

Angolan Airline Links Its Losses To U.S. Ban on Export of Planes

NYTimes

FEB 7 1976

LISBON, Feb. 6—A representative of the Angolan airline TAAG who arrived here this week from the former Portuguese colony said that his company was losing \$20,000 a day because of a U.S. decision to bar the export of two Boeing-737 aircraft that have been paid for by the airline.

After revoking export licenses for the two Boeings, the United States also refused to grant licenses for equipment for a new air traffic control system in Angola, informed sources from Angola said.

"We can only conclude that the United States has declared a boycott against us," a source linked to the Angolan Civil Aeronautics Department said.

Conceivably, he said, the U.S.

banned the export of the Boeings because it feared they might be used to carry troops of the Soviet-suggested Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which controls Luanda.

He insisted that there was on the air control equipment, no excuse, however, for the ban which was urgently needed for "basic international air safety."

The airline still hopes that the Department of Commerce will change its mind under Congressional pressure and authorize the export of the Boeings.

The airline is now spending \$9,000 a month on storage for the first aircraft, which is in Seattle. The second plane is scheduled for delivery on Feb. 9 but it is now questionable whether the airline will accept it without an export license.