

PRO-SOVIET GROUP IN ANGOLA IS GIVEN O.A.U. RECOGNITION

African Unity Body Accepts
Luanda Regime One Month
After Impasse at Parley

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SHIFT BY LISBON HINTED

Portugal Suspends '75 Pact
Recognizing Legitimacy of
All 3 Warring Factions

NYTimes By Reuters

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Feb. 11—The Organization of African Unity today recognized the Soviet-supported Angolan nationalist movement as the legitimate government of Angola, according to an announcement from the group's secretariat.

The announcement said that the People's Republic of Angola established in Luanda by that movement had been admitted as the O.A.U.'s 47th member. The statement came as the movement's military forces and their Cuban allies, equipped with Soviet rockets, tanks and planes, were reported driving deep into territory once held by Western-supported Angolan factions.

[Portugal, which formally gave up sovereignty over Angola last Nov. 11, appeared moving toward recognizing the People's Republic. The Portuguese Government announced suspension of the agreement signed with the three warring factions a year ago recognizing all three as legitimate representatives of the Angolan people.]

Major Diplomatic Triumph

The O.A.U. announcement represented a major diplomatic triumph for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, whose forces had driven their Western-supported opponents to the Zaire border in the north and were now driving southward through the center of the country.

Only a month ago, a move to grant O.A.U. recognition to the Popular Movement had failed at a conference here of leaders of the member countries, who split 22 to 22 on the issue. Zaire and Zambia were among those backing the cause of the two allied movements—the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

Idi Amin, President of Uganda and chairman of the Organization of African Unity, took a neutral stand at the time along with Ethiopia, the host country.

But since then the Popular Movement has won new backers, notably Uganda, whose President announced his decision yesterday. Later in the day Togo also gave its recognition to Luanda, becoming the 27th African country to do so.

The O.A.U. announcement today said that a message had been sent to Dr. Agostinho Neto, president of the Luanda government, saying that, in accordance with the O.A.U.

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had been admitted with the approval of a simple majority of the member countries — 27 of 46.

The O.A.U. secretariat announced also that a ministerial meeting would be held here as scheduled on Feb. 23. This will presumably provide a forum where countries most bitterly opposed to the Popular Movement, notably aZire, can challenge the recognition announcement.

[Zaire's Foreign Minister, Nguza Karl-i-Bond, said in Washington that the O.A.U. move was illegal, United Press International reported. "It is not legal," he said, "because the O.A.U. charter says that the simple admission of a member requires a simple majority, but in the case of two pretenders it is a major decision requiring a two-thirds majority."]

It appeared, however, that by the time the O.A.U. ministers meet, virtually all of Angola would be under the control of the Popular Movement.

The O.A.U. message to Luanda said:

"The application for membership dated Jan. 8, 1976, has been circulated to member states and, in accordance with the charter, a simple majority of votes of approval has been received. Therefore, Angola, represented by your government, is now a full member of the O.A.U."

There was no mention of the application that had been submitted at the same time by the National Union and the National Front, which together had proclaimed a rival government at the central Angolan town of Humabo. Humabo was one of the towns that fell to the Popular Movement's forces this week.

Lisbon Suspends Accord

LISBON, Feb. 11—The Portuguese Government announced today a suspension of its agreement with the three Angolan nationalist factions recognizing all three as legitimate representatives of the people of Angola.

The move was interpreted as a step toward recognition of Soviet-supported government in Luanda.

Up to now Lisbon's policy has been strict adherence to "the spirit of Alvor." Alvor is the resort in southern Portugal where the independence agreement was signed in January 1975 with the three warring factions in Angola.

Besides recognizing the three independence movements as legitimate representatives of the Angolan people, the accord called for elections before independence day last Nov. 11. But no election could be held because of the outbreak of civil war in the colony.

Both the Military Council of the Revolution and the Government are deeply split on the question, but advocates of recognition of the Popular Movement's government seem to have gained ground as the movement made important military gains.

Opposition From Socialists

The Socialist party, which favors the principle of a government of national unity in Angola, has blocked recognition of the Popular Movement's regime.

Even today, the Socialist newspaper A Luta carried a front-page story headlined: "Portugal's Position on the Angolan Question Is Unchanged."

Citing pressures on the Government to recognize the Popular Movement, the newspaper listed what it said were two basic conditions for recognition: the holding of negotiations with Luanda leaders for guarantees of Portuguese interests in Angola, and recognition of the Popular Movement by the Organization of African Unity.

The O.A.U. announced its recognition of the Luanda government today, and this led to the widespread belief that Portugal would soon do the same.

U. S. Favors Joint Regime

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (Reuters)—Robert Funseth, the States Department spokesman, said today that the United States continued to hold the view that the Angola dispute should be solved by the formation of a government of national unity that would include all three factions.

Asked whether the United States would accept the Organization of African Unity's secretariat's decision to recognize the regime in Luanda, Mr. Funseth said the United States understood that there was a dispute within the O.A.U. and regarded the question of recognition as still hypothetical.

The United States has supplied assistance to both the National Union and the National Group but is barred by a law signed yesterday by President Ford from undertaking new covert aid.