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Angolan Force Urges Cease-fire

From News Dispatches

An immediate cease-fire in Angola followed by the presence there of troops under the command of the Organization of African Unity has been proposed by one of the forces fighting the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, Radio Uganda said yesterday.

In a message to Ugandan President Idi Amin, current OAU president, the Western-supported National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) also said free elections leading to a government of national unity should be held under OAU supervision.

The broadcast, monitored in London, quoted UNITA as denouncing the "dishonorable" Soviet military intervention in Angola and holding the Popular Movement responsible "for this unhappy situation." UNITA, however, said it was "still prepared to negotiate."

In Washington, informed government sources said UNITA forces led by South African mercenaries were advancing on the important town of Henrique de Carvalho in eastern Angola, which is held by the Popular Movement.

The sources said the fall of the town, with its airfield, would force the Popular Movement to fall back to Malange, nearly 400 miles to the west.

However, they cautioned that, while the UNITA troops now appear to have the momentum, the situation could change quickly, because of the relatively small forces

spread over the wide eastern territory. They also noted that intelligence information reaching the United States may be two or more days old and possibly outdated.

The sources said the advance came after two victories by the South African-led forces over Cuban-led MPLA troops earlier this month.

There appears to be a stalemate, the sources said, on the two other major battle fronts in western Angola. Noting that the three forces involved in the war are largely dependent on tribal support, the sources said the stalemate could be explained by the opposing forces having reached the territorial limits of their supporting tribes.

UNITA's head, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, was quoted by Gabon radio as conceding that his troops have suffered "enormous" casualties. He said the fighting was "very violent because the MPLA is using sophisticated arms, in particular Soviet missiles."

The Brazilian government, meanwhile, announced that it was replacing its ambassador to Angola "for medical reasons" but will not withdraw its recognition of the Popular Movement, which controls Luanda, the capital, as Angola's legitimate government.

The speedy recognition of the Soviet-backed Popular Movement had caused considerable surprise in Brazil because the military government there stifles all leftist opposition. The action was explained in Brasilia as an attempt to establish Brazilian influence in the former Portuguese territory and to demonstrate independence of the United States in foreign affairs.

In Budapest, the official MTI news agency announced that Hungary has established diplomatic relations with the Popular Movement government.

Mexican Crash

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 24 (AP)—A passenger bus and a truck collided on the Mexico City-Cuernavaca highway last night, killing at least 22 persons and injuring eight others, the Red Cross reported.