

Africans Try to Discount Effects of Angolan Rift

With Collapse of 3-Day Meeting, Leaders Look to July Parley for Solution to War Polarizing the Continent

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ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Jan. 13—African leaders leaving here today upon the collapse of their meeting on the civil war in Angola, sought to gloss over the sharp divisions in their ranks that threaten to polarize the continent in terms not only of Angola but also of United Nations voting and of their relations with great powers.

The three-day meeting broke up at 5:30 A.M. today without the addition of a single resolution or statement of policy. Instead, the heads of state of the members of the Organization of African Unity submitted the question of Angola to a committee that will report on the situation at the next regular meeting of the leaders in Mauritius next July.

Immediately after the meeting, the weary leaders had difficulty concealing their frustrations. They explained that from the outset two equal and opposing camps had developed fixed positions and that not a single country had wavered.

Positions of 2 Sides

One group of countries supported the recognition of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and sought a condemnation of South Africa, but no other criticism of foreign involvement. The other group opposed the organization's recognition of either of the two battling Angolan governments and insisted that all intervention in Angola should be denounced. "There was absolutely no possibility of compromise from the moment we arrived," said a member of a West African delegation.

After sleeping for a few hours, the leaders headed for the airport. There, at impromptu news conferences, they tried to assert the continental solidarity that has sustained the Organization of African Unity through its 12 years and has given African nations a certain bargaining power in world forums.

Traditionally, that unity had been forged by the commitment of the nations to the liberation of all Africa from colonial rule. With the divergence of views on Angola, that core of unanimity has been shaken.

It was the organization's current chairman, President Idi Amin of Uganda, who set the tone for the official response when he smilingly told reporters. "I am very, very happy with the result of the summit."

He explained that, while no decisions were made, the organization had moved to turn over the consideration of the Angola problem to a committee that would report at the regular meeting.

Kaunda Is Blunt

Others made similar short statements but probably a blunter assessment of feelings was that given by President Kenneth D. Kaunda of Zambia in his speech before the assembly's final session.

"If we fail to harmonize our views on issues such as Angola, our organization will no longer be credible," he said.

Earlier, in insisting on a non-aligned course for Africa, Mr. Kaunda said that if the meeting could not resolve the Angolan question it would prove that the continent was powerless and that decisions affecting its fate were made mostly in Moscow and Washington.

Mr. Kaunda left hours before the meeting broke up. But in another gesture of unity, or at least the appearance of unity, he was escorted to his car by Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique and Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania. These two men are close to President Kaunda ideologically, but they are diametrically opposed to his plea for unity among Angola's factions and they support the Popular Movement exclusively.

Angolan Leftists Hopeful

Even the leaders of the Popular Movement, who have come to Addis Ababa expecting to be legitimized as an African government by the O.A.U., put on a brave face today.

"We think the result was positive," said Luis d'Almeida, the Director of Information of the Luanda government. "At least now we know who is who. We expect more recognition by African states and by the time of the next summit in Mauritius we expect to be seated as the government of Angola. But it is not the O.A.U. who will solve the Angolan problem, it will be the Angolan people."

Perhaps the people most genuinely pleased by the outcome here were the representatives of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola, which have jointly formed a government based in Huambo, and the delegation from Zaire, which lobbied actively with scores of men to stave off recognition of the leftist Popular Movement.

Jonas M. Savimbi, the leader of the National Union, said. "We are happy despite a lack of a decision. We are going home very much relieved. We

hope now that friends of the M.P.L.A. will urge them to join us."

The Foreign Minister of Zaire, Mandungu Bula Nyeti, who did much to manage the strategy for the antirecognition bloc, declared: "Despite the great propaganda effort of Moscow, the Popular Movement was not accepted and this was a victory for African authenticity."

In view of the collapse of three Angolan coalitions, which had been encouraged by African leaders and fell apart in violence even before the Portuguese departed, there was little hope that the O.A.U. could impose any solution it might agree on.

The rift stemming from this meeting may also show up in other issues. A member from Zaire of the O.A.U. Commission, which has for more than a year been trying to put together a resolution on African-Arab cooperation without success, said that the Angola breach could well extend to such international issues as African positions on Zionism, dialogue between oil producers and importers and United Nations votes.

He said that the Soviet backing of the Popular Movement had solidified an opposing camp of nations who may now retreat from nonalignment into increasing pro-Western or pro-Chinese positions despite their reluctance to "bring the cold war to Africa."

The 22 nations that supported recognition of the Popular Movement included all the former Portuguese African colonies. Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands and São Tomé e Príncipe. They also included countries that have generally been regarded as leftist, countries that have received Soviet and in some cases also Chinese backing. These are Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Madagascar and Somalia. In addition there were also some countries that are viewed as non aligned within an African context: Burundi, Chad, Comoro Islands, Ghana, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, and Nigeria.

The other 22 included a number of former French possessions, as well as three Arab countries, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The remaining 19 were: Botswana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Gabon, Upper Volta, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, Zaire and Zambia.

U.S. Reaffirms Role

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (Reuters)—The United States will continue to provide assistance to African countries that share its goals in resisting factions in Angola that enjoy Soviet support, the White House said today.

Commenting on the meeting in Addis Ababa of the Organization of African Unity, which ended in deadlock, Ron Nesson, the White House Press Secretary, said that President Ford would continue to work through diplomatic channels toward a solution of the Angolan civil war.