

SFChronicle MAR 5 1976

Kissinger Warns Cuba Against New Intervention

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned Cuba yesterday to "act with great circumspection" toward the widening conflict in southern Africa.

Noting the intervention of 12,000 Cuban troops in the Angolan civil war and the cutoff of American aid to forces opposed to the MPLA (Popular Movement), Kissinger added that "our actions cannot

always be deduced by what we did in Angola."

But in testimony before the House International Relations Committee, Kissinger declined to say how, when or where the United States might retaliate against future Cuban military thrusts in Africa or elsewhere overseas. But he did say:

"We simply cannot be in a position of giving the Cubans an

indication of where it is safe for them to go. But we cannot elevate them to becoming the policemen of Africa."

Concern over future Cuban military action in Africa has heightened in recent weeks because of the victory of Cuban and Soviet arms on behalf of the MPLA and strife along the border between Mozambique and the forces of the white minority government of Rhodesia.

An official familiar with U.S. intelligence reports said there is no indication that Cuban forces have moved beyond Angolan borders to Mozambique.

As evidence of the Ford administration's deepening worries about the situation in southern Africa, Kissinger said he will consider adding South Africa, which is also ruled by a white minority, to his itinerary of black African states in the latter half of April.

His present schedule includes Nigeria, Zambia, Zaire, Tanzania and several former French and British colonies, he said.

The proposal that Kissinger visit South Africa was put forward by Representative Charles C. Diggs Jr. (Dem-Mich.), who is black. Kissinger said he thinks the idea "has considerable merit." The United States has had cool relations with South Africa since the 1950s.

The secretary remarked that it is "very hard to develop an African policy that encompasses all states," but added that the United States is on record at the United Nations in opposing white minority rule in Rhodesia, and South Africa's continuing dominance over South West Africa.

In response to a question by Diggs, Kissinger said the administration will be "having consultations in an open-minded way" on the possibility of opening diplomatic relations with the MPLA government in Luanda "once it is clear they are indeed a government of African origin and not totally beholden to foreign influence."

He said the entrance of "Cuban military forces" into the southern African crisis "would present the gravest problems."

Kissinger added that the current negotiations between Rhodesia's white minority and black majority leaders represent "perhaps the last opportunity for a peaceful result."

Kissinger had been invited by the House committee to testify on the outcome of his six-country Latin American trip last month.

In a prepared statement he said that all of his hosts had in mind "the extent to which Cuba's action in Angola may constitute an ominous precedent for intervention in this hemisphere."

Such moves would prompt the United States and some Latin American allies to "invoke our solemn treaty responsibilities" under the Rio de Janeiro security pact of 1947, he said.

New York Times