

Nyerere Calls Ford Letter 'Arrogant'

New Delhi

President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania said yesterday that a letter President Ford sent to African leaders about the situation in Angola was "arrogant and uncalled for."

Nyerere said at a news conference that Mr. Ford had written to all the African heads of state saying the United States would press for withdrawal of all South African troops from Angola on the condition that troops from Cuba and the Soviet Union were also withdrawn.

The Tanzanian president said Mr. Ford's proposal had helped deadlock the recent Organization of African Unity meeting in Ethiopia.

There was "serious disagreement" at the meeting over whether the OAU could demand the withdrawal of troops from Angola without demanding the withdrawal of troops from Cuba and the Soviet Union, Nyerere said.

This disagreement, heightened by Mr. Ford's letter, led to the failure of the conference, he said.

The Tanzanian president said he doesn't "know why Washington is so worried about Angola."

"The Americans have no excuse at all to say, 'Look at that country, it's gone Communist,'" Nyerere said. "There is not one Communist country in Africa. . . ."

"We are not fighting for communism in Africa. We are fighting for the liberation of our nations."

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