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Ex-CIA Man's Angola Warning

Washington

Resumption of U.S. military aid to Angolan rebels will only guarantee a prolonged, bitter conflict in southwestern Africa and cost America its share in that region's later development, a former CIA agent told Congress yesterday.

John Stockwell told the House International Relations Africa Subcommittee the recent attack by Angola-based Katanga soldiers on the copper mining center of Kolwezi in Zaire "has its roots in three previous U.S. government covert operations."

"Appallingly, the Carter administration is pressing for a repeal of the Tuñney-Clark amendment so that it can resume covert military support to those Unita (pro-Western) forces," despite the failure of those earlier efforts, said Stockwell, who recently published a book about his 12 years in the CIA, including supervision of earlier covert operations in Angola.

"Such a policy will guarantee that a few years from now the southwestern flank of Africa and the Shaba province of Zaire are still the scenes of bitter conflict," Stockwell said.

The amendment bars covert U.S. involvement in Angola without congressional approval.

Stockwell said it is possible that President Carter was unaware CIA director Stansfield Turner consulted Senator Dick Clark (Dem-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee, about possible covert U.S. military aid to Angolan rebels.

Representative Charles W. Whalen (Rep-Ohio), said, "it seems we are destined to repeat the errors of the past. Mr. (Jody) Powell said the President was unaware of this overture. Is this possible?"

"Yes, sir, indeed," Stockwell replied. "I find it quite plausible." He said the CIA "wants very much to go back into Angola."

The former agent said a U.S.-sponsored U.N. operation in 1963 to crush the secession of Katanga province from Zaire, covert U.S. assistance in Angola in 1975 and a covert campaign of harassment against Cuba in the early 1960s



UPI Telephoto

JOHN STOCKWELL 'A guarantee of conflict'

contributed to the current crisis in Zaire.

Gerald J. Bender, an Angolan expert at the University of California in San Diego, expressed belief that France is enticing the United States into Zaire to protect its economic interests there.

"The French are cleverly outwitting us, so we will go in and do their dirty work, and they can go in later and pick up the pieces," Bender said.

Presidential spokesman Powell insists the President has no immediate desire to renew covert assistance to pro-western guerrillas in Angola, but is seeking ways the United States might help friendly countries combat attacks by Communist-trained troops.

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