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PRESS STATEMENT by

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Kissinger Activates Cold War in Africa - ACOA Calls For Non-Intervention

On September 23, Secretary of State Kissinger referred to the Angolan situation in a speech to African Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations at a dinner in New York. He said: "We are most alarmed at the interference of extra-continental powers who do not wish Africa well, and whose involvement is inconsistent with the promise of true independence." We charge today that the United States is one of these "extra-continental powers". And because the U.S. is intervening in the Angolan conflict, we find the Secretary's remarks made to the Economic Club of Detroit on November 24th particularly hypocritical. In this speech, according to newspaper accounts, Kissinger pointed the finger at the Soviet Union and Cuba as intervening in Angola. He indicated that continued intervention threatened "other relationships."

The Secretary of State made no reference to U.S. involvement ~~grams~~ in support of two political groups in Angola. Further, he did not allude to the incursions of white mercenaries and South African regulars into Angola and to their advancement hundreds of miles north of the Namibian border. And yet this intervention is now well established.

Covert U.S. support for the FNLA and UNITA for control of the government of Angola was admitted in testimony which William Colby, director of the CIA, and Joseph Sisco, Under Secretary of State, gave before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on November 6th. Presumably this support is being given primarily through the government of Zaire. This is a convenient method of giving assistance both because the U.S

has maintained a close relationship with Zaire ever since the demise of Patrice Lumumba, and also because the FNLA has been based on Zaire soil ever since its founding. Innumerable reports have appeared in journals such as the Johannesburg Star, the London Observer, The Sunday Times of London, Le Monde, The New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek and many others establishing this fact. Edward Behr of Newsweek, for example, reported on November 17th from Ambriz, an FNLA military base in northern Angola, that two Zaire Air Force C-130 transports arrive daily bringing guns, gasoline and ammunition. David Martin of the London Observer reported supplies coming into Silva Porto, a UNITA base, from Hercules transports originating in Zaire. A writer in the Johannesburg Star reported on ammunition boxes coming to Silva Porto from Thyeville in Zaire, etc., etc.

The Sunday Times of London carried a story on November 23rd that the U.S. operation of flying weapons and supplies into Zaire to be transshipped to Angola was the biggest operation of the CIA since the Congo crisis more than 10 years ago. It reported that U.S. Air Force Starlifter transports have flown tens of millions of dollars worth of equipment to Zaire destined in part at least for Angola.

In commenting on intervention in Angola, why did Kissinger make no mention of South Africa? There are innumerable reports about white mercenaries and South African troops in Angola. Less than three weeks ago I was in Zambia and talked with high Zambian officials about the whitetroops who had invaded Angola from Namibia. I was told that mostly they were South African, although some were dissident Portuguese from Mozambique and Angola. This white-led armored unit is called the "Chipenda Brigade" after Daniel Chipenda, formerly a MPLA commander, but now with FNLA. About 900 men are in this brigade and they have 25 French Panhard armored cars. It is this military unit which has primarily been responsible for some recent military victories for FNLA and UNITA in driving MPLA out of Mocamedes, Lobito and Novo Redondo and Benguela.

It is in response to this incursion that the MPLA has quickened its supply of

aid from countries such as Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The credibiity of FNLA and UNITA is suffering irreparably as they continue to rely on manpower support from South Africa. South Africa's interest can only be to make a deal with Angolan forces which it thinks will not jeopardize the apartheid structure both in Namibia and in their own Republic at the tip of the continent.

Is this the beginning of another Vietnam? The main ingredients are there - an internal struggle for power by diverse movements, are labelled "communist" and the other "anti-communist"; and big power involvement backing different sides. It is particularly ironical that the U.S., which during the lay years of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism, supported Portugal should now be taking such a proprietary interest in the independence of Angola.

Is every country or government that criticizes the U.S. either communist or a communist-sympathizer? Why should the U.S. be surprised to be looked upon with suspicion, particularly by the MPLA, after its years of a tacit alliance with Salazar's and Caetano's governments during the liberation struggle?

As an American organization our task lies essentially in our own country. We agree with the position of the OAU, calling for an end to foreign intervention on African soil. As Americans we call upon our own government to end its intervention in Angola. The U.S. should not be allied, as it is now, with white South African and Portuguese mercenaries.

We are greatly concerned about the International Security Assistance bill now before the House International Relations Committee. Concretely we support the amendments which Congressmen Michael Hamington and Don Bonker have offered to this bill. This bill has \$41.75 million in it for military credit sales and security supporting assistance to Zaire. The Amendments would not authorize these expenditures unless the President reports that no aid is going to political groups in Angola. We believe it is imperative for these amendments to be adopted, for there is no doubt that U.S. military aid to Zaire is being passed on to Angola, at least in part. This would be one small way of implementing a non-intervention policy toward Angola.