



KENNETH KAUNDA
...no easy solution

Angola War Worries Zambians

By Tom Lambert

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LUSAKA, Zambia—Neither this capital nor its blacks strolling the hot and sunny length of its wide, main Cairo Boulevard evince any noticeable concern about the war in Angola to the west, but Zambia's officials and opinion-makers are deeply worried about it.

"Our anxiety is on several levels," one of them said. "We grieve for the Angolans who are being killed in the war, we are uneasy about our western border with Angola, we are distraught that Cuba, which has been friendly to Africa, now is killing Africans in Angola."

"But our other great worry," another Zambian said, "is about the Russians in Angola. Why are they continuing this war? Why are they saying who must rule Angola? Why are they helping Africans to kill Africans? And, above all, what are they up to? What are they up to in Angola? Is Soviet intervention there only part of a wider Soviet pattern for Africa?"

The war in Angola is of far more than neighborly concern to Zambia. It impinges painfully on this country's already shaky economy, its financial future and its dogged hopes for peace and stability in Africa.

A Marxist victory in Angola, one Zambian speculated, might "cause difficulties" in this country's future use of Angola's Benguela rail line over which—before the unrest and war began—landlocked

Zambia had moved much of its exports and imports through Atlantic ports. "And if the OAU (Organization of African Unity) splits over Angola, if the war is not settled by the Angolans and Africa begins taking sides on Angola, there can be more trouble, more hostilities on the continent. Countries might not survive," a key Zambian said. "Some of them are not all that strong and stable, you know."

Officially, Zambia opposes foreign intervention from any source in Angola and insists that the country's future must be decided by its own 6 million people.

But hope seems to be diminishing here that any such policy can prevail because of the Soviet-Cuban intervention in Angola's war and the intransigence of two of that country's factional leaders—Marxist Agostinho Neto and Holden Roberto of the anti-Communist Angolan National Liberation Front.

Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda reportedly told some of his followers here recently that the ideological hostility between Neto and Roberto made him despair of a peaceful resolution of the Angolan war. Some Zambians fear it may drag on interminably. Some speculate that the Marxists, reinforced with more Cubans and more Soviet weapons, may try—at the end of the rainy season two months hence—to crush their anti-Communist foes, whose foreign help seems to be dwindling.

Informed Zambians say "some thought" is being given by some African leaders for a recommendation to be made at the OAU summit meeting this month in Addis Ababa that the three warring factions try to revive their coalition, which broke up several months before Portugal granted independence to Angola in November.

But one influential Zambian speculated pessimistically that such a recommendation would "get nowhere, because Neto has said and keeps saying he will not take part in any such arrangement."

Zambia has been friendly with the Soviet Union (although probably more so with China), and some Zambians profess almost anguished bewilderment about Moscow's role in Angola.

"They used to assist African liberation movements," one Zambian said, "but now, using Cubans to do their fighting, they are trying to install their chosen movement as Angola's government. That is not their business. It's different, yes, but it reminds me of the Russians in Czechoslovakia; finish off Dubcek, retain their man with their armies."