

Ford Says Policy Abroad Is Weakened by Congress

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 19— President Ford told Congress tonight that its "hasty actions" in blocking activities of the Administration in Angola and elsewhere abroad were "very short-sighted" and had raised questions about the United States in the minds of allies and adversaries.

In the brief foreign policy section of his State of the Union Address, Mr. Ford criticized efforts by Congress, increasingly pronounced in the last year, to play a stronger role in foreign policy formulation.

The most recent example, underscored by the President, was the Senate's refusal last month to approve funds for continued covert military aid to factions opposing the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which is supported by the Soviet Union.

His remarks came just before Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was to depart for Moscow for crucial talks with Soviet leaders on limitation of strategic arms and the situations in Angola and the Middle East.

Security Council Meets

Mr. Kissinger conferred with Mr. Ford this morning and participated in a National Security Council meeting that went over the instructions to Mr. Kissinger for his negotiations in Moscow, where he will attempt to unblock the stalled talks on curbing offensive strategic armaments and to get Soviet agreement to reduce involvement of the major powers in Angola. Mr. Kissinger will also seek to work out arrangements for reconvening the Middle East peace conference in Geneva.

Mr. Ford told Congress that the American people wanted "strong and effective international and defense policies."

"In our constitutional system," he said, "these policies should reflect consultation and

accommodation between the President and Congress."

"But in the final analysis, as the framers of our Constitution knew from hard experience, the foreign relations of the United States can be conducted effectively only if there is strong central direction that allows flexibility of action," he said, affirming a major complaint of the Administration against what it regards Congressional interference.

"That responsibility clearly rests with the President," he said.

"We must not face a future in which we can no longer help our friends, such as in Angola, even in limited and carefully controlled ways," the Secretary declared.

Strong Defense Stressed

"We must not lose all capacity to respond short of military intervention," he said. Congress during the past year—most recently in respect to Angola—were in my view very short-sighted. Unfortunately, they are still very much on the minds of our allies and our adversaries."

Making the Administration's customary link between strong defense and the ability to negotiate agreements, Mr. Ford said that "only from a position of strength can we negotiate a balanced agreement to limit the growth of nuclear arms."

On his trip, Mr. Kissinger will be in Moscow for only two working days—Wednesday and Thursday.

After a four-hour stopover in Copenhagen tomorrow for talks with Danish officials, he is scheduled to arrive tomorrow night in the Soviet capital. He is due to leave Moscow on Friday morning for Brussels where he will brief allied officials on his talks.

On Saturday and Sunday, he will be in Madrid, where it is hoped a new agreement providing for American use of military bases in Spain can be worked out with the new Spanish Government.