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PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

DATE September 17, 1981 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Report on Gary Acker

JACK ANDERSON: For the past six years, a forgotten American has been rotting in a dismal Angolan jail. He's a soldier of fortune named Gary Acker. He was captured four days before he arrived in 1975 to fight in Angola's civil war. The Communist-backed government sentenced him to 16 years in prison.

Now, Acker's in a tough predicament. He's admitted that he signed up as a mercenary to fight against the Angolan government. Worse, he said he was recruited by the CIA. He claims he went to Africa to fight Communism.

Well, naturally, no one in Washington is going to admit that the CIA hired mercenaries to fight in Angola. Officials have steadfastly denied that Acker was a CIA recruit. So he's become a forgotten American, sitting in a prison cell while officials in Washington have been sitting on their hands.

But there may now be a slim hope for Acker. The South Africans recently went on a foray into Angola. They came back with a strange prisoner, a Soviet soldier. Now, this raises an awkward question for the Kremlin. What was a Soviet soldier doing in faraway Angola?

Now, the captured Russian has become a great embarrassment for the Kremlin. The South Africans have paraded him before the television cameras. He's living proof that the Soviets are continuing to send military aid to the Angolan government.

But Acker's lawyers have an idea. They hope to arrange a swap: their client in return for the captured Russian. That would seem like a fair exchange: the Russian, who Moscow pretends never went to Angola to fight for the Communists, in ex-

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