

A Charge U.S. 'Blundered'

Addis Ababa

Democratic Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr. of Michigan yesterday called American intervention in Angola "the biggest blunder in the history of its relations with Africa" and said it would have forced the resignation of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were it not for "the awesome reverence" he enjoys.

At a packed press conference at the Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel, where leaders of the Organization of African Unity are meeting on

the Angolan crisis, the black American congressman made a blistering attack on U.S. policy in Angola and said that it is regrettable that President Ford "blindly followed Kissinger's folly."

"The error of allowing U.S. policy to converge with that of white supremacist South Africa was compounded by the covert nature of the operation and further exacerbated by the revelation that the United States had no vital interest in Angola," he told a crowd of 100 African and

western journalists.

"The tragedy of U.S. Angolan policy is that this fiasco was not inevitable," Diggs asserted. There were "appropriate recommendations" coming from American embassies in the field and from within the African bureau of the State Department, Diggs said.

"But once again African specialists were circumvented by the secretary's imperious attitude and proclivity toward viewing conflicts in terms of exercises in East West one-upmanship."

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