

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

10 November 1983

DOCUMENT 1-991/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VAN MIERT

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the treatment of members of Médecins sans
frontières in Angola

PE 87.445

The European Parliament,

- A. disturbed by the statements made on 11 October 1983 by the Angolan ambassador in Paris in which he threatened that members of the humanitarian organization Médecins sans frontières captured on Angolan territory would be treated as mercenaries and put on trial,
 - B. whereas Médecins sans frontières is a politically neutral organization whose members provide essential medical care for the civilian population,
 - C. whereas this organization cannot be accused of a partisan approach as it has offered its services to all parties in the Angolan conflict,
 - D. whereas thus far the Angolan Government has not provided visas, even though Médecins sans frontières has made an official application for them,
1. Regrets that the attitude of the Angolan Government means that essential medical care is being denied to the people in the regions under its control;
 2. Deplores the Angolan Government's position, whereby members of a humanitarian organization who are usefully employed in helping the people of Angola are treated as mercenaries;
 3. Calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to do all in their power to ensure that the Government of Angola changes its views;
 4. Urges them also to consider forthwith the desirability of granting a specific status to the personnel of humanitarian organizations and to report on this matter as quickly as possible;
 5. Stresses the significance which such a special status would have;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, the Commission, the Council, the Angolan Government and to Médecins sans frontières.