

# Angola Weekly News Summary

Contact: (212)222-2893

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## SOUTH AFRICA AND ANGOLA

Between 5,000 and 20,000 South African troops are reported to be dug in along a defensive line from fifteen to sixty miles north of the southern border of Angola. The primary objectives of this entrenchment are protecting the hydroelectric dam at Cunene and preventing any penetration of the MPLA offensive into Namibia, which might link up with and reinforce the struggle there of SWAPO. However, this strategy now presents a major dilemma to the rulers of South Africa. They want to present at least the appearance of a solid military front to the MPLA, as much to impress the black population of South Africa as to hold back the advance of the MPLA. But they also want to avoid any large scale military combat with the MPLA, which they see as primarily a force of Cubans and Russians. To fight a large campaign against a sophisticated modern army hundreds of miles outside South Africa itself could have severe repercussions for the strength and stability of the apartheid regime at home. Thus, the South Africans' reported attempt to reach an accommodation with the MPLA (Newsweek, 2/23) can be understood within a larger picture which includes the domestic front in South Africa itself.

The MPLA Victory has profound implications for South Africa. It has demonstrated to the black masses of that country that an African movement for liberation can defeat both white mercenaries and South Africa's vaunted military. It also sharply exposes the role of the black groups within Angola who sided with South Africa in opposing the liberation struggle, while masquerading as true representatives of the Angolan people. This exposure reflects on those blacks within South Africa who collaborate with the white regime in its policies of "divide and rule." Most importantly, the victory of the MPLA over the FNLA/UNITA/South African alliance exposes the propaganda that the struggle in southern Africa is primarily a racial conflict. This view, which largely derives from the racist ideology of South Africa has served as a smokescreen for the conflict of economic interests that underly the struggle.

Simultaneously with heartening the black resistance movement within South Africa, the MPLA success has brought confusion and dismay into the ranks of the white rulers of South Africa. Indeed, the South African government has now to an extent become the victim of its own policies deception and concealment. Because of censored news from Angola, many white South Africans were ignorant of the invasion of Angola by their army, and thus were surprised and bewildered by the sudden reports of their compatriots being killed, wounded and captured. Letters to the South African press have asked whether it was

legal to send the army to fight outside the borders. In Parliament, the government is pushing through a new retroactive law to define "South Africa" as embracing the entire continent "south of the Sahara" (South Africa Weekly Digest).

South Africa's reverses in Angola will have direct effects in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Within Namibia there will be a sharpening of the struggle for liberation as the strategic situation will be transformed by the existence of the new Peoples Republic of Angola on the northern border. In Zimbabwe, the South African defeat has signalled the intensification of the struggle against the white minority regime. The London Observer of February 15th carried a front page account of the decision of the OAU to support a full scale armed struggle in Zimbabwe and the formation of a new "Zimbabwe Military High Command." The new strategy, according to the Observer, was formulated at talks held February 7-8 at Kilimani in Mozambique. This conference was attended by the presidents of Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana.

The exposure and defeat of South Africa's role in Angola will also strike a hard blow to its "detente" policies. Nigeria has emerged as a militant opponent of the South African strategy of trying to establish alliances with black African countries. And even those black African countries who have cooperated with South Africa's policy of "detente" will have to be wary of future identification with South Africa.

Looking back over the events of the past eight months, it is clear that South Africa's attack on the MPLA has acted as a catalyst in moving forward the timetable for the liberation of all southern Africa.

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COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
(as of Feb. 18)

Algeria, Benin (Dahomy), Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Comorro Islands, Congo-Brazzaville, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Ghana, Great Britain, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Malagasy, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome e Principe, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, East Germany, Guyana, Iraq, North Korea, Laos, Hungary, Mongolia, Jamaica, Poland, Romania, Ruanda, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, , Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Uganda, Tunisia, Upper Volta, USSR, Yugoslavia, Yemen (Peoples Republic) Equitorial Guinea

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Angola Weekly News Summary will not be published next week because our committee is participating in a conference on Angola called by the People's Republic of Angola. We had thought we would not have a News Summary this week because of the conference, but the conference was postponed for one week. There will be a thorough report on the conference in the next News Summary.

### MERCENARY RECRUITMENT FOR ANGOLA CONTINUES

With UNITA's political and military organization pushed out of all major centers in Angola, UNITA has announced that it is going to turn to guerrilla tactics. The Christian Science Monitor of February 13th has reported the steady build-up of mercenaries preparing to assist UNITA in its guerrilla actions against the People's Republic of Angola. These mercenaries, mostly French, are said to be well trained, well paid, and well armed. They will apparently assume leadership roles in planning and executing the guerilla operations.

With the recognition of the People's Republic of Angola by Western governments, particularly the French, mercenary recruitment is not likely to be as easily carried out in the future. Western governments may crack down on recruiting operations, either as a public relations gesture or as a substantive move because mercenary activity is no longer viewed as effective for maintaining their interests in southern Africa.

Even Zaire is said to be having second thoughts about acting as a base for subversion against the MPLA-led government. (New York Times, February 17th) However, according to the February 13th Christian Science Monitor report, the mercenaries are being shipped to southern Angola via Zaire. The same article reports that 7.8 tons of military equipment are being sent daily to southern Angola from Zaire.

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### CORE RECRUITS MERCENARIES FOR UNITA

Roy Innis, director of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality, claims to have plans to send 1,000 black Americans to serve as "combat medics" in Angola with, according to Innis, the bills being paid by UNITA. Responding to CORE's announcement, the Organization of African Unity condemned such "subversive activities being concocted by reactionary groups in the U.S." as "anti-African" and as against the "commendable efforts" of the MPLA-led government to rid Angola of "white mercenaries and lawless adventurers."

CORE has also been widely criticized by black groups in the U.S. The African-American Nationalist Committee and the United Federation of Black Community Organizations, who collectively represent 310 organizations, denounced CORE for its collaboration with "racist South Africa and other white mercenaries." James Farmer, a founder of CORE but no longer with that organization, also denounced the recruitment, saying that it "will do untold damage to relations between Africans and Afro-Americans." Further, Farmer said that CORE's actions "will prolong Africa's agony and that of Americans of African descent."

Black Forum on Foreign Policy also condemned CORE, deploring "any involvement by black Americans in any activities that tend to suggest an alliance with the policies" of South Africa. A Chicago-based group, the U.S. Out of Angola Coalition, condemned the use of "a black organization to send blacks to fight other blacks in Africa

on imperialism's behalf." Abdel Krim of the African-American Day Parade said, "Innis and CORE are nothing but traitors to the black race."

The motivations behind CORE's drive for mercenaries and strong support for UNITA are related in some degree to CORE's role in the black community in the United States. CORE's position as a black organization has been weak. The publicity surrounding CORE's activities vis a vis Angola gives that organization visibility and through that a certain prominence.

A very destructive aspect of CORE's mercenary recruitment and publicity in support of UNITA is that these activities serve to confuse and divide opinion within the black community over the issue of Angola. In this way, CORE feeds into a longstanding strategy of those in power in this country to ensure a lack of unity within the black community.

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### THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT

Zambia is reported to have recognized the sovereignty of the state of Angola but not the government of the People's Republic of Angola under the leadership of the MPLA. Zambia appears to be continuing to cling to its goal of a "political" settlement in Angola which would involve participation in the government by the Western-supported FNLA and UNITA. (New York Times, February 19th)

The United States will "continue to watch developments" in Angola despite the "spate of recognitions", Undersecretary of State for African Affairs William Schauffele, Jr. reported on February 18th. (New York Times, February 19th)

CIA Director Bush, in Congressional testimony, says he won't discuss whether U.S. covert aid to Angola continues. (New York Times, February 15)

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### SUPPORT THE MPLA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE -- PURCHASE BOOKS AND BUTTONS!:

--Two books which provide excellent background information on Angola are available for purchase through the MPLA-Solidarity Committee:

Davidson, Basil, In the Eye of the Storm: Angola's People-Price: \$3.00  
Africa Research Group, Race to Power: The Struggle for Southern Africa, price \$3.50. (Proceeds from this book go to liberation movements in Southern Africa--ask your local bookstore to stock this book.)

--MPLA solidarity buttons are available from the MPLA solidarity committee. Prices: 50¢ ea., 35¢ for 10 or more, 25¢ for 100 or more.

--The American Committee on Africa (305 E. 46th St., N.Y., N.Y.10017) has put together a comprehensive information packet on Angola which sells for \$1.50.