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Speech by

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Mister Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to salute from this tribune, the holding of the International Socialist Congress in this lovely and welcoming city of Paris. We are extending our gratitude to the French Socialist Party for the conditions it has made available for a successful work of the XXI Congress. This Congress is of special importance for the fact that it is the Congress of transition into the new Millennium.

Our Parties, many of them in power, have great challenges ahead. The underdeveloped countries are permanently plagued with famine and misery, wars and disease, with the AIDS particularly hitting above all the economically active population with serious repercussions on the already poor development of our countries.

As the separation of the world into two big antagonistic blocs came to an end 10 years ago, there was a hope for the world to stop facing wars and direct both the enormous unexplored potentialities of the nature and the great progress of science and technology in favour of the human wellbeing. This turned out to be a dream which rapidly died away since the reality is by far different. Countless conflicts are proliferating nowadays under the cover of ethnic, religious conflicts or of economic connotation, putting at risk the social order and international security.

There have even been attempts to re-design the world map, not respecting the principle of maintaining the borders emerged from national independences. The world mechanisms for control of production and sale of weapons, nuclear or conventional, are increasingly fragile. The international smuggling of both drug and weapons, which in many cases become confused, is a nuisance that is of our common concern, and needs a combined action from our countries, with the United Nations expected to play a key role.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Angola is a country that has been torn by war for many years. In 1992, general elections were held and monitored by the United Nations which endorsed them as free and fair. One of the parties which contested those elections rejected the poll results in the worst possible way by waging a war against its voters, against the people. The government negotiated with those who had violated both, i.e. law and democracy, and signed with them the so-called Lusaka Protocol, mediated by the United Nations.

This Protocol essentially provided for the complete demilitarisation of UNITA by the United Nations, the reintegration of part of its officials in the ruling institutions through the formation of the government of Unity and National Reconciliation, the integration of its officers in the high hierarchy of the Armed Forces and national police, in addition to, obviously, the elected deputies fully exercising their functions at the National Assembly.

Throughout the period of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, UNITA went on hiding large quantities of weapons, ammunition and men, in addition to procuring further sophisticated military equipment at the expense of the illegal exploitation of diamonds in areas under its control. This attitude of violating its duties under the Lusaka Protocol prompted the United Nations Security Council to approve, through many resolutions, sanctions against UNITA of which I would emphasise the ban on the sale of lethal material and oil for UNITA, the closing of its offices abroad and the ban on free movement of the main UNITA senior officials, especially Savimbi himself.

Unfortunately, not all the United Nations member countries comply with the resolutions of the very same organisation they are members of. Nor even the ones more directly involved in the peace process or those with great economic interests in Angola, particularly in the oil field. Under various covers, they maintain the UNITA representatives in their countries, calling them Centre for

Democracy or the like. This is the hypocrisy of the international relations with which we have to learn how to live with. Some have sold weapons and others allowed the transit of these weapons through their territories.

All this network of international conveniences has paved the way for Jonas Savimbi to resume war in our country.

Savimbi is the only responsible for the disgrace that once again hit the Angolan people. For this reason our people was forced to live as a beggar, with around two and half million of internally displaced people depending on international charity, due to lack of security in their villages, routes and areas of agricultural production.

In view of the re-incidence in his practices of violating the Constitution and other legislation in force and the continued practice of crimes of armed rebellion and homicide, Jonas Savimbi is a war criminal, so considered not only by the Angolan government but also by the SADC and the OAU countries. This stand was taken and assumed by the respective Head of States in their summits of Maputo and Algiers, respectively. In this connection, Savimbi is no longer a valid partner in the Angolan political process.

The Angolan State has been seriously engaged in the destruction of Savimbi's war machinery, at least in the destruction of his regular units, having already taken and occupied Andulo, his headquarters, Bailundo, Mungo, N'Harea, Lucusse, Lumbala M'Guimbo, Kangamba and others localities previously occupied by the armed bandits. This action will proceed until order is re-established and the so ardently desired peace, necessary for the development of the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of its peculiarities, the Angolan government will continue to honour its commitments in the light of the Lusaka Protocol by keeping up the GURN and all the institutions emerged from the will of the voters. There is no intention to annihilate neither UNITA nor the opposition for it has its own space, provided that they respect the laws in force in the country.

All democracies across the world keep on existing because the States do enforce firmly sacred principle.

Thank you very much for your special attention.

Angola Will Win.