

BITS AND PIECES

LOBBY FOR LUANDA: The Angolan government has beefed up its lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. by hiring a law firm with both Democratic and Republican ties. Laxalt, Washington, Perito and Dubuc has begun work under a new contract which went on file at the Department of Justice Foreign Agents Registration Office last week. The firm is headed by Paul Laxalt, former senator from Nevada and Reagan campaign chairman, and includes another Republican conservative, Paul Tribble, who served as a senator from Virginia.

The firm's Angola work is being handled by Robert B. Washington, Jr., a prominent Democrat who is black. There are persistent reports circulating in Washington that the contract has caused a rift in the firm between Washington and Laxalt, but the two attorneys did not return telephone inquiries. Meanwhile, the public relations firm retained by Angola, Fenton Communications, has hired a former top leader of a now-defunct Angolan opposition movement. Moises Kamabaya Gaspar, who will give speeches and briefings on the the country's situation, was a member of the high command of the Front for the

National Liberation of Angola, which received covert U.S. backing before and immediately after Angolan independence in 1975. Earlier this year, he accepted a government amnesty offer and returned to Angola where he met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

TROOPS REPLACE MERCS IN COMORES: About 50 French officers and military instructors are directing and training the 650-strong presidential guard in the Comoro Islands, Reuter reports. The French arrived in the Comoran capital of Moroni on December 15 to oversee the departure of 23 mercenaries who had formerly commanded the guard.

The mercenaries, led by Bob Denard, took power in the Indian Ocean nation following the still-unexplained assassination of Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah on November 26. They flew from Moroni to Jan Smuts airport in Johannesburg, where the South African foreign minister said they would be allowed to remain for only 48 hours. All except four were reported to have left by the end of last week; but Denard's fate remained unclear. Though a French national, he is

not expected to go to Paris because he could face deportation to Benin, where he is wanted for murder in connection with an unsuccessful coup attempt in 1972.

ZIMBABWE AND METHODISTS

MOVE CLOSER: The plan to create a United Methodist university in Mutare, Zimbabwe took another step forward this month with approval by Zimbabwe's parliament of a recommendation to sanction private institutions of higher learning in the country. Legislation to create a national commission to review and approve applications is to be presented to parliament by the government in January. United Methodist Church officials hope to receive government certification by May, according to the United Methodist News Service. The projected opening date for the new school is spring of 1991.

OLYMPIC LEADER: Jean-Claude Ganga, the Congolese minister of sports, has been elected president of the African National Olympic Committees Association during the organization's third annual meeting last week in Rabat, Morocco. Vice presidents were

elected from Egypt, Uganda and Mauritania. Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, told the meeting the IOC would be establishing a special training facility for African athletes in preparation for the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

TOGO ANNOUNCES DRUG

FIND: Customs authorities in the Togolese capital of Lome say they seized two shipments of pure heroin last month with a street value of more than \$1 million. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has been providing training for Togolese as part of an effort to intercept traffic from heroin-producing countries such as India and Pakistan which passes through West Africa en route to markets in Europe and North America.

ETHIOPIAN GENERALS ON

TRIAL: Fourteen senior army officers have gone on trial in Addis Ababa, charged with participating in the coup attempt in May which almost ousted Mengistu Haile Mariam. The accused include four major-generals, nine brigadier-generals and a rear-admiral.

Kenya

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the downtown park, a stance that has subjected her to increasing pressure in recent weeks. As head of a Kenyan women's movement that has planted hundreds of thousands of trees while providing income to hundreds of women, she has received international awards and accolades.

But her attempt to challenge the construction of the Kenya Times Media Trust skyscraper has

threatened her ability to continue working. After her suit to stop the building, pending an environmental impact assessment, was thrown out of court, she appealed to the Attorney General, whose office said he would refuse to reply. On December 13 she was given two weeks to vacate the offices the Greenbelt Movement has occupied for a decade — a move she said would be difficult because the office has "over 1500 files, 39 desks, 17 cabinets, hundreds of books and pam-

phlets," and 36 people who work on the premises daily. The next day, she was told to leave within 24 hours. There were also signs that anyone expressing support for the professor of veterinary anatomy might also pay a price. After Maathai was applauded at a Christmas party for staff of the United Nations Environment Program, headquartered in Nairobi, the agency received a phone call warning that foreigners who tried to interfere in Kenyan affairs were unwelcome to

remain in the country.

It was clear she was in trouble after Moi's speech, says one observer. The President accused Maathai of disrespect for men, in violation of African traditions, and called on Kenyan women to stop sitting on the fence while she pursued her destructive campaign. Three days later, the national women's organization *Maendeleo ya Wanawake*, called on Kanu to expel Maathai from the party, a move that would ostracize her from political life. ■

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