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# Fight looms on aid to Angolan rebels

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House conservatives are expected to move this week to lift the 1976 congressional sanction against CIA aid to rebels seeking the overthrow of Angola's Marxist government in southern Africa.

The action, expected as an amendment to the 1986 foreign aid bill, could polarize the House as much as last month's debate over resumption of aid to Nicaraguan resistance fighters opposing that Central American country's Marxist-led government.

Key votes are expected to be on

repeal of the Clark amendment — which began life as the Tunney Amendment in 1975 and was modified again in 1980 — that bans any U.S. "covert" aid to factions fighting in Angola.

The Republican-led Senate voted 63-34 June 11 to repeal the Clark amendment, named after former Sen. Dick Clark, D-Iowa, who served from 1973 to 1979. Like Sen. John Tunney of California, Mr. Clark was one of the era's leading foreign-policy liberals.

This week is thought to be the first time the full House has debated repeal of the Clark amendment since 1981. Then it rejected one of

the earliest foreign policy initiatives of President Reagan's first term. The Senate had approved his request, 66-29.

This action has not been stimulated by the White House, House officials said.

Leaders behind the latest push are conservative groups such as the House Republican Study Group, the American Conservative Union and Citizens for America, who are holding a strategy planning session on Capitol Hill today.

CFA is led by New York businessman Lew Lehrman. He organized a well-publicized meeting at rebel headquarters in Angola early in June of anti-communist fighters from Angola, Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Since his narrow loss of the New York gubernatorial race in 1982 to Mario Cuomo, Mr. Lehrman has

used his considerable wealth to support conservative causes.

One argument expected in the House this week is that lifting the aid ban in Angola adds consistency to U.S. foreign policy, which now provides hundreds of millions of dollars to resistance fighters in Afghanistan.

Legislation is moving through Congress to resume the aid program to Nicaraguan rebels who have received more than \$80 million from the United States since 1981. For the first time this year, the House foreign aid bill has \$5 million for anti-communist fighters in Cambodia.

"To me, the fights in Angola, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Cambodia are all the same fight, but some people don't see it that way," said Dan Fisk, a foreign policy specialist at the Republican Study Group.

Liberals such as Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., who proposed the Cambodian aid this year and supports the Afghan program, said that these two countries are fighting armies of occupation, while Nicaragua and Angola are torn by internal political factions.

Afghanistan has been occupied by Soviet forces since 1979, while Cambodia is occupied by Vietnamese troops.

The State Department opposed repealing the Clark amendment when it was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Symms, R-Idaho, but they are now neutral, Mr. Fisk said.

"The majority of support of the Senate took them by surprise," he said.

Administration officials have said that even if Congress repeals the Clark amendment, no aid to the Angolan rebels would be immediately forthcoming, he said.

Republicans have no plans to add other amendments designating funds for Angola even if they succeed in repealing the amendment, Mr. Fisk said.

when Mr. Lehrman was in Angola, the leader of the resistance, Jonas Savimbi, asked him to work for a simple repeal, according to Mr. Fisk.

That would allow the CIA to use its secret contingency funds to aid Mr. Savimbi's forces known as UNITA. However, Mr. Fisk said the Reagan administration probably would use the repeal of the Clark amendment as an negotiating tool with Angola.

One goal of U.S. diplomacy in southern Africa is withdrawal of

more than 20,000 Cuban troops from Angola. They are there at the invitation of the government to provide protection against Mr. Savimbi's forces.

Further complicating the political picture for U.S. policy-makers is Gulf Oil Co., which has a cooperative venture with the Angolan government to produce the nation's oil.

Jeremias Chitunda, UNITA's secretary of state, said in a recent column in The Washington Times that Gulf accounts for nearly all of Angola's foreign earnings.

House Republican leader Robert Michel of Illinois led efforts that resulted in the House decision to resume providing non-lethal aid to Nicaraguan resistance fighters, but Mr. Fisk said Rep. Michel is not playing a leadership role in the Angolan fight.

Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif., is prepared to offer the Clark repeal amendment, but they are also talking to several conservative Democrats of the boll-weevil faction who sometimes support Republican initiatives, Don Morrissey of the ACU said.

A Democratic sponsor would better help them build bipartisan support, while Rep. Dornan is seen as a controversial figure because of his combative style, Mr. Fisk and Mr. Morrissey said.

"It's something we should be able to win on," Mr. Morrissey said, although no party whip counts have been made.

"Only the hardcore left — the Downys [Rep. Tom Downey D-N.Y.] and that type — are going to openly oppose it," he said.

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There are tactical considerations because the Senate action was an amendment to the State Department authorization bill, whereas they hope to repeal the Clark amendment in the House as an amendment to the foreign aid bill, Mr. Fisk said.

At least three of the five Senate conferees appointed for the State Department bill are thought to oppose repealing the Clark amendment, Mr. Fisk said.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., is expected to name conferees opposed to repealing the amendment, he said. Therefore, it is important that the full House calls for repeal before the conference begins.

In a column in The Times, Mr. Chitunda said the Clark amendment had effectively isolated UNITA "in the international community."

Angola "has been exploiting the Clark amendment to promote the idea that UNITA's cause actually has been so unworthy that even the greatest Democratic nation on earth refuses to recognize it," he said.