

ARTICLE APPEARED  
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10 August 1985**Letters****Good Riddance to the Clark Amendment**

To the Editor:

"Erring on Southern Africa," the July 23 Op-Ed article by Pauline Baker, neglected an important aspect of Miss Baker's past — her employment with ex-Senator Dick Clark, author of the disastrous, and fortunately now defunct, Clark Amendment of 1976, which banned military assistance to Angola's freedom fighters.

Miss Baker's premise that the Clark repeal makes it "harder than ever" for Angolans to send the Cubans home is preposterous. America's capitulation allowed the Russians a free hand and no cost to their intervention in Angola. For the 10 years the amendment was law, when there was no threat of U.S. assistance to the democratic resistance, the Soviet and Cuban presence expanded.

The survival of the regime of the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (M.P.L.A.) rests on the estimated total of 35,000 to 45,000 Cuban forces. Without their military muscle, the regime would fall quickly to the troops of Unita, the popular, democratic National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which control half the country. The last four years of negotiations with and concessions to the M.P.L.A. have failed, since the only diplomatic settlement the Angolan Communists will accept is one that will preserve their unelected, totalitarian regime.

True, commercial interests in Angola have expanded. Today, over 90 percent of the Marxist Government's revenue is supplied by American oil royalties. Fidel Castro sees no incon-

sistency in his soldiers' protecting U.S. business interests, stating that the contradiction is on the American side. Refreshingly, he speaks the truth; it was advantageous for him to have U.S. business interests lobbying against Clark repeal.

While Miss Baker encourages "constructive engagement" for Marxist Mozambique and Angola, she criticizes the policy toward America's strongest friend and ally on the continent: South Africa. How can she call a reform-oriented government, which is making strides toward ending Apartheid, one of the world's most "pernicious oligarchies" when Desmond Tutu is free to fly around the world criticizing it and return without fear of reprisal? If only Andrei Sakharov and Lech Walesa had such liberty!

Attacks over human rights on Iran, Cuba, South Vietnam, Nicaragua and Rhodesia fell short of their objectives. Pro-Western governments collapsed; Communist and other anti-American regimes replaced them. Human rights in all these countries severely deteriorated.

The challenge to America is how to better human rights without losing allies to the Russians. The President should ignore the clamor of those seeking appeasement of America's enemies in Africa, and revolution in South Africa, rather than peaceful resolution of a complex political situation.

STEVE SYMMS

Washington, Aug. 5, 1985

*The writer, U.S. Senator from Idaho, sponsored the Senate repeal of the Clark Amendment.*