

Refugees Report Chaos in North Angola

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KINSHASA, Zaire, Jan. 29—Portuguese settlers fleeing to this city report chaotic conditions and a mass exodus from a small corner of northwesternmost Angola that remains in the hands of the Western-supported National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

The Portuguese settlers arriving here are mostly small farmers who did not join the mass flight before Angola gained its independence from Portugal last November because they hoped that the National Front would protect their farms. Now they are destitute and bitter. More than 1,600 of them have reached Kinshasa this month and are being repatriated to Portugal.

According to their reports, which are given credence in informed diplomatic circles, the offensive by the combined forces of Cubans and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola in the last four weeks brought about the complete collapse of the defending forces.

These forces consist of the National Front, units of Zaire's Army, Portuguese settlers and a small number of mercenaries. A few Americans, presumably working for the Central Intelligence Agency, were reliably reported to have been in the region, but it is not known whether they still are.

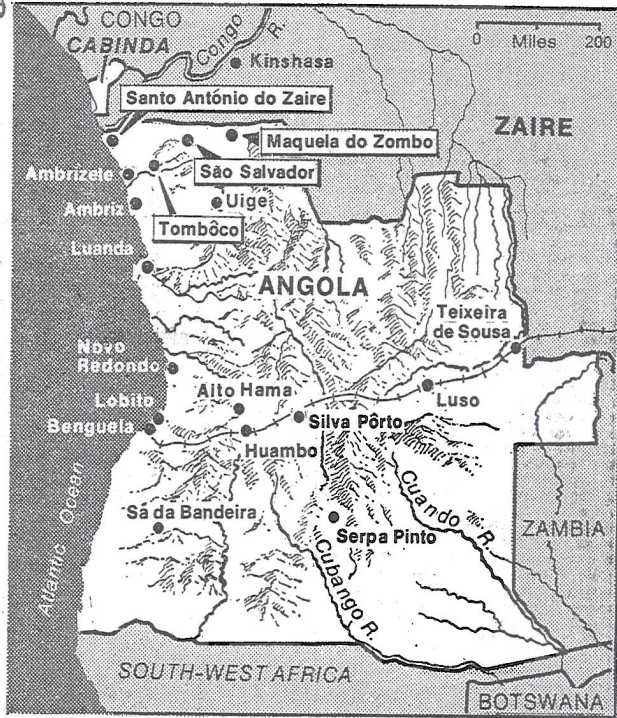
Urgent Appeals Sent

Meanwhile, urgent appeals from the leader of the forces defending southern Angola against the Popular Movement's advance were delivered to all Western embassies here today. In the letters, the leader, Jonas M. Savimbi, urged the United States, Britain, France and other powers to rush arms to the forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola before it is too late. The National Union is allied with the National Front against the Soviet-supported Popular Movement.

In an interview, Ruben Chitacumbi, representative of the National Union in Kinshasa, described the situation on the southern front as "very, very grave."

But he denied reports by the Popular Movement in Luanda that its troops had taken several key towns and were in position to strike at Huambo, the capital of the National Union-National Front coalition, and the port cities of Lobito and Benguela.

In the northwest the hasty



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Refugees from towns with names in panels said their populations fled both defenders and attackers.

retreat of the defenders was accompanied, according to the refugees here, by widespread looting. The Zaire Army units were said to have been the most active element in the looting. The principal town of northern Angola, the coffee plantation center of Uige, was reported to have been thoroughly sacked before being abandoned without a fight early this month.

While few cars, electrical appliances, household possessions or other valuables remained in Uige and other abandoned towns, informed sources report that sizable quantities of military supplies and equipment were left behind.

In the days after the fall of Uige and the advance of the Soviet-backed forces along the coast past the town of Ambrizete, the retreating troops reportedly pillaged the towns to which they withdrew and that they are still holding. Refugees report that these towns—Santo António do Zaire, São Salvador, Tombôco and Maquela do Zombo—have been completely sacked and that their populations have fled, from the defenders as much as from the attackers.

The refugees report that in Maquela do Zombo, close to the border of Zaire, Zairean troops staged a mock attack, pretending to be forces of the Popular Movement, in order to drive out the population and

steal their belongings.

Large-scale pillaging was reported also from São Salvador, the principal town still in the National Front's control, until the recent arrival of about 30 Portuguese and mercenary soldiers restored some discipline among the defenders.

The recent influx of Portuguese and mercenaries, reportedly recruited in Portugal, is said to have contributed to an apparent stabilization of the situation. No important advances by the Popular Front have been reported since its capture of Ambrizete about two weeks ago.

The refugees referred to the mercenaries as "the English," which is believed to be more an allusion to their common language than to their nationality. They refer to the pillaging troops as "the Lingala." This is to distinguish the Zairean soldiers, whose language is Lingala, from the troops of the Angolan National Front, who speak Kikongo.

No Fighting Reported

LUSAKA, Zambia, Jan. 29 (AP) — Officials here of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola reported today that there had been no significant fighting on the front with Soviet-backed forces in the Angolan civil war for the fourth straight day.