

A Letter by Ford
Angers Nigerians

Press Says Appeal on
Angola Situation Was
an Insult to African
Intelligence

Lagos, Nigeria,
Jan. 7 (Reuters) -
Government-owned
Nigerian newspapers
today accused Presi-
dent Ford of having
insulted the
intelligence of
African nations with
a letter urging them
to help bring about
a quick negotiated
end to the Angolan
civil war and a
government of all
factions there.

The letter,
addressed to Brig.
Murtala Muhammed,
the Nigerian chief
of state, and made
public by the
Government here,
said that the
Popular Movement for
the Liberation of
Angola "should not
be allowed to assume
total power by force
of Soviet and Cuban
arms."

It reportedly was
similar to other

It reportedly was similar to
other letters from President
Ford to African leaders in ad-
vance of a discussion of the
Angolan civil war at a meeting
of the 46-nation Organization
of African Unity later this
week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
[In Washington, a White House
spokesman said that the letter,
being a private communication,
would not be made public by
the United States but he
termed the text as transmitted
by Reuters accurate.]

Supporter of Luanda

The strong Nigerian reaction
served to underline the Govern-
ment's recent campaign on be-
half of the Angolan government
proclaimed by the Popular
Front in Luanda on Nov. 11,
the day of independence from
Portugal.

Nigeria wants the O.A.U. to
recognize the Luana authorities
as the sole government of the
country, and the Nigerian Ex-
ternal Affairs Commissioner,
Col. Joseph Garba, said on leav-
ing for Addis Ababa that his
delegation would seek to con-
vince the others to resist United
States pressure for the with-
drawal of all foreign troops
from Angola.

Nigeria's present position is
a reversal of its stand in the
first days of Angolan independ-
ence, when it pledged to sup-
port any O.A.U. efforts to end
the fighting if all rival Angolan
liberation movements were rep-
resented.

Then on Nov. 27, after six
generally left-leaning African
countries had recognized the
Luanda government, Nigeria
also gave its endorsement. Since
it is one of the most powerful
black African countries eco-
nomically and militarily, its step
appeared to deal a strong blow
to the O.A.U. position that all
three Angolan factions should
form a government of national
unity.

The Nigerian reaction served
to underline the Government's
campaign on behalf of the Lu-
anda authorities on the eve of
the opening of a discussion of
the Angolan civil war at a
meeting of the Organization of
African Unity in Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

After the Popular Movement
proclaimed the establishment of
a government in Luanda on
Nov. 11, Nigeria first said it
would back any mediation ef-
forts if all three Angolan na-
tionalist movements took part.

Then on Nov. 27, after a
number of African countries
had recognized the Luanda gov-
ernment, Nigeria said it did
also. Since then, Nigeria has
been insisting that the African
organization formally endorse
the Luanda government.

'To Hell With America'

The Nigerian reaction to the
Ford letter amounted to the
fiercest attack on a foreign gov-
ernment since the new military
Government came into power
last July.

The mass-circulation Daily
Times carried the headline
"Shut Up."

The Nigerian Herald used
half its front page for the
words "To Hell With America"
superimposed on a photograph
of Mr. Ford. A brief editorial
said Africa must stand up
squarely to the crude bullying
and insulting logic of the U.S.
Government. President Ford's
double quick march to the right
wing for the purpose of a Presi-
dential election cannot be done
at the expense of innocent An-
golan people. Nor could Henry
Kissinger give substance to his
cosmetic diplomacy that failed
in Indochina and the Middle
East by trampling like a rogue
elephant on the independence
of Angolans."

Such comments were appar-
ently prompted by the final
passage in President Ford's
letter, which described the
coming O.A.U. meeting as po-
tentially "extremely impor-
tant in promoting an early end
to the fighting and a peaceful
settlement" in Angola.

The passage said also that
the United States hoped that
the O.A.U. would "insist on a
prompt end to all foreign in-
volvement in Angola" and
bring about negotiations be-
tween the Popular Front and
its rivals, the National Front
for the Liberation of Angola
and the National Union for the
Total Independence of Angola.

The letter promised that the
United States would "urge
South Africa to end its in-
volvement" in the Angolan
civil war if an end to foreign
intervention was supported
also by "ther distant powers,"
meaning the Soviet Union and
Cuba.

"We cannot, however, stand
idly by if the Soviet and Cuban
intervention persists," the let-
ter declared.