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JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER February 1987

INSIDE THE CIA: WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE?

Is the CIA playing both ends against the middle in Angola? My sources tell me the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff is investigating the possibility that Southern Air Transport, the not-so-covert CIA airline that carried arms to Iran and the Nicaraguan contras, has been doing business with the Marxist government of Angola. Meanwhile, Congress and the White House are giving money and support to the Luanda regime's biggest opponent, Jonas Savimbi.

This astonishing possibility may become the subject of Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings. According to my sources, the committee staff has demanded briefings on this possible double-dealing initiative from the CIA. Committee investigators are looking at Federal Aviation Administration files, and the word I get is that these records show some very interesting patterns of Southern Air Transport flights. I'm told the airports that figure in the flights being investigated include some in South Africa, Zaire and Cuba.

Another possibility is that Southern Air was using its position to collect intelligence on the Angolan army and passing it on to the CIA, which may have given it to the Savimbi forces.

I haven't been able to pin down exactly why the Reagan administration would be sucking up to the Marxist regime in Angola while it is also funding Savimbi. It sounds crazy, frankly. But then, it's probably no crazier than the recently-revealed word that the administration has been supplying weapons to Iran while it provides intelligence information to Iraq.