

Senate Unit Votes Angola Aid Curb

By Marilyn Berger

Washington Post Staff Writer

A Senate subcommittee voted unanimously yesterday to prohibit American assistance to any group in Angola without specific congressional authorization.

If the move gains congressional approval, it would effectively end the covert operation under which the United States is now sending money and military equipment to two groups in Angola that are fighting a Soviet-backed faction.

The Central Intelligence Agency, meanwhile, told Congress yesterday that it

plans to spend an additional \$7 million in Angola but that it would then be out of funds for covert operations anywhere in the world, reliable sources said.

In testimony behind closed doors to the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Assistance and Economic Policy, the administration explained that to continue its Angolan operation it would have to use \$28 million in Defense Department money.

Such a transfer of Defense Department funds is to be one of the subjects before the Senate today. Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) is leading

an effort to prevent any defense appropriations from going to Angola.

Under the measure approved by the subcommittee yesterday, the President could request military assistance under the regular Military Assistance Program by submitting a public report explaining why such aid is in the foreign policy interests of the United States. The measure is not expected to come before the full Senate until after the Christmas recess.

He would also have to give details of the amounts and types of assistance already

furnished. If neither house of Congress disapproved within 30 days the assistance could be provided.

Several participants in the meeting of the Senate subcommittee said they were also informed that there are five to eight Americans present in Angola.

These were understood to be CIA officials who have reporting functions only. No American military are in Angola, the senators were told.

William Nelson, the CIA's deputy director for

See AID, A8, Col. 1

AID, From A1

operations, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Edward W. Mulcahy testified yesterday.

Committee members were told that the covert operation in which arms and money

have been given to two factions known as the FNLA and UNITA has cost \$25 million so far, sources said. An additional \$7 million has been earmarked from funds available to the CIA and the administration plan calls for an additional \$28 million. That

would put the total at \$60 million, or \$10 million more than previously reported.

A White House spokesman said yesterday that President Ford "is seriously concerned about the situation in Angola, especially as it relates to the action taken by the Soviet Union and Cuba in supplying large quantities of men and equipment to Angola."

U.S. officials estimate that 3,500 to 4,000 Cubans have been sent to Angola, providing the Soviet-backed faction with the expertise to handle sophisticated equipment.

White House spokesman William I. Greener told reporters that Mr. Ford feels the Soviet activities are "not helpful to detente."

Kissinger has stressed the need to counter Soviet activity in Africa while Africa specialists see the war in Angola as a battle among tribal-based factions, none of which would be particularly loyal to its patron after winning power.

After yesterday's hearing Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) said: "I haven't heard anything yet that convinces me that it is in America's interest to assure the triumph of any one of these factions. What difference does it make which one of the three prevails?"

This has been the line taken by Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), who heads the African subcommittee and has spoken with leaders of all three liberation groups in Angola. Clark introduced the legislation to cut off all secret military shipments to Angola.

The Congressional Black Caucus met yesterday and decided on a statement urging that American involvement in the Angolan civil war cease and that the Ford administration use all diplomatic means available to obtain a cease-fire.

The caucus, the most politically influential group of black national office holders, met in closed session yesterday to consider the growing U.S. involvement in Angola. The statement, which was still being drafted last night, was particularly critical of what was described as "implicit" U.S. support of South Africa in the conflict.