

# CIA Bungled In Africa, Ex-Spy Says

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency's "blundering stupidity" in conducting a secret war in Angola led directly to the entry of thousands of Cuban troops on the side of the pro-Soviet faction, a disaffected former spy said yesterday.

John Stockwell, chief of the CIA's Angola task force from July, 1975, until he resigned 17 months later, said he learned during that time that the CIA was not very good at running a secret war.

He also learned, he said on the CBS television program "60 Minutes," "that such covert wars don't work, that we were dishonest, that we were willing to lie about it to keep it going, to con the American public, to manipulate the Congress in order to continue playing our games."

Stockwell, who directed the Angola task force from the CIA's  
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headquarters at Langley, Va., attributed the presence of thousands of Cuban soldiers now in Angola to "the blundering stupidity of the CIA's paramilitary operation."

"Had the CIA not existed, had the CIA option — the violent option — not existed in Angola, we wouldn't have had the escalation of war and we wouldn't have had Cuban soldiers entrenched in the country with great credibility, looked upon as heroes of the people of Africa," Stockwell said.

In April, 1977, Stockwell made public his letter of resignation from the CIA, in which he protested agency policies and told of an agency operation to recruit mercenaries for Angola.

Yesterday, interviewer Mike Wallace said Stockwell had written an unauthorized account of the secret war he helped to run. Entitled "In Search of Enemies," it had been published secretly and is being distributed to book shops around the country this week.

In the book, the former CIA man said it was then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who — three months after the Americans had pulled out of Vietnam — wanted the CIA presence in Angola.

It was Kissinger's desire, Stock-



JOHN STOCKWELL  
'Covert wars don't work'

well said, to bluff the Soviet Union in Africa when he could not follow through.

Stockwell said the CIA had a small air force of stolen planes that flew most of the American arms into Angola, and even put up a bounty of \$30,000 for anyone who would hijack an aircraft that had weapons on it.

The agency also recruited foreign mercenaries, he said.

"We had one program which we called 'The French Hoods,' which cost about half a million dollars, to send 20 Frenchmen in as advisers," he said. Their contracts were for five months but they fled after fighting for one month and the CIA never got its money back.

A second \$350,000 mercenary program was with the Portuguese and it, too, was a total failure, he said.

"The third bunch, the British-Americans, included psychotic killers, maniacs, people who were literally deranged, as well as people

who were highly incompetent," Stockwell said.

One of his assignments, he said, was to go to New York and Florida to recruit prostitutes who could be sent to East Africa to be used against Soviet, Chinese and North Korean ambassadors in an attempt to gain intelligence about them or from them, or to be able to blackmail them.

But that, too, did not work.

"It was a pointless operation," he said. "We succeeded in sending a woman to East Africa. She wound up up-country with the Soviet ambassador."

"In bed with him, she found out that he was an alcoholic, that he was impotent and that he had halitosis. And that was the extent of what we learned from that operation."

Stockwell added: "We already knew he was impotent because we had put a false window in a whorehouse in Nairobi and filmed him going in there to visit young ladies."

"And so we already knew what he could and could not do. These films were sent back to Washington where they were viewed by CIA officers in the movie room at headquarters."

"But what kind of operation can you generate against such a man who's willing to park his official Soviet embassy vehicle in front of a whorehouse?"

Stockwell alleged that the then-director of the CIA, William Colby, led the concealment of the agency's activities in Angola.

Colby, interviewed on the same program, said: "We did our training, we did our advising from neighboring countries, not from Angola ... I did not systematically mislead congressmen."

Reuters