

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 29WALL STREET JOURNAL  
11 July 1985

## House Votes to Repeal Ban on U.S. Aid To Rebels Fighting Angola Government

By DAVID SHRIBMAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The House, backing away from what some lawmakers called the "Vietnam syndrome," voted to repeal a nine-year-old prohibition on U.S. aid to rebels fighting the leftist government of Angola.

The action, which came on a 236-185 vote last night, represented the first time the Democratic-controlled House voted to repeal the amendment. The original measure had been passed amid concerns about American military and Central Intelligence Agency involvement in struggles in emerging nations. The Senate, which recorded its objections to the amendment as early as 1981, last month added to the State Department authorization bill a measure to repeal the restriction.

The House vote came as the legislators worked on a \$12.6 billion foreign-aid authorization bill. Final action is expected this week on the bill, which would restrict the administration's flexibility in Central America and would make military and economic assistance to Jordan contingent on that nation's willingness to enter into negotiations with Israel.

The 176 Republicans who voted to repeal the Clark amendment, named for former Sen. Dick Clark (D., Iowa), were joined by 60 Democrats to forge what some legislators viewed as an important symbolic action. "It's time to trust the president of the U.S.," said Rep. Robert Dornan (R., Calif.). Rep. Samuel Stratton (D., N.Y.), who sponsored the effort to repeal, said, "Why is it that only in Angola can American aid not be given?"

Repeal of the amendment would permit the U.S. to provide aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA. Under the leadership of Jonas Savimbi, UNITA has waged a 10-year struggle to topple the Cuban-supported Angola government. "It's time we stood up for UNITA and black freedom fighters, just as we have stood up for the freedom fighters in Afghanistan," said Rep. Mark Siljander (D., Mich.).

Democrats who opposed repeal argued that the action symbolized what Rep. Howard Wolpe, the Michigan Democrat who heads the Africa subcommittee, described as "further evidence of America entering into cooperation with the apartheid govern-

ment of South Africa." An American effort to win the withdrawal of more than 30,000 Cuban troops from Angola and to secure the independence of nearby Namibia was stalled after South Africa mounted a raid into Angola on May 21.

Republicans repeatedly have said that the Reagan administration hasn't any current plans to provide assistance to the rebels, but have argued for repeal to remove restrictions on the president's options. The Clark amendment, said Rep. William Broomfield (R., Mich.), "cripples our ability to work within the diplomatic arena."

Earlier, the House voted to allow the president to withhold the annual U.S. contribution of about \$50 million to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities if he determines that China, a beneficiary of the fund, is practicing coerced abortion and sterilization or infanticide as part of a population-control program. The action came on a 289-130 vote.