

# Carter Undecided on Angola Intervention

## Washington

The White House insisted yesterday that President Carter has not yet decided to try to help the guerrillas who are fighting Cuban forces in Angola, but the Senate's leading African specialist said he has "good reason to believe" that the administration wants to do so.

Senator Dick Clark, (Dem-Iowa), said it is "self-evident" from the President's public comments that the administration views the Clark amendment as a legal impediment to the indirect transfer of American arms to the guerrilla force known as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or Unita.

The amendment to the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 ended covert American aid to Unita and another faction in Angola that were resisting the takeover of that country by the Marxist-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola, which was eventually supported by Soviet military advisers and nearly 20,000 Cuban troops.

White House press secretary Jody Powell, would say only that Carter is examining laws that resist his freedom of action in countries such as Angola, but he added that this does not "necessarily mean that Carter wanted to take such action."

Powell said the fact that some administration officials have gone to Capitol Hill to discuss the possibility of modifying restrictions on presidential authority does not portend any specific actions.

He was referring in part to recent visits to Clark by Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and David Aaron, deputy White House adviser on national security affairs.

Clark, the chairman of the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on Africa, has refused to discuss his conversations with either official, citing Senate rules against making intelligence or confidential briefings public.

From other congressional and administration sources, however, it was learned that Turner had outlined plans

for having American military equipment transferred to Unita by third countries, but had mentioned the Clark amendment as a legal obstacle.

Clark strongly opposes repeal of his amendment and any American intervention in Angola that might be seen as an effort to subvert the government of President Agostinho Neto.

Some State Department African specialists, also strongly opposed to any renewal of American aid to Unita, draw a sharp distinction between the Angolan situation and sending help to the recognized government of Zaire to help it repel the invasion of Shaba province.

The administration's concern, officials said, is not to undermine the Neto government but to help keep the 20,000 Cuban troops pinned down in that country and thus, presumably, to discourage armed Cuban intervention elsewhere in Africa and particularly in Rhodesia.

Powell said yesterday that the administration is considering sending additional "non-lethal" military equipment to Zaire. This would include such items as communications equipment, medical supplies and spare parts for transport planes already sent to Kinshasa, and would require no lifting of congressional restraints.

Powell told reporters that American intelligence sources have concluded that no Cuban troops were involved in the invasion of Zaire by the former Katangan exiles.

President Fidel Castro has denied any Cuban involvement with the Katangan exiles.

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