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# House OKs ending Angolan aid ban

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The House last night voted to end a 1976 ban on U.S. aid to forces seeking to overthrow Angola's Marxist government, following by one day a vote to begin military aid to anti-communist forces in Cambodia.

The 236-185 vote repealed the 1976 Clark Amendment, which banned aid to insurgents in Angola. The nation is supported by more than 20,000 Cuban and a handful of Soviet troops.

In June the House also voted to resume sending non-lethal aid to the anti-communist resistance fighters in Nicaragua.

Taken together the three votes signal new congressional support for a Reagan administration strategy of providing aid to insurgencies that oppose communist governments.

The actions Tuesday and yesterday were among a long series of amendments to a \$25.4 billion foreign aid bill to be spent over 1986 and 1987.

Yesterday's action reflects a 63-34 vote in the Senate in June to repeal the Clark

Amendment. The Senate also voted to begin an aid program to Cambodia and to resume aid to Nicaragua, which Congress stopped last year.

Supporters said repeal of the Clark Amendment gives President Reagan flexibility in the struggle to bring about a peaceful solution to problems of southern Africa.

But opponents said the decision would place the United States in league with the racist government of South Africa, which provides aid to the same group.

Neither the House nor Senate have provided funds for UNITA, the guerrilla group led by Jonas Savimbi that opposes the Angolan government, but lifting the Clark Amendment would allow the CIA to use its contingency fund.

The Reagan administration has said it has no immediate plans to aid UNITA.

"We are simply saying that we want to remove the perception that the Clark Amendment gives — that we want to wash our hands of Angola, and for the opportunity of the people of Angola ever to enjoy the munificence of freedom and liberty," said Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla.,

a sponsor of the repeal amendment.

The Soviet Union and Cuba have poured "military equipment and power" into Angola while the United States has been able to do nothing to help pro-Western forces, he said.

But Rep. William H. Gray, D-Pa., a member of the congressional black caucus, said repeal would leave the impression the House is repudiating its vote on anti-apartheid legislation by appearing to involve the United States "with an insurgency supported by South Africa."

The CIA provided secret military aid to UNITA during 1975 and 1976 in the midst of the civil war that followed independence for the former Portuguese colony.

However, Marxist forces seized power and in early 1976 Congress ended U.S. aid to UNITA under legislation sponsored by former Sen. Richard Clark, D-Iowa.

Earlier, the House voted to allow the president to withhold U.S. funds from a U.N. population control program as a means to pressure China into halting forced abortions and infanticide.