

Soviets: End Angola Intervention

1/4/76
By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union yesterday called for "the termination of foreign armed intervention in Angola," a declaration that raised guarded interest for American strategists in Washington.

It is the Ford administration's position that all foreign forces should be withdrawn from the civil war in that African nation between pro-Soviet and anti-Communist factions. The key question is whether there is any real similarity in the

American and Soviet meanings of "outside forces."

To the United States this literally means all outside personnel: Soviet military advisers; Cuban troops, which the United States estimates from 6,000 up to 7,500; South African military forces, and officially unacknowledged Western personnel, mercenaries or others.

The Soviet declaration, in an unsigned editorial in Pravda, made no acknowledgment that there are any Soviet or Cuban or other foreign Com-

munist military personnel in Angola.

The Soviet statement said Moscow's "moral and material" support for the Marxist government established in Luanda by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) is fully in accord with the anti-colonialist struggle in Africa. It said Moscow "makes no secret of it."

"At present," the statement said, "the Soviet Union's aid to the lawful government of the People's Republic of Angola, aid given at the lat-

ter's request, is designed to safeguard that country from aggressive encroachments from the outside, to help it defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity."

But for the first time the Soviet Union said, "The Soviet Union comes out firmly for the termination of foreign armed intervention in Angola."

"The people of Angola should be given the right to decide themselves the questions of building a new life

See POLICY, A8, Col. 5

New Soviet Angola Stance

POLICY, From A1

in the conditions of peace and freedom."

The Soviet statement, however, said that the conflict in Angola is "a result of gross, unceremonious interference in the affairs of the Angolan people by the imperialist forces, the racist South African regime and their mercenaries."

"The Maoists (Communist Chinese) are also at one with them."

Pravda said the Kremlin seeks neither "economic, military or other gain" in the former Portuguese colony, and "any assertions concerning the Soviet Union's intention to establish military bases there and about Soviet military expansion in Africa in general are unfounded."

In Washington, U. S. experts expressed guarded interest in the Soviet statement, but cautioned that "we have to

wait to see what it means."

One official said "it holds some ray of hope," but all U. S. specialists cautioned that, as one said: "It could be that the Soviets are just positioning themselves for the OAU (Organization of African Unity) conference," which is to open Thursday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Associated Press reported a more skeptical appraisal by Western experts in Moscow. They were reported interpreting the Soviet call for "the termination of foreign armed intervention" as clearly intended for others, not the Soviet Union or Cuba.

President Ford in an interview recorded yesterday repeated his optimistic expressions of the past week that he is hopeful that American-Soviet diplomacy in private can help ease the crisis.

In an interview with NBC commentators John Chancellor and Tom Brokaw, for

broadcast Monday night, the President said some headway is being made in efforts to get the Soviet Union and Cuba to end their involvement in Angola, but, "I can't say categorically that the end result is what we want it to be at the present time."

The President denied that the United States is training foreign mercenaries for use in Angola, but he would not deny that the United States is providing money for that purpose.

Other officials had left the same significant loophole in their earlier disclaimers that Americans are in Angola as mercenaries or are being trained as mercenaries.

Mr. Ford said:

"The United States is not training foreign mercenaries in Angola. We do expend some federal funds—or United States funds—in trying to be helpful, but we are not training foreign mercenaries."

Asked if the United States was financing the training of foreign mercenaries, he replied obliquely: "We are working with other countries that feel they have an interest in giving the Angolans an opportunity to make the decision for themselves, and I think this is a proper responsibility of the federal government."

In Dakar, Senegal, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs William E. Schaefeled called yesterday for an end to all foreign involvement in Angola.

Schaefeled was completing a tour of five African countries, encouraging participants in the impending OAU conference on Angola to urge the end of outside intervention in that nation. Schaefeled continues to Paris, London and Bonn. Western Europe is giving some covert support to the anti-Communist factions in Angola.

Soviet Bribes Over Angola Charged



United Press International

Western-backed factions in the Angolan civil war say these three men are Cubans captured fighting for the Soviet-backed faction.

A declaration by the Soviet Union in Pravda yesterday made no acknowledgement that there are Soviets or Cubans in Angola.

By Bernard D. Nossiter
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Jan. 3—Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party here, has accused the Soviet Union of bribing unnamed African leaders with \$50 million in gold to support the Moscow-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Thorpe said in an interview tonight that the gold was given

directly to at least one and possibly more heads of African states to gain early recognition for Popular Movement as the sole faction entitled to rule in the former Portuguese colony.

The British politician said the Moscow acted in the belief that if they swung "early recognition from one or two states, others would follow."

As in similar stories in two

London papers today, Thorpe steadfastly refused to name the sources of his charge or to disclose the alleged bribe recipients. He insisted that his sources "are impeccable" and "they have no axe to grind."

He will not openly name the leaders and states involved, he said, because he feared that to do so would lead the other members of the Organization of African Unity

to "close ranks behind them."

In effect, he said, disclosure would produce a "Moynihan effect." This was a reference to U. S. Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose assault on Idi Amin at the United Nations is thought to have created support for the Ugandan president as current head of the OAU.

See ANGOLA, A14, Col. 1

Soviet Bribes Charged

ANGOLA, From AP

Thorpe is a respected politician here who is given to a great deal of flamboyance in personal style but not in speech. There is little doubt he trusts those who gave him the story of the Soviet bribe but their reliability is a question mark.

He said he was given the story because "I have a good reputation for being on the right side in Africa as a longtime supporter of independence movements." Kenneth Kaunda, the president of Zambia, and other African leaders "have been personal friends of mine for 25 years."

Thorpe said that the same information has been given the British Foreign Office. He said he will name on Monday the official who received it unless the Foreign Office acknowledges its receipt.

The Liberal chief said he will disclose full details—naming names and places—to other, neutral African leaders. The African leaders are scheduled to hold a summit meeting Jan. 10 on the Angola issue.

Thorpe was somewhat distressed tonight at press attention over his sensational bribe charge. He referred to inquiries as a game of "hunt

the thimble" which he did not want to play.

Instead, he wants to focus attention on his plan for peace in Angola. It calls for an African police force, under U. N. auspices, enforcing a cease-fire now and creating the framework for a tripartite government involving the Popular Movement, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

He hopes all Western states will "declare a policy of non-intervention and challenge the Russians to follow suit."

All states, he said, should contribute "money, materials and weapons—not men" to the African police force.

In a speech at his North Devon constituency today, Thorpe went out of his way to praise Amin for what he said was the OAU president's efforts to form an all-party government in Angola.

Over the telephone, Thorpe concluded:

"Fond and Kissinger are right. This is not another Vietnam, but a Congo."

In other developments on Angola:

—Official sources in Georgetown, Guyana, said that Guyana has banned Angola-bound Cuban troop

planes from refueling following a U. S. request.

Previously, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados stopped the Cuban refueling stops. Jamaica, however, was reported still to favor allowing the Cubans refueling rights.

—A Soviet news agency dispatch from Luanda said that Popular Movement troops now control all of the oil enclave of Cabinda and that the Popular Movement has captured more than 100 regular South African troops in fighting in Angola.