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S. Africa
Asks Help
In Angola

From News Dispatches

JOHANNESBURG, Dec., 31 — South Africa's Prime Minister John Vorster tonight made his first open appeal for the West to get directly involved in the Angolan civil war.

Going public with what has been, up to now, a behind-the-scenes effort by his government, Vorster said that "only a bigger Western involvement, not only in the diplomatic but all other fields," could keep the former Portuguese colony from being "hounded into the Communist fold."

Vorster's white-minority regime has come under increasing fire for its own military involvement against a Soviet-backed liberation movement that has won growing support in black Africa.

Although South Africa has not said how many of its soldiers are fighting in Angola, there are thought to be about 1,000 heavily armed South African troops there.

Warning of a possible "enslavement far worse than that of the 18th and 19th centuries," Vorster continued:

"Not only is a country with vast potential slowly dying, but thanks to leftist intrigues and blatant Communist intervention thousands of people have been senselessly killed and many more thousands will probably be killed unless this crude attempt by Russia and Cuba to force a Marxist state on a resisting and unwilling people can be stopped."

A commentator on South African radio whose views usually reflect those of official circles here accused the United States of weakness on Angola because of the U.S. Senate's decision to cut off funds for the anti-Soviet movements there.

Until the Senate voted Dec. 18 to eliminate such aid, the United States had covertly furnished the Popular Movement's two rivals — the

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National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola — with millions of dollars in military assistance.

"Angola was the testing-ground for the will of the West to resist Soviet expansionism in Africa, and the American Senate has lost the first round," the South African commentator said.

Meanwhile, foreign intelligence sources here said that the Cuban forces fighting alongside the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola have more than doubled in the past month and now number about 7,500.

The sources said that the troops, who are expected to be used in a new offensive, are being flown into Angola after a stopover in the Portuguese Azores. Observers expect the Popular Movement to try to seize as much land as possible before Jan. 10, when the Organization of African Unity is to hold an emergency meeting on the Angola war.

Use of an Azores base for refueling flights of Cuban troops was reported yesterday by a local newspaper in the mid-Atlantic island chain. A source in Georgetown, capital of Guyana, said the govern-

ment there also will allow Cuba to use airport facilities there.

Barbados had protested to Havana against such flights and the government of Trinidad and Tobago had refused to allow Angola-bound aircraft to use its airports.

Despite the reinforcements, however, the Popular Movement's two rivals, UNITA and the National Front, claimed to be making gains in the diamond-rich northeastern area of the territory.

The Zaire news agency AZAP quoted a UNITA spokesman as saying that the two allied movements has won Henrique de Carvalho, the main town in the northeast, from Popular Movement forces after a fierce battle.

In a statement issued in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, the leader of the National Front, Holden Roberto, claimed that the Popular Movement and its supporters, "which are the playthings of the U.S.S.R., have failed on the diplomatic level and they now are failing militarily."

Roberto claimed that the two movements have "liberated" all of the southern part of Angola and would soon

start mopping up northeast of Luanda, the capital, which is held by the Popular Movement.

Zaire has long backed Roberto's National Front.

The Johannesburg Star reported, meanwhile, the government of Mozambique in East African another former Portuguese colony, had removed itself to an island some 12 miles off shore because of a coup attempt and continued fighting in Lourenco Marques, the capital. It would be the second such attempt in two weeks in Mozambique, which received its independence from Lisbon in June.

Rebels Wiped Out,
Rhodesia Claims

SALISBURY, Dec. 31—"Most of the black guerrillas operating in Rhodesia in the past year have been eliminated," Rhodesian Defense Minister Piet Ven der Byl claimed today in a New Year's message to security forces.

He said 130 guerrillas and 13 servicemen had been killed in the campaign, adding that the guerrillas had killed some 300 civilians, most of them black, in three years of warfare.