

NYTimes JAN 22 1976
Foreign Policy 'Folly'

To the Editor:

On Jan. 5, the President indicated on TV that American actions in Angola were intended to help the people. How can he say that when the U.S. has for years been supporting the Portuguese overlords and maintaining a working friendship with Angola's repressive neighbor, South Africa? If we truly wanted to help the people, we could be supplying a great deal more economic aid to the nearly starving nations.

Actually, the real reason for U.S. activity in Angola is to provide military opposition to Communism. As long as America is obsessed by our particular confrontation with Communism, and we put this ahead of helping peoples with their true needs for food and shelter, the U.S. risks one setback after another. These will not be merely votes against us in the U.N. General Assembly.

Let us not deceive ourselves any longer. Despite repression in Russia, Communism has a reputation abroad of supporting the peoples against their overlords, and that has a telling effect in some nations. Accordingly, Communist-supported efforts were successful in Vietnam. They may succeed in Angola and Africa, the Philippines, South America and elsewhere.

Still, given our wealth of ideology and economic resources, only America's own folly will surrender the world to totalitarian forces.

I hope that your readers will start corresponding with one another, because we must come together to create a new foreign policy. We must pilot America into the mainstream where the hopes of all peoples are running strong.

JOHN G. DOW

Newburgh, N. Y., Jan. 6, 1976