

# Pro-West Angolan Units Leave Their Capital as Foe Advances

NYTimes

JAN 28 1976

LUSAKA, Zambia, Jan. 27 (UPI) — Angola's hard-pressed pro-Western forces have abandoned their administrative capital of Huambo in the center of the country, reports from the group said today.

With a tank-led column of Soviet-supported troops continuing to move southward toward the town, the administrative offices were reportedly moved 100 miles eastward to Silva Porto, the military headquarters of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

This development apparently brings to a formal end the designation of Huambo as a capital. Actually, reports from the town said last week, it has scarcely existed as a capital. Silva Porto was described as the real center of pro-Western forces.

Dispatches yesterday from Luanda, the capital of the Soviet-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, said the tank column was about 50 miles from Huambo. But reporters with the National Union troops said the Popular Movement was still at least 100 miles north of Huambo.

The shift to Silva Porto was being described as a precautionary measure, and National Union sources said their troops were making a stand north of Alto Hama.

But National Union officials here said that all journalists in the southern part of Angola

were being evacuated and that no other reporters would be permitted to enter the battle zone.

Huambo has been the joint capital of the National Union and its ally, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola. Reporters arriving here today from Angola said that there was shooting at the Huambo airport, and National Union sources said that its troops had clashed with members of a National Front splinter faction.

Luanda-based troops, lacked by Soviet T-54 tanks and MIG-21 fighters, reportedly broke through National Union defenses several days ago at Cela, north of Alto Hama. [Agence France-Presse quoted reports from Lusaka as saying the MIG:s were used for the first time in the Angolan fighting last Sunday during an attack on Novo Redondo on the Atlantic coast.]

According to Western diplomatic sources, soldiers of the National Union were slowing the advance of the tank-led column by shelling it from hills overlooking the road to Huambo.

Military strategists here said the Popular Movement offensive, in which Cuban soldiers were playing a key role, appeared timed to crush the allied southern defenses before any new aid could arrive from African or Western nations.

Some 1,200 South African



The New York Times/Jan. 28, 1976

**Pro-Western forces in  
Angola moved capital  
from Huambo eastward  
to Silva Porto.**

troops who had supported the National Union withdrew to the area of Angola's border with South-West Africa at the end of last week,

## Cease-Fire Called For

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 27 (Reuters)—South Africa's Foreign Minister, Hilgard Muller, called today for a ceasefire in Angola.

He warned the West that the Soviet Union intended taking control of Africa as part of a plan for world domination. Speaking in Parliament here, Dr. Muller said the non-Communist world should realize that what was happening in Angola was not just another faraway little civil war.

"It is the beginning of a new offensive aimed at gaining control over Africa and forms part of Russia's global strategy of eventual world domination," he said.