

ANGOLA

SWEDES SAY CUBANS ARE ANGOLA BUFFER

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STOCKHOLM, May 24—Swedish officials believe that the 12,000 Cuban troops who fought on the side of the victorious Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola are now protecting its leader, Agostinho Neto, from falling under direct Soviet control.

The officials said that Prime Minister Olof Palme, during talks today with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, had reported on recent contacts between the Swedish Social Democratic party and Mr. Neto. Mr. Palme heads the party.

The Prime Minister is said to consider Cuban troops who are still in Angola as a buffer between Mr. Neto and more radical elements of his movement that favor closer ties with the Soviet Union.

Moscow supported and supplied the movement in its struggle with two rival nationalist groups in the civil war in the West African country. The official American view of the Cuban troops there is that they were basically mercenaries hired by the Russians.

The Swedish officials said they believed that Prime Minister Fidel Castro has claims of his own on leadership of national liberation movements in Africa and Latin America.

Neither Mr. Kissinger nor Mr. Palme commented publicly on the exchange today, but Mr. Kissinger said that "Sweden's position as a neutral country gives her possibilities to communicate with other countries in a way that we cannot."