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Church Says Kissinger Overruled CIA on Angola

Washington

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) charged yesterday that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger imposed the U.S. covert role in Angola over the opposition of the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department.

Church, chairman of the Senate select committee on intelligence and an undeclared candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, told a breakfast audience of newsmen that the CIA opposed the Angola operation because of the impossibility of concealing "anything of that magnitude" in military support operations.

The United States has earmarked about \$35 million in covert assistance to two factions in the Angolan civil war opposing the Soviet-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), according to the testimony of administration witnesses on Capitol Hill.

Of this amount at least \$27 million has been spent to counter a Soviet investment that Kissinger estimated yesterday to be

\$200 million.

Church said he regards Kissinger as a "compulsive interventionist," but nonetheless esteems his efforts to achieve rapprochement with China, detente with the Soviet Union and peace in the Middle East.

Church also said the administration's decision to involve itself in a major intervention in Angola triggered the resignation of Nathaniel Davis, former head of the State Department's African Bureau.

Davis reportedly counseled against U.S. military support for the American-favored factions in the civil war and urged that diplomatic overtures be made toward resolution of the conflict.

So far there has been no acknowledgement by the administration that the reason for Davis' summary departure last September from the African policy-making post was related to his stand on U.S. involvement in the Angolan conflict. Davis was later named U.S. ambassador to Switzerland.

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Longer story filed CIA (d).