

Ford Urges Cease-fire In Angola

By Lou Cannon
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ST. LOUIS, Jan. 5—President Ford today called for a cease-fire in Angola and bid for the political support of American farmers by promising that he would not allow U.S. grain exports to be used as a diplomatic weapon against the Soviet Union.

Rejecting the idea that withholding of U.S. grain from the Soviet Union would be an effective response to Russian activities in Angola, the President told the 57th national convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation:

"The linkage with diplomacy would mean disruption and hardship for you, the farmer, a serious increase in tensions between the world's two superpowers and no effect on Angola whatsoever."

Mr. Ford said the United States favors an immediate cease-fire along with "an end to all outside intervention, and a government of national unity, permitting the solution of the Angolan problem by the Angolans themselves."

In a private meeting later in the day with 19 editors and publishers, Mr. Ford was asked what would happen if Russia continues to pour arms and equipment into Angola.

"I don't assume that is going to happen," the President replied. "I don't think that will be the result. The situation there today is better than yesterday."

The President's speech here to one of the most conservative of the nation's farm organizations officially was described as "nonpolitical."

But Mr. Ford spent most of his 34-minute speech extolling the virtues of his administration's farm policy in general and the U.S. grain agreement with the Soviets in particular.

Under the agreement, the

Russians will purchase at least six million metric tons of wheat from U.S. suppliers annually for the next five years. In addition, Poland is expected to buy about 100 million bushels of U.S. grain annually during this period.

The President was interrupted with applause, mostly light, 14 times. He received the loudest ovation when he unveiled a plan that would ease the estate tax burden on family farms.

The proposal, which White House officials said would be contained in Mr. Ford's proposed budget later this month, would allow inheritors of a family farm valued up to \$300,000 to spread out

Soviets Hint Shift In Angola Stand

MOSCOW, From A1

have registered that the Angolan issue poses a serious threat to overall Soviet-American relations while Moscow is planning to present its detente policies of the past five years as a success to the Communist Party Congress next month.

There is, however, nothing in the Soviet statement or in the elaboration by Soviet sources that specifically points the way to any further moves to end the crisis. Diplomats say this is undoubtedly the way the Kremlin wants to leave the situation for the moment.

According to this reasoning, the Soviets are awaiting the outcome of a special Organization of African Unity summit meeting on Angola starting Saturday. There have been reports that the session might demand an end to all outside intervention in the war, propose a political compromise or even tender some kind of recognition to the Popular Movement government in Luanda.

By staking out so broad a stance now, the diplomats argue, Moscow will be able to deal with whatever decision the OAU reaches and claim that it had already supported that view. "In a mess like this," said one analyst, "the safest course is to expand all options."

Another important editorial in Pravda last week, this one devoted to the strategic arms negotiations, hailed improvements in superpower ties which, the newspaper said, "accomplished a turn

from the Cold War and confrontation to the easing of tension, normalizations and improvement of mutual relations."

Considering some of the recent acrimonious exchanges between Moscow and Washington on SALT, the Middle East, Portugal and Angola, that sort of praise caught foreign analysts here by surprise. With detente in trouble, one Western diplomat speculated, Moscow may now be moving to limit the damage.

\$50 Million Bribe

Doubted by Britain

LONDON, Jan. 5 (UPI)—The British Foreign Office said today that it "attaches no credence" to a charge by Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe that Moscow has paid a \$50 million bribe to unnamed African leaders to support Soviet-backed forces in the Angolan civil war.

Thorpe said Saturday that Moscow paid at least one and possibly more African leaders in gold through a Swiss bank to support the Moscow-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Meanwhile, Conservative member of Parliament Peter Walker said that if Angola falls to the Soviet Union the danger to Britain would be greater than just before World War II when Mussolini occupied Ethiopia and Hitler seized Czechoslovakia.

"The Soviet Union is steadily colonizing southern Africa," he said.