

Pro-West Angolans Said to Delay Attack

JAN 9 1976

NYTimes

Reports of fighting in Angola dwindled yesterday, and one of the few dispatches from the area spoke only of preparations for an offensive.

A pro-Western Angolan leader was quoted as having said that his forces would delay any offensive against the Soviet-supported nationalist movement based in Luanda until after the Organization of African Unity ended the discussions on Angola begun yesterday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The atmosphere at the central Angolan town of Silva Porto where the statement was made was described by United Press International as gloomy as a result of military reverses suffered by pro-Western forces early this week.

But no direct dispatches were available from any of the Angolan fronts and the reports of military developments continued to be limited to statements made by the opposing sides.

A broadcast from Luanda, monitored in Johannesburg,

South Africa, said troops of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola shot down a small South African plane earlier this week, killing the pilot and three soldiers. South Africa is estimated to have at least 1,000 troops in Angola aiding the pro-Western forces.

Loss of Plane Confirmed

A South African defense force spokesman confirmed that the plane had gone down but gave no details.

The statement in Silva Porto about preparations for an offensive was made by Jonas Savimbi, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

He also gave a news conference there Wednesday but then flew back to Lusaka, Zambia, where he spends much time. He apparently returned yesterday and spoke again with reporters.

Dr. Savimbi said he did not think a new offensive was "the right thing" to undertake at

the moment, adding that he and his organization wanted the O.A.U. talk to have a chance of success. He expressed hope that the O.A.U. conference would call "a government of national unity" for Angola, meaning one in which his National Union and its ally, the National Front, would be included along with the Popular Movement.

United Press International said the feeling in Silva Porto appeared to be that the Angolan civil war had turned decisively in favor of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.