movement in the United States.

Georgia opponents of cuts fear politics

A new organization of military civil service retirees has been formed in Augusta, Georgia, to oppose the cuts to be imposed on former federal and military employees by the Gramm-Rudman budget-slashing amendment. Called the Central Savannah Retirees Association, the organization is officially concerning itself only with the planned cuts in benefits not covered by Social Security.

At an initial meeting in early February in Augusta, National Democratic Policy Committee spokesman and U.S. Senate candidate Jerry Belsky was invited to address the Executive Board, to outline the fight by the NDPC against Gramm-Rud-

man. At that meeting, the group's chairman, Stanley Dysart, insisted that the group wanted nothing to do with politics, but was limiting itself strictly to dealing with local cut-backs. Other members of the new organization, however, expressed support for Belsky's proposal that they join the NDPC in making a broad national fight against the bill, and against its authors in the International Monetary Fund and Eastern banking establishment.

A larger meeting planned for the Augusta Civic Center Feb. 23 was also to have heard from Belsky, but his invitation was cancelled when his intent to raise real political issues at the meeting became known to Dysart.

Prince Charlie protested in Texas

Prince Charles of England arrived in Dallas on Feb. 17 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Texas's independence, and was greeted rather rudely by some opponents of royalty.

The prince was to cut a Texas-size 90,000-pound birthday cake; attend a black-tie dinner to present the Winston Churchill Foundation award to Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot, with Nancy Reagan present; and even visit with Lady Bird Johnson and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros.

But at his arrival in Dallas, a half-dozen demonstrators were passing out leaflets with news stories associating Charles with victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—his former valet, for example. A spokesman for Charles said the claims are "absurd."

The harshest reception came at the San Jacinto monument near Houston, a symbol of the defeat of a British-backed Mexican army by Texas Army Gen. Sam Houston. Members of the National Democratic Policy Committee held signs. "It's a disgrace that a monarch would come on the grounds where the republic of Texas began," said spokesman Michael Micale. "Sam Houston would roll over in his grave." One sign read, "Sam Houston Threw Santa Anna in the Bayou; Let's Throw Prince Charles There Too."

Briefly

● **JESSE JACKSON** joined the Heritage Foundation in endorsing Corazon Aquino, sending a letter of moral support to her on Feb. 17. Meanwhile, Heritage Foundation operative Martin Lasater, who was part of Sen. Richard Lugar's "observer team," told the press on Feb. 17 that U.S. policy "should be based not on keeping the military bases, but in maintaining democracy which is far more important."

● **VIRGINIA** state government are attempting to calm public fears of a meningitis epidemic after several public schools were closed in the Central Shenandoah Valley District in mid-February. Five students on one school bus were found infected. Meningitis has roughly a 10% fatality rate. After 48 hours with no new cases confirmed, the schools have reopened.

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN**, saying something is "desperately wrong" with the nation's welfare system, announced on Feb. 15, 1986 that he had appointed Edwin Meese to head a task force to study the affect of welfare programs on American families. He said Johnson's Great Society welfare programs led to an increase in poverty because they weakened the bonds that held families together.

● **CONGRESSMAN** Jim Courter (R-N.H.) plans to introduce an amendment to the FY87 defense budget which will call on Congress to explicitly commit the nation to full-scale development of the Strategic Defense Initiative, and implicitly to its deployment.

● **MEXICAN** Sen. Maria del Carmen Marquez de Romero Aceves held a press conference on Feb. 14 to call on the United States to offer cooperation instead of a "cold shoulder" to Mexico in its difficulties with illegal emigrants. She referred to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, prefers to export goods rather than labor. But to find the solutions, we need the cooperation of this country to create conditions necessary to make our own country more attractive."