

WXPost DEC 24 1975

Kissinger Vows U.S. Effort Against Soviet Angola Role

By Murrey Marder

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Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday the Ford administration is determined "to make a major effort," with restricted resources, to prevent the Soviet-supported faction from dominating Angola.

He portrayed U.S. global strategy as in danger of coming apart because of domestic opposition to new funds for Angola's anti-Communist forces.

Senate blockage last week of further U.S. arms aid in Angola, Kissinger told a press conference, is "undermining any hope of political and international order," for what amounts in global terms to "trivial sums."

"We are talking about tens of millions of dollars," Kissinger said in exasperation, not billions of dollars or, "a major American involvement."

The issue is not whether the country of Angola represents a vital interest to the United States," said Kissinger. "The issue is whether the Soviet Union, backed by a Cuban expeditionary force, can impose on two-thirds of the population (of Angola) its own brand of government."

Kissinger was repeating, in public, almost all the arguments he used last week in his extensive efforts to persuade senators. All his appeals, entreaties, warnings, dire forecasts, failed to persuade 54 senators. They overwhelmed 22 who voted on the side of the administration for further funds for covert military aid in Angola.

The vote blocked \$28 million in new funds, which would have been added to \$27 million already spent and to \$8.2 million already earmarked for use in Angola.

Despite this rebuff, Kissinger said, "we are going to make a major effort, both diplomatically and on the ground, to make do with what we have, to generate as much support from other countries as we can."

Kissinger said, "we have had very positive responses from many African countries over the last few days" on continuing the battle in Angola against the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

"We are not opposed to the MPLA as such," Kissinger said. "We make a distinction between the factions in Angola and the outside intervention."

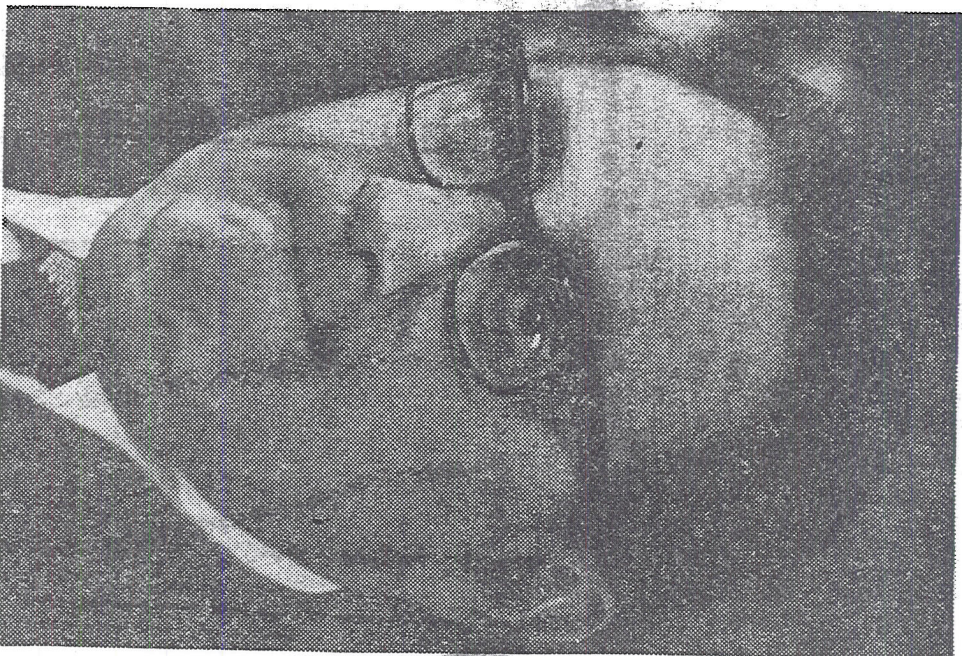
He added, "We have no national objectives in establishing a pro-American or pro-Western government in Angola. We want an African government that is not imposed by anybody from the outside."

Kissinger was asked whether "the confrontation between Congress and the administration in Angola (is) crucial enough for you to resign over?"

"I do not want to give them an incentive for more confrontation," he replied.

Kissinger created an international sensation 18 months ago with a threat to resign

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Henry A. Kissinger: "we are going to make a major effort. . ."

By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

KISSINGER, From A1

unless the Senate acted to clear his name of charges that he initiated wiretaps of associates. The Senate responded swiftly. Kissinger's smiling dismissal yesterday of the recurring inquiry about the possibility of his resignation exemplifies how his relations with Congress have changed.

Kissinger yesterday could only appeal to the Senate to reconsider, and repeat to the Soviet Union that relations with the United States will "become more tense" if the Russians continue to send military equipment to Angola.

"The danger to detente that we face now," he said, "is that our domestic disputes are depriving us of both the ability to provide incentives for moderation . . . as well as of the ability to resist military moves by the Soviet Union, as in Angola."

Kissinger responded guardedly, however, when asked if the United States will retaliate in the negotiating track with the Soviet Union against attempts by the Kremlin, as he put it, "to expand its sphere by military means."

The secretary said he still plans to go to the Soviet Union "in the second half of January," primarily to try to overcome the deadlock in the nuclear strategic arms limitation talks, "but we will have to see what the situation is in January."

Kissinger said:

" . . . There is no question that our overall relationship will suffer if we do not find an adequate solution to the Angolan problem. Where it will suffer and in what ways, I am not prepared to say . . ."

"I said we will have to look at the situation closer to the time of the trip before we can

answer the question whether it is in jeopardy or not. The question of arms limitations is a matter that is in our mutual interest and that should not be lightly discarded."

Throughout his press conference, Kissinger was asked how he will overcome the great division between his portrayal of the U.S. stake in checking Soviet expansion in Angola with covert American aid, and overwhelming Senate opposition to that entanglement.

"We did it in a clandestine way because we did not want to have a public confrontation if we could avoid it," Kissinger said. "We were expecting to bring this matter to a negotiated solution, without a huge controversy, in a reasonably brief period of time."

Kissinger again insisted that comparing Angola with Vietnam is totally unjustified. "The debate has been misrepresented," he said, "in which American assistance to indigenous forces becomes an American commitment to fight a war. That is not the case."

Asked how he expected to make his argument convincing, Kissinger solemnly said that if Soviet expansion is unchecked, "when the dangers become serious enough, they will unify the American people and the Congress and the executive."

On another subject, Kissinger tartly brushed aside a report that U.S. aid to Israel would enable that country to achieve a budget surplus.

"The reports that I am familiar with and the studies that I have seen," he said, "indicate that even at the level of \$2.3 billion that we have requested, Israel will have to engage in an austerity program in order to make ends meet . . . We have never heard of a figure that enables Israel to achieve a surplus."