

NATIONS UNIES  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT  
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS



UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES

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Luanda, 10 October 1979

Dear Maria de Lourdes,

So now I am finally installed in Luanda, and life is not at all too bad, - much better than I had heard before, difficult but interesting; the work is a challenge but I have a very good staff and hope to be able to get things moving soon, as we have a lot of problems to deal with.

On your side, I guess it is the same thing. I have tried to keep up with the news but here we receive few papers, and the Angolan press is of course mostly concerned with Neto's death and the various transition problems. I met dos Santos briefly - he is young, serious and gives a very good impression. With Paulo Jorge I have had a couple of talks and hope to establish a good relationship of co-operation. But the problems are serious and I am caught between the bureaucratic slowness both of the HCR and of the Government here.

As far as I can, I shall of course try to follow your work and achievements - with some secret involvement and jealousy, as you know. Do give my best regards to Teresa, Monique and Melo Antunes. I am writing separately to Filomena, as we still have some outstanding business after my last visit to you.

I understand that Eanes has decided to organize new elections in December only. That means a little more time. One of the questions I would like to deal with here is the lack of qualified local "cadres" to deal with the re-integration of refugees on a permanent and autonomous basis; both at the level of technical-administrative counterparts of the HCR, and as community - based leaders, technicians, educators etc.. A new proposal by the High Commissioner on "permanent solutions" to

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refugee problems seems to give me the basis for an effort to take new initiatives for the education and vocational training of local staff - a problem I am now starting to explore and will discuss further with Paulo Jorge and Maria de Assunção Vahekeni, the Secretary of State for Social Affairs. This might require some international co-operation of the same kind I was involved in before, and at some point I may contact our common friend Bruto da Costa on this project. I hope to have your support both now and later, if at some point you revert to your UNESCO post, where we may have to ask for co-operation in such a project.

I hope that life is not too hard on you now that you keep up the good spirit of ever.



Yours,

Eyvind Hytten

UNHCR Representative for Angola

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