

O.A.U. Angola Talks Open With Pleas for Moderation

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ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Jan. 8.—The 46-nation Organization of African Unity held preparatory talks on the Angolan civil war today amid calls for cohesion and careful moderation.

Foreign Ministers and other representatives, who met to draw up an agenda for a meeting of heads of government and state that begins Saturday, were urged by Ethiopia, the host country, to address themselves largely to procedural questions.

But the hope that the substantive issue of which Angolan faction should represent Angola could even temporarily be submerged was dashed immediately in short formal speeches of thanks to Ethiopia.

Appeals for Recognition

Africa Hall, the seat of the O.A.U., resounded to the applause of many delegates hailing appeals for the recognition of the Soviet-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and for condemnation of South Africa for its intervention on the side of the two rival Angolan nationalist groups.

In urging moderation, Gen. Tafari Banti, the chairman of Ethiopia's provisional military administrative council, warned in his welcoming address that Angola represented the greatest challenge to African solidarity since the O.A.U. was founded 12 years ago. With the patriarchs of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church arrayed in a balcony behind him, the general said that "with the forces of apartheid having taken the offensive in southern Africa, the struggle for Angola has become the struggle for Africa."

He then urged the ministers to concentrate on procedural questions, adding, "Avoid forcing the issue prematurely." He said he was holding the views of his Government on the three competing Angolan nationalist factions in abeyance.

Plea to End Intervention

Rising to reply, Mohammed Riad, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, sketched out what is regarded as the nonaligned position by repeatedly calling for an end to all foreign intervention, "both material and human," from Angola, presumably meaning Soviet arms shipments, Cuban military participation, American support and South African involvement. However, the only country mentioned by name was South Africa, whose "flagrant intervention" was condemned.

Egypt is one of the 25 O.A.U. member nations that have not yet recognized any Angolan faction. The 21 nations that have established diplomatic links all did so with the Popular Movement.

Ghana's Foreign Minister, Roger Felli, stirred some cheers when he declared that "the most serious impediment to the anticolonial mission that unites us all is South Africa." He said the Popular Movement was allied with nationalists of South-West Africa, or Namibia, struggling against South African domination.

"The other factions in Angola

that have agreed on the expediency of alliance with South Africa cannot serve the interests of African solidarity," he said.

The Popular Movement, he said, "is the only group that does."

The delegations from such countries as Tanzania, Guinea and Nigeria, which have backed the Popular Movement, cheered robustly, while those from Zambia and Zaire, leaders in the diplomatic effort to stem this mounting tide, sat impassive.

In the hotels where the delegates gathered before this afternoon's session, and at the airport where they went to greet their colleagues, nearly all said that the forthcoming debate contained enormous dangers to the O.A.U. They cited such questions as whether a nation like Zaire could live with a resolution supporting the Popular Movement, thus in effect outlawing Zaire's ally of 14 years, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

Other questions included: Can the organization, which has pledged never to interfere with the internal affairs of nations, afford now to grant sovereignty in what appears to be a civil war? Could such a move establish a precedent in which issues such as Ethiopia's dispute with Eritrean secessionists also become subjects of O.A.U. debate?

Preparations Completed

ADDIS ABABA, Jan. 8 (AP)—Formal preparations for a weekend meeting on the Angolan crisis were completed here today in an hour, a spokesman for the Organization of African Unity announced.

He said the foreign ministers would hold informal discussions tomorrow "to narrow areas of differences."