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## If We Backed the M.P.L.A.

To the Editor:

Secretary of State Kissinger's preoccupation with "confronting" the Soviet Union in Angola is a prescription for American failure in sub-Saharan Africa. He should know that the appearance of American collaboration with South Africa against Angolans will antagonize most of the continent, regardless of the merits of the contending factions.

One policy alternative is for the United States to throw its support to the M.P.L.A. (now assisted by the Soviet Union) and achieve the following objectives: (1) a quicker end to hostilities in Angola; (2) influence with the M.P.L.A., the probable winners in the struggle for power, and (3) neutralization of Soviet influence in Angola. All three objectives are in the interest of the people of Angola. (3) neutralization of Soviet influence in Angola. All three objectives are in the interest of the people of Angola and of the United States Government.

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Bethesda, Md.,  
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