

Support Against Soviets' Role Sought

Diplomacy on Angola Stressed

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The United States is entrapping itself in "a no-win situation" in Angola, a senior Republican said yesterday, as Ford administration officials pinned their prime hopes on a diplomatic solution to the African conflict.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (N. J.), ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement that the administration should abandon any involvement in the Angolan civil war except for diplomacy.

"Our strategic interests are best served," said Case, "by leaving the Russians exposed high and dry as the major force intervening in Africa."

The United States is running the risk of "getting bogged down in a war by proxies and mercenaries," Case said, by "trying to superimpose the 'big picture' of American-Russian relations upon a fragmented tribal mosaic."

Administration strategists controlling U.S. policy refused to accept that portion of Case's premise yesterday, but they agreed with him that the main thrust of American strategy right now is diplomatic maneuver.

William E. Schaufele Jr., new assistant secretary of state for African affairs, is in Africa now in what amounts to a diplomatic race to line up support against Soviet strategy in Angola.

The testing time is the next two weeks. The foreign ministers of the 46-member Organization of African Unity will meet Jan. 8-10 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the Angolan conflict, and an OAU summit meeting of African leaders will be held Jan. 10-12.

Many experts in Africa are forecasting that the OAU meeting will produce formal diplomatic recognition of the Soviet-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as the legitimate government of Angola.

"If that happens, that can make the U.S. involvement in Angola a lost cause," one American official acknowledged yesterday. The Schaufele mission is a major effort to head off such an outcome.

Schaufele conferred in Zaire on Saturday with President Mobutu Sese Seko, it was reported yesterday from Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire. Covert U. S. military aid is being channeled primarily through Zaire to the two anti-Communist factions fighting in Angola, the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

From Zaire, Schaufele is scheduled to proceed to Gabon, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Senegal, and possibly other nations regarded as specially concerned about the Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola in support of the MPLA.

State Department spokesman John Trattner said yesterday, "Our primary objective is to end the fighting, obtain the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and encourage the formation of a government

in Angola which represents all of the factions in the country."

At the same time, the Ford administration is continuing to channel into Angola, through the Central Intelligence Agency, previously authorized covert weapons aid for the anti-Communist forces.

In addition, the administration is continuing to put diplomatic pressure on countries that have provided, or may provide, air refueling for Cuban troops sent to Angola to help the MPLA. First the island nation of Barbados, and now Guyana, have received U. S. "expressions of concern."

The Senate on Dec. 19 voted against any further U. S. funds for covert use in Angola, after \$32 million had been sent. This reportedly left \$5 million in the aide "pipeline" with \$3.2 million more for possible use from a CIA contingency fund. The House has yet to act on a cutoff.

A State Department spokesman yesterday denied that the Ford administration is trying to extract additional funds from Defense Department or other programs for use in Angola, without going through formal channels while Congress is in holiday recess.

The Dec. 19 Senate vote specifically denied use of \$9 million that was contained in a Defense Appropriations bill. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) tried to get a last-minute compromise on use of the \$9 million. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said that without it there would be no additional money to finance Angolan operations.

Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) said yesterday that if Kissinger used other funds for Angola he would be "violating his own statements" to the Senate leadership.