

A Pro-West Angola Force Near Collapse, U.S. Says

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (AP)—The United States has informed its European allies that one of the two groups fighting Soviet-supported forces in Angola is rapidly losing ground and approaching the point of collapse, high State Department officials said today.

They said the deterioration within units of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola in the northern regions was reported by cablegram Tuesday night by the State Department to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger discussed the Angola situation today in a one-hour and 40-minute meeting with ambassadors and chiefs of mission from 37 African nations.

Some of the diplomats said Mr. Kissinger explained the American view that the civil



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Soviet-aided units drove toward Santo Antonio (1) and Luso (2). Zaire said Dilolo (3) was shelled.

war should be solved by Africans without foreign intervention.

Mr. Kissinger also said he planned an extensive trip to Africa in March or April and indicated a desire to increase foreign aid to Africa. Ambassador Abdullahi Addou of Somali, a Soviet-supported state, said Mr. Kissinger made a good point in calling for an African solution without outside interference.

One high official said that in the south, where the second pro-Western faction, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, is fighting Soviet-backed forces, the situation is not as serious as elsewhere, primarily because of combat skills of South African troops.

However, there, too, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola is said to be making considerable headway in what Mr. Kissinger has characterized as an effort by Cuban expeditionary forces to take over all of Angola. Some 7,000 Cubans are known to be fighting for the Soviet-supported faction.

Meanwhile, it was reported, the Ford Administration is still delaying a decision whether to ask the House to authorize additional covert aid to the two pro-Western groups. Last month, before Congress adjourned, the Senate voted 54 to 22 to cut off military assistance once the \$8.2 million in funds earmarked for Angola that remain in the pipeline are used up.

Kissinger to Testify

Mr. Kissinger has accepted an invitation to testify before a Senate African affairs subcommittee, headed by Senator Dick Clark, Democrat of Iowa, on Jan. 26 after he returns from nuclear weapons negotiations in Moscow.

Mr. Kissinger has defended United States support, which totals more than \$25 million, as a means of promoting a negotiated settlement.

A State Department spokesman, Robert L. Funseth, reiterated at a briefing that the United States position was that there should be a cease-fire in the civil war and then formation of a government of national unity by the three factions.

Mr. Kissinger's cablegram to the North Atlantic Council, as disclosed by sources outside the State Department, said that in northern Angola Front "and Zaire military resistance has all but collapsed."

In eastern Angola, the cablegram added, a Norman union task force has staged a withdrawal to the central highlands, and the Popular Front forces may be getting ready to stage an assault on Huambo, the capital of the pro-Western factions.

Major Town Is Threatened

LONDON, Jan. 15 (AP)—The northward drive in Angola by Soviet-supported nationalist forces has carried to within 37 miles of Zaire, reports from their capital, Luanda, said today.

The drive, which apparently seeks to smash the military capacity of the Western-backed National Front for the Liberation of Angola, was said to be threatening the last major town that the National Front holds in the north, Santo Antonio do Zaire.

This information apparently came from sources within the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which is backed by Cuba as well as the Soviet Union. There was no indication that any of the British and Yugoslav correspondents filing dispatches were observing any fighting first hand. But information from National Front sources outside Angola supported the reports from Luanda.

The current offensive, which reportedly has resulted in the fall of such important National

Front coastal towns as Ambriz and Ambrizete, has put the Popular Movement in control of nearly all northern Angola and a big strip of the central highlands running from Luanda eastward to the Zaire border.

A second Western-supported group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which is aided by South African forces, is said to hold much of southern Angola. Reports from the area said National troops in the central railroad town of Luso were bracing for an attack expected from a Popular Movement armored column that includes several hundred Cuban troops.

Zaireans Reported Captured

As described in dispatches from Luanda filed by British correspondents representing The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph of London and by Yugoslavs working for Tanyug, the official Yugoslav press agency, the Popular Movement's northward thrust was being led by more than 7,000 Cuban combat troops equipped with Soviet-supplied tanks and heavy artillery.

The Telegraph said barrages by Cuban-commanded artillery units were decisive in dislodging National Front troops from several positions.

The British correspondents said that the Popular Movement claimed to have captured about 2,000 National Front soldiers and that many of them were Zairean regulars. Zaire's President, Mobutu Sese Seko, is a brother-in-law of the National Front leader, Holden Roberto, and is the National Front's main foreign ally.

American war supplies for the National Front have reportedly been funneled from Zaire through the northwestern Angolan town of Santo Antonio, which today was reported imperiled by the Popular Movement offensive.

Zaire Accuses Cubans

KINSHASA, Zaire, Jan. 15 (Reuters)—Zaire today accused Cuban troops that are aiding the Popular Movement of having bombarded a Zairean town from eastern Angola, and the official Zairean news agency Azap said, "This is a cause of war."

But the agency added, "Zaire's final decision is not yet known."

The agency said the Cuban troops had fired several rockets last Saturday into the Zairean town of Dilolo, about 14 miles from the frontier with Angola and about 23 miles from the eastern Angolan town of Teixeira de Sousa.

Also last Saturday, the agency said, the Cuban troops blew up the road and rail bridges linking Zaire with Angola.