

Senate Votes to Halt Military Aid to Angola

Washington

The Senate voted yesterday to cut off funds for covert U.S. military aid for two anti-Soviet factions in Angola, and President Ford promptly asked the lawmakers to reconsider in "the national interest."

The 54-to-22 vote was a setback to the Ford administration, which had warned, through Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, that the move would have "disastrous" consequences for U.S. foreign policy.

"Failure to do so will seriously violate the national interest of the United States," the President said.

Mr. Ford asked for Senate reversal before it adjourned for Christmas, but both houses of Congress recessed until January 19.

Mr. Ford said that cutting off the money will ultimately "profoundly affect the security of our country as well."

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The vote came in a motion by Senator John Tunney (Dem-Calif.) to prevent the Central Intelligence Agency from using any of the funds in a pending \$112.3 billion Defense Department appropriation bill for covert military

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operations in Angola.

Then the Senate sent the full bill to the House for final approval. House Speaker Carl Albert said the House will not take up the bill until it reconvenes, possibly January 19.

More than 140 members co-sponsored a House resolution urging Mr. Ford to seek a peace agreement in Angola and provide no military assistance unless it is specifically approved by Congress. Representative Don Bonker, (Dem-Wash.) said, "that should be a pretty good indication of congressional opposition to our present course in Angola."

Mr. Ford told reporters, "The sole issue is the provision of modest amounts of assistance to oppose military intervention by two extra-continental powers, namely the Soviet Union and Cuba."

He warned that the cutoff "is a deep tragedy for all countries whose security depends on the United States."

Democratic leader Mike Mansfield had told the Senate he does not believe the fate of Angola is essential to the security of the United States. He said U.S. secret involvement in the south African nation strongly parallels the commitments that led the United States into the war in Vietnam.

But the President said "a great nation cannot escape its responsibilities. Responsibilities abandoned today will return as more acute crises tomorrow."

Mr. Ford asked: "How can the United States, the greatest power in the world, take the position that the Soviet Union can operate with impunity many thousands of miles away with Cuban troops and massive amounts of military equipment, while we refuse any assistance to the majority of the local people who ask only for military equipment to defend themselves?"

Kissinger said at the State Department that "the United States cannot escape its responsibilities even by congressional votes." He said, "We have no great power ambitions in Africa."

Some senators tried to postpone all action until next year on promises from Chairman John McClellan (Dem-Ark) of the Senate Appropriations Committee, that he would allow no funds to be



PRESIDENT FORD
His plea was ignored

reprogrammed for use in Angola without the approval of his committee and the full Senate.

At the State Department, Kissinger said the Soviet Union has been giving substantial financial support to the Marxist faction in Angola for more than a year.

But he disputed suggestions in a newspaper report that the Central Intelligence Agency began broad financial operations inside the west African country more than two months before the first significant Soviet build-up.

"We reacted to what the Soviets did," Kissinger said.

He acknowledged that there may be some "slight fluctuations" in the administration's account of U.S. involvement in the Angolan civil war.

Kissinger, speaking with reporters at a ceremony at the National Portrait Gallery, honoring former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, defended the administration's role in Angola.

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