

## HIRING FOR ANGOLA SAID TO BE HALTED

BOSTON, Jan. 4 (AP)—The Christian Science Monitor said in its Monday editions that recruiting and training of Americans in the United States to serve as mercenaries in Angola had come to an abrupt halt.

"But the clampdown is not enough to have halted the operations of the 300 or so American mercenaries already in Angola," the newspaper said, quoting "sources close to" the Central Intelligence Agency.

The paper said the halt had apparently been a result of its publication of an article last week that said C.I.A.-sponsored training of American ex-servicemen for mercenary service had taken place at Fort Benning, Ga.

The White House and other agencies at first denied last week's story as "without foundation," but later modified those denials. The White House press Secretary, Ron Nessen, said no Government agency was using American mercenaries in Angola, nor was any such agency recruiting, hiring or training American mercenaries.

When asked if a private contractor might be doing so, he said not "as far as I know." And he declined to go beyond his statement when asked if foreign mercenaries were being hired.

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