

Kaunda Assumes Emergency Powers, Citing

LUSAKA, Zambia, Jan. 28 (Reuters) — President Kenneth D. Kaunda declared tonight that his Government was assuming widespread emergency powers "to counter any moves to destroy our country."

In a television and radio address, the 51-year-old leader told the four million Zambians "to prepare for the worst," spoke of foreign interference and said:

"We are at war. Make no mistake."

Mr. Kaunda, one of black Africa's most respected leaders, said the emergency powers were necessary because of a deteriorating situation outside this landlocked southern African country, which borders on Angola and white-ruled Rhodesia.

Zambia is also beset by the worst economic crisis of its history as an independent nation, with the price of copper, the country's major source of foreign exchange, at a low international level and apparently likely to stay there.

In addition, the railroad that

linked the Zambian copper belt with the Atlantic has been closed since August as a result of the civil war in Angola, through which it runs. Copper used to be carried by rail to the Angolan port of Lobito.

Expressing concern over developments in Angola, he spoke of "a plundering tiger with its deadly cubs now coming in through the back door." This was an apparent allusion to Soviet and Cuban involvement in the Angolan civil war on the side of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Zambia has not recognized the Popular Movement as the legitimate government of the former Portuguese territory on its western border. It has called instead for a government of national unity that would include the two Western-supported groups—the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

National Union leaders have spent much time in Lusaka, flying back and forth between



The New York Times

Kenneth D. Kaunda

here and their main towns in central Angola.

Speaking of Rhodesia, Zambia's southern neighbor, Mr. Kaunda said the situation there was also grave. He said that

intensified armed struggle could be expected in Rhodesia.

The President also expressed concern over developments in South-West Africa, where South African troops have been skirmishing with guerrillas.

"We as a nation must prepare for the worst," he declared and warned:

"There is foreign interference in our country."

Last Sunday, Mr. Kaunda made a public attack on an unidentified Lusaka-based Russian, who, he asserted, had warned that Zambia would have only itself to blame if the Angolan Popular Movement denied Zambia the use of the railroad to Lobito.

"What cheek of the Russians to say so," Mr. Kaunda had commented on Sunday.

Mr. Kaunda had also vowed that his country would not be "a puppet" to the Popular Movement. Zambia, he said, "will not be cowed into doing wrong things because of routes."

Zambia Economically Beset

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 28—A series of grave economic difficulties is considered here as the principal reason for Zambia's crisis.

As the world price of copper, on which Zambia is heavily dependent, has dropped, the cost of oil imports has gone up five-fold.

Adding to that country's economic predicament is the loss of its traditional transportation routes through both Rhodesia and Angola. The border with Rhodesia was closed three years ago by the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian D. Smith, who charged that guerrillas were crossing into his country from Zambia.

Consequently Zambia began rerouting much of its copper via the Benguela Railroad

Threats to Zambia

through Angola. But then this route was cut.

Zambia has suffered heavy economic losses as a result of the decision to maintain the trade sanctions against Rhodesia ordered by the United Nations.

Experts calculate that the total loss of revenues over three years at \$325,000,000 to \$350,000,000 and Zambia has received only \$75,000,000 in outside help.

The financial pressures have mounted accordingly and in the last three weeks there has been a chorus of public demands that the decision to keep the border closed be re-examined.