

Press Dwells on Fighting But Not Own Army's Role

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HAVANA—Angola's war has become part of the life of every Cuban through very extensive coverage in the mass media here, although there is no mention of the role Cuba's soldiers are playing in the conflict.

The official eight-page daily, *Granma*, dedicates its entire back page to news on Angola with on-the-spot reports by Cuban newsmen.

The Cuban news agency, *Prensa Latina*, has sent several journalists to Angola, and their dispatches and interviews are published in full.

Short films on the war are being shown on television and at movie theaters. Last week an entire television program was dedicated to a film showing a house said to have been used for torture by one of the Western-backed forces and liberated by the Cuban backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. According to the house will be turned into a school.

A 24-hour news station repeats editorials and articles on Angola day and night. The progress of the Popular Movement is given step-by-step coverage in the Cuban press. Banner headlines in *Granma* earlier this week proclaimed the fall of Nova Lisbon and Santo Antonio do Zaire.

Dailies as well as weeklies

bitterly attack Chinese foreign policy and publishing photographs showing Chinese aides with the leaders of the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola—the two Western-backed factions.

Frequent mention is also made of the alleged intervention of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in the Angolan war and "agents" are often seen alongside "slant-eyed" advisers in cartoons. The Cuban visual symbols for the National Front and UNITA are two nasty-looking mice. The agents are pictured as "dollar sign" men and the mercenaries often sport a British mustache.

Although the Cuban mass media says nothing of the role Cuban soldiers play in the conflict, there are many posters displayed on walls quoting excerpts from Premier Fidel Castro's speeches, such as: "We are the Africans' brothers and we are ready to fight for them."

Only once has the Cuban press acknowledged the presence of Cuban troops in Angola by publishing a note from the Cuban envoy to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at the beginning of January.