

WXPost JAN 9 1976
Angola Stymies Africans

Pullout Notice Denied Session Defers Issue

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

Ford administration officials said yesterday that all foreign forces should withdraw from Angola "the sooner the better," but they denied receiving notice that South Africa is pulling out its troops "within 48 hours."

The United States wanted South Africa to announce before the opening of the 46-nation Organization of African Unity conference in Addis Ababa yesterday that it is prepared to remove its forces from Angola.

The presence of Pretoria's troops there, reinforcing American-supported Angolan anti-communist factions, has put the United States on the spot and has undercut U.S. demands for withdrawal of Soviet advisers and 5,000 to 7,500 Cuban troops supporting the other side.

U.S. sources said it is unlikely, although not impossible, that South Africa would precipitously pull all its troops out of Angola without bargaining for something in return. At the most, these sources said, they were hoping for an announcement of intention to withdraw rather than an actual pullout.

Authoritative U.S. sources said late yesterday that South Africa has made clear that it plans at a minimum to keep in place its troops who are just over the Angolan border to guard the Cunene hydroelectric project, until the safety of that plant is assured. Other South African troops are deeper in Angola.

A spokesman at the South African embassy in Washington reaffirmed that position yesterday. The Cunene plant, about 15 miles

See DIPLOMACY A6, Col.6

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Foreign Service

ADDIS ABABA, Jan. 8—African foreign ministers met here today to begin preparations for a summit meeting on Angola and almost immediately ended their meeting in what observers saw as an admission that the issues is too hot for them to handle.

After meeting for less than three hours, the ministers announced that they had agreed on an agenda for the summit session scheduled to begin Saturday—"the problem of Angola"—and were turning the matter over to their chiefs of state to debate and take action on.

Observers here could recall no precedent for such an abrupt action and said it showed that the Angola issue is too explosive and divisive for the foreign ministers themselves to deal with, despite the growing expectation here that the Cuban- and Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola will be recognized by the Organization of African Unity as Angola's sole legitimate government.

Keynote speeches at the ministers' session made it clear that South Africa—which with the United States is backing the Popular Movement's two rivals—will be the main target for attack and condemnation and probably the main rallying point for African unity at a meeting otherwise deeply split over how to resolve the Angolan crisis.

To date, 21 of the OAU's 46 member states have recognized the Popular Movement, while none has yet recognized the Western-backed alliance of the Popular Movement's opponents, the National Front for the

See SUMMIT, A6, Col.1

**Cabinda's Oil Wells
Said in Production**

Reuter.

BELGRADE, Jan. 8—Angolan workers have partly resumed oil production in Cabinda, Angola's northern enclave, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported from Luanda today.

Quoting reports from Cabinda, which is controlled by the Popular Movement for

the Liberation of Angola, Tanjug said Angolans and workers of other nationalities who refused to leave for Zaire with American experts had reopened some of Cabinda's wells.

U. S. Denies Knowledge Of Pullout by S. Africa

DIPLOMACY, From A1 inside Angola's border, supplies power to neighboring Southwest Africa (Namibia). Pretoria's control of Namibia is violently condemned by African nations.

There are an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 South African troops in Angola, supporting the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (NFLA). The United States is supplying weapons and money to UNITA and the National Front in their fight against the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

South Africa has specifically acknowledged only that it has forces protecting the Cunene project.

On Wednesday night the National Broadcasting Co. said in a television report that the United States "has received word the South Africans will be out of Angola within 48 hours." Other news agencies subsequently reported variations of that account.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said

yesterday, "We have received no official word that South Africa is withdrawing troops" from the Angolan civil war. Many listeners interpreted Nessen's language as an official hedge, for the United States insists it is "not cooperating" with South Africa, but is engaged only in an "exchange of intelligence."

But other sources said the United States has no information on an actual troop withdrawal, although these sources have said that South African troops in Angola recently have become "less active."

South Africa prevented its own newspapers yesterday from publishing the NBC report. In Cape Town, a 8 Defense Ministry spokesman, when asked if the report was accurate, said, "To the best of my knowledge—no."

South African Defense Minister Pieter Botha yesterday avoided the specific subject. He said in a statement that appeared timed to the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa:

"On many occasions in the past we have emphasized that

South Africa has no claim in Angola and that we would like to see Angola as a free and independent country—free from interference on the part of outside forces."

Ford administration, South Africa and many other anti-Communist governments in Europe and in Africa are trying to head off an OAU condemnation of South Africa that does not also reproach the Soviet Union and Cuba.

State Department spokesman Robert L. Funseth reiterated yesterday, "We want all foreign forces out of Angola, and the sooner the better."

The spokesman rejected as "completely unwarranted" Nigeria's attack Tuesday on President Ford's private letter to Nigeria and other African governments. The letter said the United States would not "stand idly by" if Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola continues.

Nigeria's government-controlled newspapers said Mr. Ford's letter to head of state Brig. Gen. Murtala Muhammet insulted African intelligence and "the dignity of the black man."

Angola Issue Stymies OAU

SUMMIT, From A1

Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

(In the Angolan capital of Luanda, meanwhile, the Popular Movement announced that its president, Agostinho Neto, and premier, Lopo do Nascimento, will attend the OAU summit meeting on Saturday. The announcement was seen as an indication the Popular Movement is confident it will receive enough votes to be admitted to membership in the organization.)

Although the African organization's current chairman, Uganda's President Idi Amin, called from Kampala for a cease-fire timed to the summit meeting and urged a three-way coalition government of national unity in Angola, there was increasing doubt here that the OAU can reconcile the three warring parties at this late date.

Keynote speakers warned that the issue poses the most serious crisis in the OAU's 13 years of existence, and Ghana's Foreign Minister R. J.A. Felli said that Angola could be the death-knell of the organization if no African solution is found.

Foreshadowing the direction that speeches here are

expected to take, Gen. Teferi Bante, chairman of Ethiopia's provisional military government, today said, "The struggle in Angola is for the soul and body of Africa," adding:

"For the first time, in a sustained and determined manner, (South Africa) has taken the offensive against the onward march of independence in southern Africa. This offensive will have to be stopped in its tracks or it will reel back the frontiers of freedom."

Ghana's Felli called pursuit of an Angolan government of national unity "futile" at this point, and came out strongly in support of the Popular Movement as Angola's human and material interference in Angola" and the adoption by the African organization of a pure "African solution."

But he, like half a dozen other arriving foreign ministers interviewed, gave little indication of what the basis for such a solution might be.

It increasingly appears that the major divisive issue at the summit may well be that of whether to extend formal diplomatic recognition to the Popular Movement—and thereby risk splitting the African body into two hostile blocs and eliminating any possibility for a reconciliation

among the three Angolan parties.

Supporters of UNITA and the National Front, and those still hoping for a national unity government, will probably try to prevent the OAU from taking a decision on the issue.

One likely tactic is to argue that the OAU has no right to deal with the problem.

The foreign ministers of Gabon, Morocco, Central African Republic and Senegal

all concurred in airport arrival statements today that "Recognition is a question that concerns individual states, not the Organization of African Unity."

Another likely strategy is to get recognition considered "an important matter" requiring a two-thirds vote.

The other major object of attention and speculation here today was the arrival of a four-man Cuban delegation led by Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's permanent representative at the United Nations. Osman Cienfuegos, a member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and secretary of the Council of Ministers, is also expected here.

It is not known yet what status the Cuban delegation will have at the conference, but it likely will be admitted as an observer.

A similar status may also be granted to Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), a leading member of the Black Caucus, who arrived here yesterday calling for the United States to respect whatever decisions the OAU adopts.



United Press International

A captured South African soldiers being presented to reporters at Luanda's Ministry of Information in December, according to an Angolan newspaper.