

CIA Aid In Angola Defended

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Director of Central Intelligence William E. Colby has defended covert supplying of U.S. military assistance to Angolan independence forces as the only way to prevent the Soviet-armed Popular Front from forcefully gaining control of the country.

During a closed-door appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday, Colby, according to one senator who was present, said U.S. national interest in Angola was not strategic but rather the general need to prevent a new country from falling under Soviet domination.

Colby's justification for covert operations in Angola drew criticism from several senators.

One senator said the specific objections raised at the hearing would be relayed to President Ford—apparently the first time congressional opposition has been registered to a covert CIA operation since last December when notification to Congress of covert operations was required by law.

Since then, four or five covert operations have been disclosed to members of Congress, according to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), a critic of the present reporting system.

After the reporting provision passed Congress, Colby and others said the CIA would be forced to end all covert operations.

In the closed-door session, Colby outlined the complex political situation in Angola

where fighting has been going on for control of the Portuguese colony which gains its independence Tuesday.

He also discussed how the U.S. is giving aid to President Mobutu Sese Soko of neighboring Zaire.

In turn, Mobutu has been supplying arms and more recently his own troops to fight for a non-Communist independence group, the National Front, sources said.

Colby made an initial report on his agency's covert operation earlier this year to Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Sparkman (D-Ala.) and Sen. Clifford Case (R-N.J.), the ranking minority member.

Neither Sparkman nor Case voiced opposition to the operation. Under rules of the committee, other members were not told of the details of the operation nor even the country involved.

Last month, however, Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), chairman of the African subcommittee, held hearings on stepped-up aid to Zaire.

Clark questioned State Department witnesses on the possibility that U.S. aid to Zaire was being used by Mobutu to support fighting in Angola. He was told that was not the case.

The Ford administration was seeking an \$81 million package of grants, loans and credits for Zaire on the grounds that it was going bankrupt.

The deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Edward Mulcahy, supported that position, citing Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's statement in September to the Organization of African Unity that "We are most alarmed with the interference of extra-continental powers who do not wish Africa well and whose involvement is inconsistent with the promise of true independence."