

ANGOLA

CUBANS FIND GRATITUDE FOR AID, BUT FAIL TO OVERCOME SUSPICIONS

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[Text] There are many rumors and propaganda laying down a smoke screen around the situation in Angola. The country's new socialist regime is being fought by the UNITA guerrillas, among others. DAGENS NYHETER's correspondent traveled around in what was "UNITA country." His impression is different from that provided by an English newspaper which spoke of mass executions.

Belgian powdered milk, preserved Bulgarian vegetables, Danish ham and bacon in cans, Dutch butter and used clothing from western Europe. One can buy those and a great many other things in the People's Store in Bailundo in central Angola by showing a membership card in the town's cooperative.

The well stocked shelves in the People's Store in that little place in the country constitute one of the ruling MPLA government's weapons against the "internal reaction," the "negative element" and the "bandits."

The band of guerrilla fighters from Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement, which continues to be a serious problem for the MPLA 25 months after the end of the Angolan war, is branded with these defamatory labels.

Danish canned ham and Dutch butter, also in cans, are not exactly the traditional everyday food of the common people of Angola, but the People's Store in Bailundo shows that the MPLA is endeavoring to distribute food and clothing to the people in central Angola--formerly "UNITA country"--and thereby eliminate the breeding ground for Savimbi's undermining activities."

Under Portuguese rule, Bailundo was called Texeira De Silva. Situated a little more than 70 km north of the provincial capital, Huambo (formerly Nova Lisboa), it was one of Jonas Savimbi's northernmost strongholds and