

Retreating Angola Group Threatens Terror Abroad

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By HENRY KAMM JAN 15 1976

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KINSHASA, Zaire, Jan. 14—A leader of one of the two groups fighting Soviet-supported forces in Angola said today that the situation was deteriorating steadily and was so bad that his group might have to use the tactics of international terrorism to keep its cause alive. He said that Soviet-aided troops had captured the port of Ambriz two days ago and were pursuing forces of his group toward Zaire.

This account of the fighting in Angola was given here by Paulo Tuba, a member of the political bureau of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola. He is one of 12 members of the front who are linked in a 24-member revolutionary council with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. Both groups have Western backing.

Mr. Tuba was interviewed at National Front headquarters here after having reviewed the situation with Holden Roberto, the group's president. Everything that he said, and the views of Mr. Roberto as he represented them, indicated that the leadership had almost no hope of stemming the advance of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which has Soviet and Cuban support.

Northern Angola had been

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the National Front's base of operation against Portugal, which formally withdrew from control of Angola on Nov. 11

Speaking of a possible shift to terrorist tactics, Mr. Tuba said:

"We'll do what the Palestinians are doing. If we can't defeat the Russians and Cubans who invaded our country, we'll use Palestinian tactics until the world finds a just solution.

"Congo-Brazzaville and Guinea and others have embassies abroad. They have airlines. The Russians have embassies in Africa. We can find money to pay foreign commandos to attack them."

Congo and Guinea are leaders of the radical bloc in the Organization of African Unity supporting the Popular Movement. The Soviet Union is the principal supplier of arms and equipment to the Popular Movement and Cuban forces are fighting on its behalf.

Mr. Tuba, a political science graduate of New York University, said Mr. Roberto left here for Angola today, after returning yesterday from the special meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa, "to see if he can save even one city."

He said that Ambriz had been evacuated after National Front troops had blown up whatever equipment they could not take with them, but without a fight. He said the port town had first been subjected to shelling by Soviet tanks manned by Cubans, then to strafing from helicopter gunships and subsequently to concentrated rocket attack, with heavy casualties among the population.

"They are heading toward Ambrizete and then to Santo Antonio do Zaire," Mr. Tuba said, referring to towns northward on the coastal road. [Later reports from sources in Johannesburg, South Africa, that support the National Front said Ambrizete had also fallen, United Press International reported.]

Indicating how little hope the National Front has of holding a line anywhere in northern Angola, he disclosed that its forces had blown up the bridges to slow the Popular Movement's advance. He said Mr. Roberto and the rest of the leadership felt that their best chance was to evacuate soldiers and the civilian population and



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Ambriz and Ambrizete reportedly fell as Luanda troops pushed northward.

to reorganize for the kind of guerrilla warfare the National Front carried out against Portugal.

Mr. Tuba said that many of the half million Angolans who had returned from exile in Zaire after the Portuguese coup in 1974 were once more fleeing here.

Mr. Tuba disclosed also that last Friday a "suicide group" of perhaps nine men had been

air-dropped on the town of Quifangondo, about 12 miles from Luanda, the capital of the Popular Movement, to attack a Cuban unit based there. He said the purpose was to call the attention of the African leaders, then gathering in Addis Ababa, to the guerrilla warfare potential of the National Front.

He said the group had withdrawn into the bush after capturing some Soviet-made equipment and had not been heard from since.

Mr. Tuba said the aim of such missions and of the terrorism he advocated was "to convince our friends to give us the means to oppose the foreign invasion." He said the first terrorist strikes would be "right in Luanda."

"We are prepared to plastic movies, markets and public places," Mr. Tuba said, referring to plastic explosives. "Plastic is easy to buy in Europe."

Responding to a question about civilian victims of such terrorism, he declared:

"In a war of liberation people have to die. This is a fundamen-

tal principle of a war of liberation. These are necessary sacrifices."

Implicit in Mr. Tuba's remarks, which he said also represented the views of Mr. Roberto, was a feeling that foreign assistance to the National Front was so small compared with that given the Popular Movement that the situation was desperate. He said:

"The United States Congress talks about not getting involved because of the Vietnam experience. The United States has done it in Vietnam, now the Soviet Union is doing it in Angola."

He said he hoped to go to the United States soon to try to persuade members of Congress to vote for military assistance to the National Front. He formerly represented the National Front as observer at the United Nations.

Mr. Tuba said that his movement was prepared to accept assistance from anybody to fight what he called the foreign invasion. But when asked about help from South Africa, he said that the National Front

had never requested it and did not intend to do so because of its clear opposition to South Africa.

He said, however, that in southern Angola the combined forces of the National Union and National Front were "coexisting" with South African troops. He said he did not expect the South Africans to withdraw.

Mr. Tuba said that the National Front had requested the United States to supply arms or money and that such aid has reached the movement. He said it had never been given directly by Washington but had perhaps been channeled through African countries from which the National Front had requested aid.

He named Zaire, Tunisia, Cameroon and Ivory Coast as countries that had assisted his group, but named none as an American channel.

Mr. Tuba said that no agents of the Central Intelligence Agency were training or working with National Front troops in Angola. But he said that "friends of goodwill" were ad-

vising National Front military leaders here in Kinshasa. He did not specify their nationality. Earlier he had noted that his movement had a number of Portuguese "sympathizers."

Advancing Column Reported

LUSO, Angola, Jan. 14 (Reuters)—A commander of pro-Western National Union troops said here today that an armored force including Cubans and some Soviet advisers was advancing on this central Angolan rail center.

The commander, Col. Simuel Chiwali, said the column advancing from the north consisted of 1,000 Popular Movement soldiers, 500 Cubans and some Russians.

He expressed confidence that his men would be able to repel the column.

Correspondents today visited what were described as National Union front lines about 30 miles north of Luso.

To the east of Luso, National Union forces have reportedly advanced along the Benguela railroad to within about nine miles of Teixeira de Sousa, near the Zaire border.