

Angola Reported Getting \$50 Million in U.S. Arms

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—The United States has sent \$25 million in arms and support funds to Angola over the last three months, a high-ranking Government official said today, and plans to send another \$25 million in supplies to counter the large-scale military intervention there by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The official said that the first \$25 million was distributed by the Central Intelligence Agency, mostly through Zaire, which has a 1,200-mile frontier with Angola.

He said the secret United States operation was an attempt "to create a stalemate" in the Angolan civil war.

Soviet Aid Cited

Strife broke out in July in the former Portuguese colony and has intensified since Angola attained independence Nov. 11. The civil war involves factions that grew out of three separate national liberation movements.

The official said that the Soviet Union had sent 27 shiploads of military supplies since the spring and, since October, has flown "30 to 40" supply missions with huge AN-22 cargo planes. He said there

were about 200 Soviet military advisers in Angola.

Since mid-October, Cuba has sent infantry weapons and troops to Angola. As of last week the Administration estimated there were 4,000 Cuban soldiers in combat.

Today, another high-ranking official said there was evidence that Cuba now had "close to 5,000" men in Angola. Cuban infantry and artillery units have been seen on all three major battle sectors in the northern and central regions of the country.

Cuban Role Described

According to intelligence reports reaching Washington the most effective weapons supplied by the Soviet Union are 24-barrel antipersonnel rocket launchers and tanks.

These launchers for 122-mm. rockets and the Soviet T-54 tanks are manned by Cubans, the official said, explaining: "The MPLA has experience in guerrilla fighting, but not with sophisticated weapons." MPLA is the Portuguese acronym for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

There was a report last week

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by the Luanda radio of artillery practice on the outskirts of the city, which the Popular Movement has declared its capital. American intelligence analysts believe this may be a sign of an attempt to train Angolans in the use of heavy weapons.

American military supplies have consisted mainly of portable infantry weapons, the official said, including large numbers of antitank missile launchers and antipersonnel rocket launchers—"the kind you hold on your shoulder that you could use with a minimum of training."

He said he was not in a position to give the designations of the weapons.

"There are no American advisers in Angola, either civilian or military," the official said. He added that no Americans were involved in the ground fighting.

However, he said that the United States had supplied five artillery spotter planes that flew into the Angolan battle zones, returning to bases in Zaire. "They fly in and out," he said of the American pilots.

The official said that the additional \$25 million worth of weapons and support funds to be sent to Angola "shortly" would exhaust the C.I.A.'s funds for such contingencies. Should the Administration want additional funds for the Angola struggle it would need Congressional authorization, the official remarked.

He said additional military equipment was being sent from Western Europe for the forces fighting the Popular Movement. But he did not disclose which countries were the suppliers, or

the nature or amount of the supplies.

"But the Soviet-Cuban involvement is far in excess of anything we or the Europeans are doing," he asserted.

He said that the American supplies were flown mostly by C-141 transports to landing fields in Zaire. There, he said, the equipment is turned over to the Zaire Army, which is said to have 1,000 soldiers on the northern Angola front above Luanda.

The Zaireans are reported to be fighting alongside the Front for the National Liberation of Angola headed by Holden Roberto, a brother-in-law of Zaire's President, Mobutu Sese Seko.

Help in the South

The official said that a small amount of American-supplied weapons had also reached the southern-based forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which is now allied with Mr. Roberto's forces.

The National Union forces are fighting the Luanda-based Popular Movement and Cubans in several sectors by a long front parallel to and sometimes crossing the 896-mile Benguela railway, which stretches from the Atlantic to the Zaire frontier.

The National Union troops have been bolstered by South African soldiers and equipment, including wheeled armored vehicles, the official said. Although the United States has no hard figures on the size of the South African involvement, American intelligence officials believe that about 1,000 South African soldiers are in Angola.

The American operation was characterized Tuesday by Secretary of State Henry A. Kis-

singer as "covert," and he therefore declined to give details about it at a news conference. Last night at a Washington forum William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, said the American assistance was "secret" and he, too, declined to supply details.

Pike Wants Discussion

Mr. Colby shared the rostrum with Representative Otis G. Pike, the Suffolk Democrat who is chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. After listening to Mr. Colby outline details of the Soviet-Cuban intervention in Angola Mr. Pike said it was "preposterous" not to discuss the American operation, too.

On Monday Mr. Colby briefed

the Pike committee on the Angola situation.

The official who gave details of the American effort to The New York Times said the reason President Ford had authorized the \$50 million supply operation was that "the Russians are in to win" all of Angola.

"Our effort is to have a stand-off between the factions so as to get all the parties together in a coalition," he added.

A high-ranking Soviet diplomat in Washington questioned about his country's aims in Angola, denied that the Soviet-Cuban involvement was designed to insure a take-over of all of Angola by the Popular Movement headed by Augustinho Neto.

"It is not total," he insisted. "We are just helping them stay alive, that's all. It is equal to your involvement. It is not that big. You have blown it up in your press."

Asked why there were so many Cuban soldiers in Angola, the diplomat replied: "Why don't you ask the Cubans? Secretary Kissinger should get in touch with them."

The diplomat indicated that the Soviet Union had not ruled out the idea of Angolan coalition talks as a means of ending the civil war. But American officials said the Soviet Union had not responded to Mr. Kissinger's proposal that coalition discussions be initiated through the offices of the United States and the Soviet Union.