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Ford Concerned About Soviet, Cuban Aid to Angola

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — President Ford expressed "serious concern" today over "action taken by the Soviet Union and Cuba in providing large quantities of equipment and men to Angola."

A White House spokesman, William I. Greener, said Mr. Ford "feels a need for discussion in the Congress of the geopolitical significance of that part of Africa to the United States and the West."

Meanwhile, the senators listened to administration officials defend a limited American involvement in Angola to counter Soviet moves there.

"The State Department and the C.I.A. have been urging us not to cut off economic or military aid to Angola," said Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware, after emerging from more than three hours of closed-door testimony by William Nelson, head of the Central Intelligence Agency's operations directorate, and other Administration officials.

A group of liberal Senators is seeking to strike \$33 million from the \$120.9 defense appropriations bill when it comes before the full Senate tomorrow, on the ground this action would wipe out the C.I.A.'s contingency funds for Angola operations.

A resolution submitted by four Democratic Senators, John V. Tunney and Alan Cranston of California, Dick Clark of Iowa and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, if adopted, would send the Senate-House Conference report back to the House with new language specifying not only the \$33 million in arms and support funds to Angola since July, and that \$7 million more was "in the pipeline."

"By cutting off \$33 million we make the C.I.A. eat what they have already spent—they don't get it replenished," a Senate aide contended. He explained that C.I.A. contingency funds had already been exhausted.

Senate aides said President Ford was seeking an additional \$25 million for covert operations in Angola, bringing the total of committed and intended funds to over \$50 million. It is believed the \$7 million "in the pipeline" comes out of the second \$25 million.

There was a degree of confusion in both the Senate and the House over what to do about Angola, a former Portuguese colony where three factions have been battling for control since mid-July, as various legislators acted to hasten or to delay a termination of American support.

Late in the afternoon, the Senate Foreign Relations sub-

committee on security assistance voted unanimously for an amendment and a joint resolution that would eliminate covert military assistance for any party in the Angola conflict.

However, the language of the amendment would not immediately cut off covert assistance since it is related to the \$4.7 billion security assistance bill, which does not reach the floor until January.

A Senate aide remarked that the joint resolution did not rule out ongoing aid to Angola. "It leaves a breathing space until the Organization of African Unity meets in January and votes on the Angola issue," he said. "It is drafted to make sure we preserve the African options before they meet."

The resolution declares that future American involvement in Angola should be open, that there should be no more covert aid, and that any assistance sought by the Administration would require Congressional approval in 30 days.

This is a somewhat less radical approach than that sought by liberal senators and representatives, another Congressional aide said, and he attributed the moderate influence to

Senators Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, Gale W. McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, and Representative Jonathan B. Bingham, Democrat of the Bronx.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican-Liberal of New York, who participated in the subcommittee vote of 7 to 0, said the intent was "to see that Congress is in on the take-offs" of operations like the Angola involvement. "We're not passing judgments on Angola, but saying this cannot be done in camera, without public disclosure."

There were other legislative moves on the Angola issue.

Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, Democrat of Missouri, submitted an amendment to the foreign assistance bill that would prevent the Administration from sending civilians into "paramilitary operations" like that in Angola.

Senator Eagleton said his amendment would close a "loophole" left by the War Powers Resolution of 1973, which bars the President from sending armed missions without prior consultation with Congress.

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