

Two Soviet Ships Head For Angola

11/27/76
Leftists Claim
New Victories

From News Dispatches

The Soviet-backed popular movement for the Liberation of Angola said yesterday that its New Year's offensive had produced victories on nearly all fronts with its two rival independence movements.

Leaders of the other two movements admitted the current Popular Movement offensive had made gains, checked their advances in some areas and left them outmanned in others.

Johnny Eduardo Pinnock, a spokesman at the Zaire headquarters of the two pro-Western groups, said both Uige, their headquarters in the northern Angola, and Negage, which included a major airbase, had been lost.

The capture of Negage by the Popular Movement was considered particularly important, since it had served as a depot for Western supplies flown in on C-130 aircraft. South African sources said the two groups were trying to recapture the two towns.

South Africa announced that a brigadier and five other military men had been killed in the fighting area along the Angolan border—four in a plane crash and two from wounds suffered in unspecified "action."

It was the largest toll announced at one time since South African troops began supporting forces fighting the Popular Movement. The total South African death toll since November is now put at 24, plus three listed as missing. The previous losses had already been a blow to South African public morale and had been instrumental in a growing sentiment to with-

draw South African forces from Angola.

There were conflicting reports on the progress of rival forces in some parts of Angola. Earlier reports from U. S. government sources said one of the pro-West groups, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was threatening two key Popular Movement towns in eastern Angola.

The reports said UNITA forces with South African support were moving on Teixeira de Sousa, a rail junction, and Henrique de Carvalho, which has an airfield. Loss of the towns would

See ANGOLA, A8, Col. 1

ANGOLA, From A1

force the Popular Movement back 400 miles to Malange, greatly reducing its territory.

But Monday night UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi said his troops were under pressure and planned no offensives until after the forthcoming Organization of African Unity summit in Addis Ababa. The fierce Popular Movement offensive in the north has apparently been designed to rally support for its cause at that summit.

Spokesmen for the other group Western-backed group, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, say the Popular Movement push north includes large contingents of Cuban troops and remnants of the Congolese secessionist Katanga army.

The Popular Movement said it had also advanced in central Angola, taking the town of Kungo south of Cariango and capturing three South African regular soldiers.

Radio broadcasts from the Popular Movement capital at Luanda said political commissars were following the troops and organizing the tribespeople in the "liberated" areas. The people were being urged to boost agricultural production as part of a "production battle," the radio said.

U. S. government analysts in Washington said they thought the Popular Movement offensive would go no further than Uige and Negage, since the two towns marked the northern territorial limits of the Kumbundu tribe, the Popular Movement's main base of support.

In the highlands further north live the Baongo tribe, the principal supports of the National Front, the analysts said. They said the paved road used by the Popular Movement's Soviet T-34 tanks ends about 50 miles beyond Uige, where the countryside becomes increasingly mountainous and hostile.

In other Angolan developments:

—Nigeria rejected a U. S. suggestion that the forthcoming OAU summit on Angola insist on the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban military advisers from the former Portuguese colony. Nigeria called a letter from President Ford making the suggestion to African governments "overbearing" and "patronizing."

The Nigerian statement came after Uganda President



Idi Amin, who has supported a policy similar to the U. S. suggestion, made a surprise two-hour visit to Lagos to discuss the Angolan situation.

—Guinea President Sekou Toure said he would quit the OAU if it did not recognize the Popular Movement as the sole government of Angola.

—Guinea Bissau said it would support the Popular Movement at the African summit, while Sudan said it will support an end to foreign intervention and an Angolan government including all three rival groups—the position suggested by the United States.

—Savimbi, the UNITA, leader, said his troops had clashed with some forces from the National Front, their allies, at Huambo in southern Angola on Christmas Eve and that 20 men had been killed. Savimbi blamed Daniel Chipenda, a National Front leader who quit the Popular Movement after losing a leadership fight, for the clash and called him a "reactionary."

U.S.-South Africa Cooperation Denied

Reuter

The State Department yesterday denied reports that the United States has been coordinating its strategy in Angola with South Africa.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth also denied a report that the United States had requested South Africa to send troops into Angola to resist the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. "We are not coordinating our policy in Angola with South Africa," Funseth said.

Referring to a report in today's Washington Post that the United States had asked for South African intervention in Angola, Funseth said, "That statement is false."

Movement

Worries U.S.

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Soviet guided-missile destroyer and a landing ship for tanks are steaming toward Angola, informed sources said last night.

The movement and capabilities of the two ships were being viewed with grave concern by Ford administration officials watching the fast-developing Angola situation.

The destroyer, sources said, is of the Kotlin class and was steaming southeast toward Angola from a position off the shore of Gabon. Sailing with the destroyer is a Soviet oiler so that the warship can be refueled before it reaches Angola.

Equally, if not more worrisome to U. S. officials last night was the presence of a Soviet ship off Congo which is capable of landing tanks, armored vehicles and troops.

This ship, informed sources said, has Soviet personnel aboard but how many there are and what their mission is had not been determined by officials poring over the intelligence reports.

At first glance it did not appear that there were tanks aboard the big ship, but the possibility that it is carrying Soviet assault troops was not excluded.

The position of this tank landing ship was described as near the Congo port of Pointe Noire. One possibility is that the ship could pick up armor at that port and deliver it to Soviet-backed forces in Angola further south.

As of last night, the big ship appeared to be sailing slowly toward Pointe Noire, possibly waiting for the guided-missile destroyer and the oiler to catch up to it before entering the port.

This naval force appeared headed toward Angola at the moment the Ford administration is trying to damp down the crisis and is expressing hope that the Soviets—as they hinted in a

Pravda editorial Saturday—had decided to withdraw from Angola.

There is a chance, sources agreed, that the big assault ship might have the mission of withdrawing Soviet weaponry from Angola.

However, the same sources said that possibility appeared

See CRUISER, A12, Col. 1

2 Soviet Ships Head For Angola

CRUISER, From A1

slim. Instead, analysts, in their initial interpretations, feared the Soviets were intending to escalate their military involvement.

The Kotlin class destroyer displaces 3,885 tons, is 414 feet long and carries guns as well as missiles.

Jane's Fighting Ships says Kotlin class destroyers carry twin batteries of anti-aircraft missiles.

The Soviet ships did not become of great concern to U. S. officials until late yesterday when the intelligence hardened that they were connected with Soviet support of forces in Angola.

By nightfall, however, the information about the ships was in the hands of top officials at the White House, State Department and Pentagon. There was no indication how the United States would react.

There are two American aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean, the U. S. S. Kennedy and the U. S. S. Independence, but none along the African coast where they could shadow the Soviet destroyer and assault ship. The Kennedy is in the Mediterranean and the Independence aircraft carrier was tied up at Naples as of yesterday, according to the Pentagon.

Angola Limited To Gems Income

Los Angeles Times

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—With their oil revenues now denied them and hopes dwindling that they might harvest and sell the coffee grown in the war zone, Angola's Marxists seem limited to but one resource for quick cash sales abroad—diamonds.

And the civil war, which pits the Marxist Popular Movement against two anti-Soviet factions, has reduced even that prospect.

Production of gemstones from the Portuguese-owned Diamang mine in the northeastern part of the country, which is controlled by the Popular Movement, has slumped more than 50 per cent in the past year, experts here said. Diamang is Angola's only diamond producer. No specific reason was given for its decreased production.

The country's economy has been a shambles since the three factions started fighting last fall. The Popular Movement has controlled the capital, Luanda, since independence; and it had expected to receive oil revenues from Gulf Oil Corp. that had formerly been paid to the Portuguese. But Gulf, under pressure from the U.S. government, announced this week that it would hold in escrow all revenues from its operations at Cabinda, Angola, until a more stable government ruled in Luanda.

With their oil money held up, the coffee harvest threatened by war and diamond production skidding,

Angola's Marxists face the question of where to turn for cash help, and whether they and the country can sustain themselves at anything but a bare subsistence level.

"Perhaps the Russians and Cubans can give them butter as well as guns," a sardonic South African suggested.

Before the war, revenues from oil and diamonds met about 80 per cent of Angola's foreign exchange requirements. Coffee sales—Angola had been the world's fourth-largest producer—earned the former Portuguese colony about \$200 million last year.

In recent years, Angola's oil revenues totaled perhaps \$500 million annually and diamond sales brought an unknown, but sizable, amount more.

Bonn Bids Africans To Act on Angola

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, Jan. 6—West Germany, seeking to use whatever influence it has in Africa to stop Soviet-backed intervention in Angola, has appealed to 12 African states to reject intervention by all outsiders and find a purely African solution to the conflict there.

The West German appeal came in the form of a letter last week from Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to his counterparts in Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia, as well as Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Genscher has been critical of the Soviet role in Angola recently, and the sending of letters to the African foreign ministers is viewed by some observers here as a possibly significant step toward more assertiveness in West Germany's traditionally cautious foreign policy.

Although the letter did not specifically mention Soviet or Cuban military involvement, a Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman said it expressed considerable concern over foreign intervention and a hope that the summit conference of the Organization of African Unity which meets next week will bring about a cease-fire between the three rival factions in Angola.

Whatever influence the West Germans have in Africa is the product of expanding trade and development

assistance to many African states.

The Genscher letter, however, may also reflect growing uneasiness in Western Europe over the implications of the conflict in Angola and a potential victory for the forces backed by Soviets and Cubans.

Genscher met yesterday with William E. Schaufele Jr., assistant secretary of state for African affairs. Schaufele, after a 10-day trip of African

countries at the request of President Ford, stopped in Bonn before flying to London for a 90-minute talk on the Angolan situation with British Minister of State David Ennals.

Sources in London said that British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan was believed to have sent messages similar to Genscher's.

The British Foreign Office announced today it agreed with the United States that there should be an early cease-fire in Angola and an end to all foreign intervention there.

Though the actual battlefield situation is far from clear, some Western diplomats feel that despite the policy of detente, the conflict has already gone far enough to reflect both current American and European limitations in bringing any real counterpressures against the Soviets in Third World areas.

Although the Soviets, even if successful in Angola, could still run into severe problems in the rest of Africa, the more pessimistic Europeans believe the Angolan situation could have repercussions by strengthening leftist movements throughout Europe.

(In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass denied allegations by British Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe that the Soviet Union bribed an African leader with \$50 million in gold for his country's recognition of the Soviet-backed Angolan People's Republic.)

American Pilots Alleged in Angola

By Spencer Rich

Washington Post Staff Writer

American pilots have been airlifting weapons from Zaire into Angola on U.S.-built C-130 cargo planes, Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) charged yesterday.

Tunney, author of the Senate-passed ban on weapons aid to the Angola civil war, also said representatives of a U.S. aircraft firm have "already come under fire while flying in a helicopter near Luanda in Angola."

Although it has been known for some months that the United States has been providing weapons and money — up to \$32 million so far, according to congressional testimony — to the two factions it is backing in Angola, yesterday's allegation was the first that U.S. citizens are directly involved in Angolan military operations.

Tunney said his information came "directly from an eyewitness to operations in Angola." The informant is believed to be an official of a U.S. aircraft firm who has just returned from Africa.

Tunney didn't say whether the American pilots are members of the armed forces, employees of the CIA or any other government agency, or simply mercenaries. Nor was he able to say who owns and operates the planes or who pays for the flights.

Meanwhile, Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), who teamed up with Tunney in December to push the Angola amendment through the Senate, 54 to 22 (it has yet to be voted on in the House), announced yesterday that his foreign affairs subcommittee will summon Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and CIA Director William Colby to explain in open hearings Jan. 19 to 23 why the United States undertook covert weapons aid in the Angola civil war.

Clark had sharp criticism for United Nations Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan, saying his attacks on African leaders like Idi Amin and Julius Nyerere make it "extremely difficult" to get "much support for the U.S. position" in the forthcoming meeting of the Organization of African Unity.

"In terms of Africans, Moynihan has been a disaster," declared Clark. "He has lost the respect" of key African leaders.

Clark called the Angola conflict "a tribal civil war" and said it would be a "sure disaster" for U.S. interests in

black Africa if the United States were to "stay (in Angola), and to stay with the South Africans" who are backing the same groups as the United States.

Clark said witnesses will be asked whether U.S. personnel or U.S.-financed mercenaries are being used, what the U.S. perceives to be its strategic interests in Angola, the precise character of the U.S. relationship to South Africa, who initiated the power escalation, and how far Kissinger is prepared to go in providing arms and money.

There is a strong indication that the Angola issue may become embroiled in domestic politics. In December, Senate Republican leaders suddenly reversed themselves and allowed a vote on the amendment cutting off Angola aid. Kissinger was quoted as saying the vote would make clear to the public who should be held responsible for any U.S. losses in Angola.

Some Democrats believe that in the presidential campaign Republicans may try to blame the congressional Democrats for losing South Vietnam, risking Angola and damaging U.S. relations with Turkey — all by arms cutoff amendments.

The State Department had no immediate comment on Tunney's charge. Administration officials have maintained that no Americans are involved in that conflict, saying this is a major distinction between Angola and the war in Vietnam.

Both South Africa and Zaire have American C-130 transport planes, obtained in earlier years, and South African pilots have been seen flying various aircraft into bases of the anti-Communist factions in Angola. The Soviet-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola has just captured an important airbase at Negage, where C-130s have ferried in supplies for the American-supported National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

President Ford and Kissinger conferred yesterday about Angola, and on Kissinger's meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin Monday night. White House press secretary Ron Nessen, asked to sum up the Kissinger-Dobrynin meeting on the American and Soviet differences on Angola, said, "I wouldn't say it was encouraging or discouraging."