EMBASSY OF INDIA
LUANDA

INDIA - ANGOLA RELATIONS

Here are a few snippets from the past.
(Historical press clippings from Times of India newspaper)

Pages from history covering India-Angola Relations.

- India recognizes MPLA Govt in Angola : 6 / 7 February 1976

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India recognises MPLA govt.
The Times of India News Service
The Times of India (1861-current); Feb 7, 1976; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India

NEW DELHI, February 6.

THE government of India today extended recognition to the MPLA government in Angola "led by its distinguished President and freedom-fighter, Dr. Agostinho Neto."

Announcing this amidst applause, in the Lok Sabha today, the minister for external affairs, Mr. V. P. Chavan, said: "We are confident that in keeping with its declared policy, the MPLA government will join to strengthen the fraternity of non-aligned nations and help to build a world based on equality and co-operation among nations."

A similar statement was also made in the Rajya Sabha.

The following is the text of Mr. Chavan's statement:

As the house is aware, the government has always given full support to the struggle against colonialism and racism in Africa. We have been in full sympathy with the Organisation of African Unity, which has demonstrated the unity and determination of the continent in the struggle for emancipation.

The house will recall that the OAU had recognised all the three liberation movements in Angola — the MPLA (popular movement for the liberation of Angola), the FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) and the UNITA (National Union for total independence of Angola).

With the rising tide of liberation movements and after the change of regime in Portugal, the OAU and African statesmen sought to bring about reconciliation among these three liberation movements.

When Portugal decided to end its domination over the country, the government of India immediately recognised the independence of Angola and welcomed the determination of the people of Angola to preserve the territorial integrity of their country.

The government of India also condemned categorically the unlawful violation of Angolan territorial integrity by the racist regime in South Africa.

As the house is aware, an extraordinary meeting of the OAU at the summit level was held in January 1976, to discuss the problem of Angola.

Even after several days of intensive discussions, the member-states of the OAU remained evenly divided between countries which supported the recognition of the government of MPLA and others who wanted a cease-fire and reconciliation among the recognised liberation movements.

Since then three more African countries — Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Togo — have accorded recognition to the government of MPLA based in Luanda representing a clear majority of the 46 member-states of the OAU.

The MPLA government alone seems committed to preserve Angola's integrity and independence and fight the South African armed intrusion.

In the totality of these circumstances, the government of India has decided to accord recognition to the MPLA government led by its distinguished President and freedom-fighter, Dr. Agostinho Neto.

Samachar addu! In the Lok Sabha, Mr. R. M. Bhanja (CPI) congratulated the Prime Minister, who was present when Mr. Chavan made the announcement, on behalf of the opposition groups "for her bold step".

Moreover, India's recognition of Angola has been welcomed in Soviet circles.

The announcement in Indian Parliament was given big play in the media here with the Times treating it as a high priority item and following up with a fuller report.

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Decision on Opening of Indian Embassy in Luanda:
17 / 18 May 1986

(As would be noted from this archival press clipping, this decision was announced during visit of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India to Luanda in May 1986. Also note the reference to Indian offer to send an eminent archaeologist to Luanda to suggest measures to preserve the Armed Forces Central Museum at Fort of St. Miguel - presently known as Fortaleza. Subsequent to this, an Indian team eventually visited Luanda and contributed to the reconstruction of the Fortaleza Museum)

Indian embassy for Luanda
The Times of India (1861-currents, May 18, 1986; ProQuest Historical Newspapers, The Times of India)

Indian embassy for Luanda

LUANDA, May 17 (PTI).

INDIA has embarked on a new era of bilateral relations with Angola with a decision to establish a permanent embassy in Luanda and enter into an agreement for technical and economic cooperation.

The decision to set up the embassy in Luanda was taken by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during talks, lasting over two hours, with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos here last night.

Indian interests in Angola are currently looked after by the Indian high commission in Zambia.

While Mr. Gandhi and Mr. dos Santos held talks on bilateral and international issues, the external affairs minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker, and the Angolan trade minister, Mr. Ismael Martinis, helped by senior officials, discussed ways of enhancing trade between the two countries.

Mr. Shiv Shanker told newsmen today that a high-level Angolan delegation led by Mr. Martinis would visit India in July to sign the agreement on technical and economic co-operation.

India has offered to buy as much crude oil, raw gems and precious stones as Angola can supply and in return supply textiles, drugs and machine tools to it.

Mr. Shiv Shanker, who is also in charge of commerce, said an Indian delegation would visit Angola within 15 days to finalise the deal for buying diamonds and precious stones.

Angola has sought Indian co-operation in developing its open mines and setting up a fertiliser plant.

The country, which is rich in natural resources, will supply phosphate to India.

Angola produces 260,000 barrels of petroleum per day and its oil reserves are estimated at 1.84 billion barrels. Its diamond production in 1985 was 800,000 carats. Angola is the fifth largest producer of diamonds in the world with over 80 per cent of production being high-quality gemstones while the rest are of industrial quality.

Angola also has deposits of iron ore, coal, phosphate, uranium, nickel, copper, gold, bauxite, limestone and rare earths.

Mr. Shiv Shanker said that the Angolan delegation would come to India with a comprehensive shopping list.

He said Angola had sought a feasibility report from India for setting up a gas-based fertiliser plant here. It has also asked for Indian assistance in developing its communication systems, including shipping, transport and the automobile sector.

During his discussions with President dos Santos, Mr. Gandhi offered to send an eminent archaeologist to Luanda to suggest measures to preserve the armed forces central museum, a legacy of the Angolan freedom struggle, at the fort of St. Miguel.

Mr. Gandhi yesterday visited the museum which contains memorabilia of Angola’s late founder President de Antonio Agostinho Neto and the fiery revolutionary Jose Mendes de Carvalho, who studied in Cuba and died in battle against the Portuguese on April 14, 1966.

According to an official spokesman, Mr. dos Santos has asked Mr. Gandhi to step up bilateral economic co-operation.

On his part, Mr. Gandhi extended political and economic support to Angola. He said that India was keen to develop South-South co-operation and pointed out that most of the current problems arose from lack of economic independence of developing countries.

Mr. Gandhi said some of the de-

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Bangla poll’s dubious legacy

By FAZLE A. CHOWDHURY

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, May 11

The results of the Bangladeshi local polls, marred by violence, corruption and rigging, have raised doubts about the credibility of the elections.

AIDS cases in TN show no symptoms

The Times of India News Service

CHENNAI, May 11

The Tamil Nadu government has warned against the spread of AIDS in the state, citing a lack of symptoms in patients.

Talcher fire: danger signals ignored

The Times of India News Service

TALCHER, May 11

A fire at a coal mine in Talcher has raised concerns about the safety of workers and the environment.

Jagmohan briefs Zaidi on police

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, May 11

Jagmohan, the former home minister, briefed Zaidi on police matters.

MGR briefed on Lanka proposals

The Times of India News Service

KOLKATA, May 11

MGR, the minister for external affairs, was briefed on proposals for Lanka.

CPI condems ordinance

NEW DELHI, May 11

The CPI, the Communist Party of India, has condemned an ordinance.

5 fined in Delhi riot case

NEW DELHI, May 11

Five people were fined in a Delhi riot case.

Unseen hand in Belgium

The Times of India News Service

BRUSSELS, May 11

An "unseen hand" has been suspected in a recent incident in Belgium.

Pakistan down Afghan jet

The Times of India News Service

AFGHANISTAN, May 11

Pakistan has shot down an Afghan jet.

In Brief

- A 100-million-dollar project to generate electricity from coal is underway in Assam.
- The government has announced a new policy to provide affordable housing.
- The Supreme Court has ordered the release of a political prisoner.
- A new law has been passed to protect the environment.
- The country’s economy has grown at a record rate.

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Angola ravaged by war
The Times of India (1861-current); Sep 5, 1988; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India
pg. 18

LUANDA Sept. 4 (ZIANA-Pool)

THE armed forces war museum in the Angolan capital bears testimony to the mass destruction caused by the 13-year-old war with South Africa.

Indian experts are busy renovating the 400-year-old fort of Saint Michael perched on a hill-top overlooking the quiet port city of Luanda, battle-scarred by the war.

The task of restoration is sponsored by the Africa Fund of the Non--aligned Movement (NAM) to help frontline states and epitomises the hope of Angolans for peace.

For them this restoration will forever store the war memories behind glass showcases.

Angolans here say, “It is the things that are stored in this museum that we want to forget.” An Indian team headed by D. K. Sinha is restoring the city’s war museum at a cost of 700 million granted by the Africa Fund.

A government spokesman said Angola had to build a high military capability to combat the South African defense forces.

“Before independence, Angola was never allowed to develop. The port never developed, but plundered Angola during colonialism”, Mr Sinha said.

War-weary Angolans, whose country got its name from that of the pre-colonial traditional ruler Ngola have to doubt suffered severe economic setbacks in the post-colonial struggle to defend their sovereignty.

The country has spent billions of dollars on the war.

A war communiqué reported in the local newspaper Jornal de Angola said 153 armed bandits were killed and five others were captured in recent battles in Malanje province, east of Luanda.

When South Africa began its fourth major incursion into Angola in condemning “Operation Modular” at Cuito Cuanavale in November last year, The president, Mr Eduardo Dos Santos faced a similar situation that confronted the first Angolan president, Mr Agostino Neto, on the eve of independence.

Mr Dos Santos acted in the same way that his predecessor did.

Describing the scenario in retrospect, the secretary-general of the African National Congress of South Africa, Mr Alfred Nzo, said: “The adventurism of Pretoria was to prove its own undoing. This time Pretoria went too far. It created conditions for the Angolans to get all the help they needed from Cuba.”
Indian technical team for Angola

NEW DELHI, April 3 (PTI): India, acting to share its developmental experiences with Angola, is to send its technical experts to Luanda and also help develop Angola's telecommunications and postal services.

This was agreed to in new protocols signed between the two countries to mark the three-day state visit by the Angolan president, Mr. José Eduardo Dos Santos.

Mr. Santos said that Angola is ready to involve India in mining of precious stones including diamonds and will also examine proposals by India for cooperation in oil exploration.
Rs. 10-cr. credit for Angola

NEW DELHI, April 4 (UNI): Indo-Angolan economic relations entered a new phase today with India agreeing to grant a credit of Rs. 10 crores to enable Angola to buy consumer durables and capital goods from here.

The agreement on two suppliers credit of Rs. 5 crores each marked the three-day state visit of Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos which ended here today.

Before the President emplaned for Luanda, India and Angola issued a joint statement highlighting the failure of the U.S. policy of “constructive engagement” in ending apartheid in South Africa and instead favoured vigorous implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racist regime.

President Zail Singh, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his ministerial colleagues were present at the airport to see off Mr. Santos.

Two protocols were also signed relating to deputation of Indian technical personnel to Angola and co-operation in the field of communication."