

FORD SUPPORTERS START FILIBUSTER FOR ANGOLAN AID

Conservative Senators Seek to Halt Cutoff of Covert Funds to 2 Factions

COMPROMISE IS SOUGHT

Kissinger Meets Congress Leaders in an Attempt to End the Stalemate

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—

The Ford Administration sought today to reach a compromise with the Senate that would allow the United States to continue covert support operations in the Angolan civil war.

The move was initiated by Senator Robert P. Griffin, Republican of Michigan, after John L. McClellan, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, failed to induce President Ford to concur in a system that would enable the Congress to play a larger role in deciding on such secret operations.

On Senator Griffin's invitation, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger conferred with about 25 leading Senators on an arrangement that would end the present stalemate. A filibuster is being conducted in the Senate against an amendment that would immediately cut off funds for assistance to two Angolan factions.

No 'Meeting of Minds'

Emerging from the meeting, Mr. Kissinger said that it had not been "a meeting of minds," but that he was taking the Senate leaderships proposals to Mr. Ford.

Senator John Tunney, a California Democrat, who is leading an attempt to cut off all funds for Angola, said he intended to push for the cutoff tomorrow.

"Nothing is acceptable that won't result in a cutoff of all funds for military aid to Angola," he said. "I don't want to see more money down this rathole."

The filibuster began about 2 P.M. when Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic majority leader, requested a vote on the cutoff amendment submitted by Senator Tunney and 12 others.

Senator McClellan, the Arkansas Democrat who has been managing the \$112 billion

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defense appropriations bill, slipped out and telephoned President Ford, appealing for his approval of a procedure involving Congress in the funding of covert operations.

The funds for the Angola operations have come out of the defense appropriations, according to officials of the Central Intelligence Agency in testimony before a Senate committee.

According to other Senators, Mr. McClellan proposed that in future requests for covert funds, the President should first seek the approval of the Appropriations Committee and, upon approval, the request would go directly to the full Senate.

Under the present system the Administration simply informs Senator McClellan and his minority colleague on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Milton R. Young, Republican of North Dakota, and they either approve or disapprove without any further airing in committee or in the Senate as a whole.

A White House spokesman, William I. Greener, said President Ford had discussed the proposal with Senator McClellan, but "no arrangement could be reached."

As the filibuster by conservative Senators wore on, Mr. Kissinger arrived at the office of Hugh Scott, Republican Minority Leader from Pennsylvania, and agreed to provide the leadership with more information about the Angola situation, as well as the Administration's view on the covert operations, on which \$33 million has already been spent.

Kissinger Conveys Offer

After two hours of discussion, Mr. Kissinger promised to convey a refined compromise proposal to the President and to return tomorrow with a response. The compromise was described by a Senator as involving a concurrence of the Senate in a \$10 million increment for Angolan aid, after which the Administration would have to obtain regular Senate approval of any further funding.

The Administration is seeking \$28 million in additional funds for the Front for the National Liberation of Angola in the north and the National Union For Total Independence of Angola in the south. The two groups are opposing the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which has the support of the Soviet Union and has established a government in Luanda, the capital of the former Portuguese colony.

The total aid projected by the Administration for Angolan aid this year comes to \$60 million.

But, the Central Intelligence Agency's contingency funds for covert activity are said to total only \$50 million, of which two-thirds is already exhausted, either through expenditures and commitments.

It is the belief of Senator Tunney and his Senate allies that by amending the defense appropriation to bar further covert expenditures it can deny the C.I.A. the capacity to continue Angola operations.

The Tunney forces showed their strength early in the afternoon in defeating a substitute amendment by Senator Griffin that would have allowed the covert operations to continue. The vote was 72 to 26.

This left the pro-Administration Senators with the filibuster as their only weapon, made more effective by the nearness of the Christmas holidays and the desire of a number of Senators to go home tomorrow or Saturday.

Senator Tunney and some of his allies said they were determined to force a resolution of the issue, even if it meant staying in Washington. Several said they believed they had the 60 votes needed to bring about cloture, ending the filibuster and compelling a vote on the cutoff amendment.

It was this threat, according to Administration officials, that caused Secretary Kissinger and the White House to agree to the compromise attempt.

While the Senate prepared for its third day of debate on the Angola issue, the House International Relations Committee approved an amendment to the foreign assistance bill that would require the Administration to clear future Angola expenditures with the Congress.