

CORE SAYS BLACKS SIGN FOR ANGOLA

FEB 11 1976

Innis Tells of 300 in U.S.
Set for Duty as Medics

NYTimes

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Roy Innis, director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said yesterday that CORE had recruited 300 black American veterans to go to Angola in mid-March to "assist anti-Communist forces there as combat medics."

The CORE official said that 1,000 more men were being "screened" by his organization in the New York, Washington and Baltimore areas and that travel expenses and salaries would be handled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

The National Union is allied with the National Front for the Liberation of Angola in a war against the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which is supported by the Soviet Union.

A spokesman for the Justice Department in Washington said that agency was "conducting several investigations of several organizations" involved in the recruiting of Americans to serve in Angola for possible violations of Federal laws.

Not Breaking Law

Mr. Innis, who was careful to point out that he was recruiting "combat medics," noted also that CORE lawyers had determined that the organization was not breaking the law.

But a source in the Justice Department contended that the law made "no distinction between mercenary and combat medic."

The CORE official told reporters in the Art Room of the New York State Office Building in Harlem that he had appealed to black veterans "on the basis of patriotism" and he said, "I applaud their noble acts" for supporting "their ancestral homeland in times of war."

He said that the men being recruited "are not mercenaries," and if they are to be paid, the national union would handle those details.

Recruiting Costs Minimal

The expenses for organizing, recruiting and screening the volunteers, Mr. Innis said, were minimal and were met by his own organization.

In a subsequent talk to two reporters in his private office, Mr. Innis emphatically denied receiving financial support from any American or African private or government interest.

The CORE official, who insisted that he had long fought against Marxism, condemned the assistance that the Soviet Union and Cuba were giving to the Popular Movement. He also denounced the Central Intelligence Agency's "covert" activities and called on President Ford and the Congress to send large emergency arms aid to the pro-Western forces to "create a military parity, pursuant to a government of national unity."

Earlier, the news conference was briefly disrupted when a black nationalist delegation stood and condemned the CORE position that, one man said, aligned itself with South Africa and with President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire "who killed Lumumba." The delegation was removed by CORE members after a series of noisy scuffles.

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