

London Doubts Angola Bribery Charge

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LONDON, Jan. 5—The British Foreign Office said today that it "attaches no credence" to allegations by the head of the Liberal Party that Moscow had bribed one or more African leaders to recognize the government set up by Angolan Marxists.

Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, said last week that he had information from an impeccable source that the Soviet Union had paid \$50 million in a goal to win African support for the Luanda government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. The group, which has the overt support of the Russians and has been recognized by 19 African countries, is contesting with two other nationalist groups for control of the vast, rich southern African territory.

Commenting on the allegation, an official spokesman here said: "On the information so far received, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office attaches no credence to the allegations."

A Government source said: "Mr. Thorpe did tell us the name of a country, but he didn't substantiate his allegations or name his source. So far we don't believe it."

After two telephone conversations with David Ennals, Minister of State in the Foreign Office and the highest-ranking official after James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Thorpe said: "I am a little surprised by Mr. Ennals's first statement, which was immediately released following general preliminary discussion on the telephone. However, as a result of a second telephone conversation, I have undertaken to provide certain detailed information, and this I will be doing. In the light of this I have no further comment to make."

Liberal Party officials said that Mr. Thorpe was also giving details to selected African heads of state in advance of the meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Saturday. They said that he would provide "the name of the country and

the person involved, how it was arranged and who organized it and what date."

It was unclear why Mr. Thorpe apparently did not give such details to the Foreign Office.

Mr. Thorpe has said that he spent four or five days going into the details of the allegation before disclosing it. He said the Foreign Office was given the same information from the same source shortly before Christ-spokesman strongly denied that the Labor Party Government knew of the matter before it became public.