

MOSCOW REBUTS FORD ON ANGOLA

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Statement Seen as Dashing
Hopes in U.S. That Soviet
Will Halt Intervention

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MOSCOW, Jan. 6—The Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia issued a toughly worded rejection today of the recent attacks on its Angola involvement by President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The statement, in a front-page editorial, was regarded here as a negative response to hopes expressed in Washington that Moscow might mitigate its military support for the Luanda government, one of three factions fighting for control of the former Portuguese colony.

At the same time, the editorial underscored the importance that Moscow attaches to the approaching session of the Organization of African unity, which is expected either to endorse the People's Republic of Angola, set up by the Luanda authorities, or call for the formation of a coalition government.

Izvestia did not mention the prospect of coalition, but the Kremlin is seen as flexible on this point.

The African organization, Izvestia said, can be expected to "make its contribution to the defense of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola and thus will help its formation on the road to peace, territorial integrity and progress."

The recent suggestions that Moscow might be ready to

Continued on Page 4, Column 4

Moscow Rebuts Ford on Angola Role

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

scale down aid to Luanda were apparently based on what experienced diplomats in Moscow regard as a misinterpretation of an ambiguous line in a Pravda editorial article on Saturday calling for an end to foreign intervention.

"foreign intervention" does not refer to Russian actions but those of other countries. Today's Izvestia editorial avoided a call for the end of foreign intervention. It portrayed the Soviet Union as a defender of the new state of Angola against outside forces, such as the South Africans, who are supporting factions opposed to the Luanda authorities.

"The troops of the interventionists deeply penetrated its territory," Izvestia declared, "and are trying to liquidate the results of almost 14 years of the fight of the Angolan people for independence, and to plant in the country a puppet pro-colonial regime."

Referring to the Luanda authorities as "the legitimate government of Angola," Izvestia characterized the two other factions, as "a screen for the execution of aggression by international imperialist forces,

which combine in their ranks South African racists, surviving Portuguese fascists and mercenaries recruited in the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty countries."

"The imperialist interference in others' affairs," the editorial contended, "is being camouflaged by a noisy propaganda campaign about a supposed Soviet threat, and about the alleged conflict between the support being rendered to the legitimate Government of the People's Republic of Angola, on the one hand, and the policy of détente, on the other hand."

Izvestia said allegations along these lines by such people as Daniel P. Moynihan, the United States representative to the United Nations, could be discounted.

"However, more responsible Western figures have also spoken out recently on the Angola problem," the paper declared, evidently alluding to President Ford and Mr. Kissinger.

The Editorial continued. "Those who present themselves in the cloak of 'friends of the Angola people' could be asked what they were doing for all those long years while the Angolans fought the foreign oppressor. Was it not NATO

weapons, including American weapons, with which the Portuguese colonial army was equipped?"

Referring to American press reports, Izvestia said the Central Intelligence Agency continued to provide support for the anti-Luanda factions despite a recent Senate vote denying further funds for such activities.

The impression prevails in the diplomatic community here that, at least for the moment, the Soviet Union is prepared to stay on its present course in Angola, American protests notwithstanding. What form the American diplomatic pressure is taking is not known here, apparently not even to the American embassy.

But given the Soviet definition of détente, which assumes the Russians' continued support of what they consider "national liberation movements, and given the relatively low risks met by Moscow in Angola, experts here believe the Kremlin endorsement of a coalition in which the Luanda forces have a good chance for dominance is the greatest concession that can be expected, and that only if the majority of African states endorse such an approach.

Moscow Denies Paying \$50 Million Bribe on Angola

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MOSCOW, Jan. 6 (AP)—The Soviet Union today denied that it had paid a \$50 million bribe to a West African leader for his support of the Luanda-based faction in Angola.

The official press agency, Tass, labeled the charge made by Jeremy Thorpe, the British Liberal Party leader, as "nothing but an impudent lie."

Mr. Thorpe said Saturday that he had learned from an impeccable source that Moscow paid the bribe to an African leader whom he refused to name. The British Foreign Office later said that Mr. Thorpe had not substantiated his charges.