

CIA To Be in the Dock At Trial in Angola

By Caryle Murphy
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LUANDA, June 4—The trial of 13 mercenaries captured here is shaping up as a platform for denouncing the United States and particularly the CIA, which Angola charges with recruitment of foreigners for the civilian war here.

With the trial to open Tuesday, sources linked to the proceeding are reinforcing earlier government statements about its "highly political character."

These sources say the prosecution will offer detailed documents aimed at proving who paid the nine Britons, three Americans and one Irishman. It was indicated that the Central Intelligence Agency will be named as the paymaster.

Evidence is said to include interrogations of the mercenaries by Angolan officials, aided by Cuban counselors. Other sources following the mercenaries' activities have said they doubt that the 13 men themselves knew exactly who was behind their recruitment.

The 13 are said to have been notified of the charges against them, although no specifics have been made

public. Angola's justice minister has said each will be prosecuted individually. Local observers expect the death penalty will be asked in some cases.

Principal among the defendants is the Cypriot-born Briton, Costa Georgious, accused of ordering a massacre of fellow mercenaries in the last days of the war.

The 300-seat courtroom in the downtown Commercial Palace is being repainted and an Italian-made simultaneous translating system installed. Television cameras will be permitted at the opening session.

While the actual tribunal includes five Angolans, a 50-member international commission is to take up the broader question of worldwide use of mercenaries. A local newspaper announced that among the commissioners will be Beatriz Allende, daughter of the late Chilean President Salvador Allende, and Cuban Supreme Court justice Francisco Yaron.

The Americans on trial include Daniel F. Gearhart of Kensington, Md., Gary Acker of Sacramento, Calif., and Gustavo M. Gillo of Toms River, N.J.

Remarks by government interrogators indicate that

the Britons will be accused of more serious crimes, while the Americans—who were in the war zone only three days before their capture—will face lesser charges.

A government official referred to one of the Americans as "just a kid."

Richard Prince of The Washington Post added from Washington:

(Hugh Byatt of the British Foreign Office left London for Luanda and the trial, saying his status is "purely as an observer," Agence France-Presse reported.)

The 13 mercenaries are being well treated, a government source said.

American attorneys Robert Cesner of Columbus, Ohio, and Bill Wilson of St. Louis Ft. Washington Friday for Luanda to defend the three U.S. citizens.

After meeting with State Department officials, Cesner said that he was in no way representing the U.S. government, which has denied any role in recruiting or sponsoring mercenaries.

Cesner, 36, said his air fare was being paid by the parents of Acker, and that they asked him to represent the other Americans as well.