

Angolan Leader's Warning to Soviets

Lusaka

The Soviet Union and Cuba will find themselves in a Vietnam-type situation if they try to take enemy strongholds in the Angolan civil war, the leader of the rival UNITA Movement said yesterday.

Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA Leader, said it would be impossible for the Soviet-backed Popular Movement (MPLA) to establish control of southern and central Angola.

"If the MPLA and their supporters, the Cubans and Russians, come into our area it will be like the Americans going into Vietnam," he told a press conference in Silva Porto, the military headquarters of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

"We will fight with all the means at our disposal and if necessary it will be guerrilla warfare.

"We have experts trained in China concentrating on the development of our guerrilla tactics. The rockets the Russians have given the Cubans to use will then be ineffective."

Dr. Savimbi's remarks at a press conference here were relayed to Lusaka by one of his associates.

The UNITA leader said the MPLA is publishing lies.

He said: "It is absolutely untrue that Huambo is threatened. Neither is Luso threatened." Both towns have been UNITA strongholds.

In an appeal to Western democracies for aid, he said: "I understand why Western governments cannot come easily to our aid because their administrative and legislative machinery takes a lot of time before decisions are reached.

"I understand too that Western countries also did not want to appear to be getting involved on the side of South Africa.

"We did not invite South Africa in. They came for their own purposes.

Reuters