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From: Schnittger, David
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:43 AM
To: 'Beckwith, Arian' <Arian.Beckwith@mail.house.gov>; 'Foltz, Joe' <Joe.Foltz@mail.house.gov>; 'brendan.p.shields@mail.house.gov' <brendan.p.shields@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Andrews, Tommy <tom.andrews@squirepb.com>
Subject: possible QFR on US-Angola?

Joe, Arian, Brendan:

Congratulations to Chairman James on a very impressive job leading yesterday's HFAC Africa subcommittee hearing. We understand our Angola question idea probably got to you too late to make an impact. Wondering if some variation of it might possibly be considered as a QFR. Perhaps something as simple as:

"The 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the US and Angola will occur next month, in May 2023. The PRC has been steadfastly reaching out to Angola's President Lourenço, but President Lourenço has been steadfastly reaching out to the United States, setting in motion reforms to fight corruption, increase democracy and transform Angola's economy to encourage American investment. Will the Biden Administration mark next month's US-Angola anniversary, to ensure this moment is marked appropriately and this strategic opportunity for America is not lost? Is a heads of state meeting between President Lourenço and President Biden – something the reform-minded Angolan government has long sought – being considered?"

We would welcome the opportunity to provide any information or resources for the Committee that could facilitate the inclusion of a QFR about Angola and the importance of the growing US-Angola strategic relationship. Thank you for all Chairman James, Chairman McCaul and your team are doing to advance US strategic interests in Africa.

Dave



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From: Schnittger, David
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 11:20 AM
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Cc: Andrews, Tommy <tom.andrews@squirepb.com>
Subject: Potential Hearing Question for HFAC/Africa Subcommittee Hearing on China

Joe, Arian, Brendan:

Tommy Andrews and I appreciated the opportunity earlier this spring to brief HFAC on matters involving the US and Angola in connection with Squire Patton Boggs' work on behalf of the Presidency of Angola. Building on that discussion, we wanted to pass along a potential question (below) for your consideration for possible use by Chairman James or another Member during tomorrow's HFAC Africa subcommittee hearing. Do you think there is any possibility of a Member asking a question along these lines or submitting it for the record? Thank you for the opportunity to share it for your consideration and hope all is well.

Dave Schnittger
On behalf of the Presidency of the Republic of Angola

***** DRAFT *****

Mr. Waters and Ms. Holman:

As the U.S. celebrates with Angola the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic ties, I'd like to ask you about Angola.

After Angola emerged from its civil war, China leveraged Angola's post-war reconstruction to (as President Xi has described) "advance ... strategic integration in [Angola's] development plans."

Despite that President Xi characterizes China's interest in Angola as based on mutuality, solidarity, and cooperation, we all know it is not. Angola's massive financial debt to China and its almost bottomless need for infrastructure investment made it a perfect target for China's predatory lending practices.

Also, having observed the consequences that the West has imposed on Russia as a result of its invasion of Ukraine, China has looked to Angola and its rich supply of natural resources to help it develop supply chains in energy, metals and mining independent of the West.

With this in mind, no one should be surprised that, in January 2023, the first overseas trip that China's new foreign minister Qin Gang took in January 2023 was to, among four other African countries, Angola. And that, also that month, President Xi reached out to Angola President Lourenço to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's diplomatic relationship with Angola and reassert China's continuing commitment to that country. But while the Chinese are reaching out to President Lourenço, President Lourenço since being elected in 2017 has been reaching out to the United States, setting in motion reforms to fight corruption, increase democracy and transform Angola's economy to encourage American investment. This a fundamental shift in Angolan foreign policy that presents an opportunity for the United States to gain a new ally in the region.

Yet we still seem to be lagging behind China in our interaction with Angola.

As President Biden plans his trip to Africa later this year, shouldn't the United States' own commitment to its relationship with Angola acquire greater urgency? Is it not time, for example, for a head of state meeting between the two presidents?



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