

South Africa May Offer to Quit Angola

Johannesburg

As a concession to independent black African nations, South Africa is prepared to offer to withdraw its troops from war-torn Angola if its interests in a hydroelectric project are protected, the Johannesburg Sunday Times said.

This is said to be South Africa's contribution to the peace initiative the Organization of African Unity is expected to launch at a meeting beginning January 10 in Ethiopia.

The OAU is expected to seek the end of foreign intervention in the three-faction war, an end to hostilities and formation of a national government. Observers here feel chances for success are slim.

South Africa has previously indicated it would pull its troops from Angola if its interests in the Cunene River hydroelectric project in southern Angola are safeguarded, but this is the first time it has been tied to a possible peace initiative.

The Sunday Times said South Africa's involvement in Angola has become counter-productive, stymying efforts to reduce tension with black Africa that Prime Minister John Vorster began late last year.

Associated Press