

South Africa Asks a U.N. Angola Inquiry

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Jan. 27—South Africa proposed today that the Security Council send representatives to Angola to determine whether a threat to peace there was caused by South Africa or by Soviet and Cuban intervention.

"My Government would welcome on-the-spot investigation now," Roelof F. Botha, the South African delegate declared. He said, "I challenge those who accuse us to do the same"—to welcome investigations.

The South African delegate made a surprise appearance in the Council as it began debate on renewed Council efforts to compel South Africa to withdraw from neighboring South-west Africa, which the United Nations calls Namibia.

His remarks drew an immediate and angry response from the Soviet Union. Pounding the table, Mikhail Kharlamov called the South African statement a collection of falsehoods made to divert the Council from South Africa's alleged plundering and of Namibia and enslavement of its people. He declared that Moscow had no need for Angolan land, wealth or strategic position—he said it only seeks to help the Angolans decide their own future.

Salim A. Salim, the Tanzanian delegate, also retorted, protesting that the South African delegate was trying to rationalize South Africa's actions in Angola, adding: "South

Africa has no business absolutely to be in Angola."

Moses M. Garoeb, a spokesman for the South-West African People's Organization also replied, appealing to the Council not to be "hijacked" into irrelevant matters by South African "play-acting."

Diplomats had anticipated that the issue of South Africa sending military forces into Angola would be raised in the Council debate and it was, in fact, brought up by Yugoslavia, Mauritius and others earlier in the day. They charged that South Africa was building military bases in South-West Africa from which it was attacking into Angola.

However, there was no advance indication that the South African delegation would participate since from 1971 on it has boycotted Council debates in which South-West Africa is considered.

South Africa has administered the former German colony since it was given a League of Nations mandate there in 1920. South Africa has refused to recognize any United Nations jurisdiction in the territory but in recent years has asserted that it is preparing the inhabitants

for orderly progress toward independence — claims disputed by many black Africans.

The Council last debated the issue in June, when France, Britain and the United States cast vetoes against a resolution calling for an arms embargo against South Africa in an effort to compel it to withdraw from the territory. The three argued that the severe punitive measures of sanctions could be used only where a breach or threat to peace occurred.

Mr. Botha in his statement asserted that all United Nations actions regarding South-West Africa had been "one-sided, unrealistic and contrary to the interest of the people." He went on to attest to his Government's efforts to promote the territory's economic and political development.

He said that South Africa had sent a limited number of military forces to protect a dam in Angola that supplies water for the Owambo people in the Northern part of South-West Africa and did so because in the escalating war situation the Portuguese authorities were unable to protect the dam or workers.

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