

Senate Bars Angola Aid; Defense Bill Is Held Over

By Spencer Rich

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A 54-to-22 Senate vote yesterday blocked new funds for secret Central Intelligence Agency aid to U.S.-backed factions in Angola, and action on the \$112.3 billion defense money bill was held up until the next session of Congress.

President Ford, who had strongly urged approval of the Angola money, called the action a "deep tragedy for all countries whose security depends on the U.S." and said failure to finance opposition to Russian and Cuban intervention in the African nation ultimately will

"profoundly affect the security of our country as well."

With Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger leading the campaign, the administration had sought \$28 million in the big defense bill for weapons and money for the two factions it is supporting in the Angola civil war.

But the Senate, on the 54-to-22 vote, added language sponsored by John V. Tunney (D-Calif.), Dick Clark (D-Iowa), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and others barring any of the funds in the bill from being used for Angola aid.

That in itself wasn't final,

since the House must approve such language as well. But when the measure was rushed to the House, Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said there was no time to debate the Tunney amendment this year and so the whole \$112.3 billion defense measure will lie over until the next session.

This decision gave the administration time to drum up House votes against the Tunney amendment, but it also held up any further Angola expenditure except for relatively small amounts left over from last year, because

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the new money for Angola was all in the held-up bill.

Until the defense bill is eventually passed, the Pentagon will have to operate under an emergency financing resolution at an annual spending rate about \$7 billion less than \$112.3 billion.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee told reporters that, in addition to about \$27 million already covertly channeled to Angola groups, the CIA has about \$5 million left over from last year "in the pipeline" and \$3.2 million left over in a special emergency fund. This \$8.2 million total can be spent since it is already appropriated.

But the added \$28 million can't be spent until the defense bill is passed, and only then if the Tunney Amendment is eventually dropped and if the Senate Appropriations Committee okays certain fund transfers that are required by law.

In a floor exchange just before the Tunney amendment was adopted, appropriations Committee Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) vowed that he wouldn't allow the CIA to secretly reprogram any of its funds in the future for Angola aid unless his committee and

the entire Senate gave its approval. That pledge would apply to all bills regardless of whether the Tunney amendment wins final congressional approval.

Earlier yesterday it appeared that the White House would persist in backing a brief Republican filibuster to prevent a vote on the Tunney amendment. However, late in the day it switched signals and told GOP leaders to allow the vote—in part, according to one report, to let the public know who would be responsible for any Soviet gains in Angola.

At the State Department, spokesman Robert Funseth said "some Soviet military advisers" are operating in Angola—which Russia has denied.

U.S. officials said they assume the advisers are showing the Marxist faction in Angola how to operate military equipment provided by Moscow.

Funseth declined to elaborate on the meaning of "adviser."

Yesterday morning, at a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee, most members said they opposed the \$28 million for fear the United States would fall into another Vietnam-like situation. Sens. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.), Jacob K.

Javits (R-N.Y.) and Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said Kissinger had informed them at a three-hour meeting late Thursday that there weren't any funds outside the defense bill to supplement the \$8.2 million left over from last year for Angola.

In the House, over 140 members signed a resolution circulated by Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash.) expressing the sense of the House that the United States and all other foreign countries should stay out of Angola and that the President should refrain from providing direct or indirect military aid to any faction.

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