

Aide Won't Deny U.S. Trains Foreigners for War in Angola

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (AP)—President Ford's spokesman would not deny today that the United States is training foreigners to fight in Angola. Asked whether any such concern was recruiting technicians or advisers, he said: "Not that I know of."

Ron Nessen, White House press secretary, was asked at his regular news briefing whether any non-Americans, possibly Cuban refugees, were being recruited or trained for that purpose.

"I don't have anything to add," Mr. Nessen replied. He refused to elaborate or to say whether Fort Benning, Ga., was being used to train any personnel who might go to Angola.

Press Report Is Denied

Mr. Nessen did deny, however, a report by The Christian Science Monitor that the Central Intelligence Agency has recruited indirectly about 600 Americans to fight in the Angolan civil war.

He gave reporters a flat assurance that no United States Government agency was recruit, hiring or training American mercenaries.

In response to questions, Mr. Nessen added: "As far as I know, no private company or contractor is hiring American mercenaries for combat duty."

"It's no secret the United States is giving modest amounts of assistance to some African countries," Mr. Nessen said. But as to whether this assistance was finding its way into the Angolan fighting, he said there is "no way of knowing precisely how that money is spent to the very last cent."

In an article by a staff correspondent, David Anable, The Monitor said yesterday that 300 Americans already are operating in Angola and another 300 are ready to go when the C.I.A. gets the needed money.

Angola Cease-Fire Urged

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Jan. 2 (AP)—An immediate cease-fire in the Angolan civil war is urged by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, one of the three warring factions. South African press reports said today.

The call was made at the annual congress of the faction in Silva Porto, a central Angolan city. The Johannesburg Star reported.