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Angola Extols Cuban and Soviet Ties

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LUANDA, Angola, Dec. 15 — If the statements heard at a party congress here last week are any indication, then Angola is not about to lessen its ties to the Soviet Union or ease out some 30,000 Cuban troops helping to fight a 10-year-old bush war against anti-Communist guerrillas.

The congress, the second held by the ruling Marxist-Leninist Movement for the Liberation of Angola — Workers Party since independence from Portugal a decade ago, rang with speeches of bravura and defiance of the West.

President José Eduardo dos Santos warmly praised Havana and Moscow, and he linked the United States to South Africa, his main external enemy.

"Warlike circles of the United States of America persist in encouraging racist South Africa to continue an aggressive and destabilizing policy against neighboring countries," he declared at the closing session Monday. He vowed that Angola would never again be "colonized or subjected to any form of domination."

U.S. Policy Decision Due

The words and tone of the congress have a special significance this year, because Angola has become the focus of an important foreign-policy decision for the Reagan Administration. After a decade of noninvolvement in the Angolan civil war, Washington is considering providing open or covert aid to the anti-Government forces of Jonas Savimbi, which control a large part of southern Angola.

The issue has far-reaching implications, because Mr. Savimbi is openly supported by South Africa, whose apartheid regime is an anathema to much of black Africa. Furthermore, Washington has long been trying to negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement in southern Africa in which Cubans would leave Angola in exchange for a South African departure from South-West Africa. Pretoria rule that territory, also known as Namibia, in defiance of the United Nations.

Reagan Administration officials have said disbursement of aid to the rebels will be delayed until early next year, in hopes that the threat of financing Mr. Savimbi's rebels will force Luanda to set a timetable for getting the Cubans to leave.

But the speeches here indicated that the threat, so far at least, has only made the Angolan Government cling even tighter to the Cubans. Some diplomats and others say they believe that Mr. Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola has become so strong that the ruling party would be toppled if it were not for the Cubans.

In a parade Tuesday commemorating the independence that came on Nov. 11, 1975, about 100 Cubans in civilian clothes marched past the reviewing stand in the main square here chanting to general applause, "Viva Angola y Cuba!"

The weeklong party congress, the first in five years, elected a new central committee, which will serve until 1990. It is dominated by army commanders.

President dos Santos, reading for six hours on Monday from a report prepared by the outgoing central committee, said: "The Soviet Union with its material, moral, political and diplomatic support continues to be the dependable rearguard of all people who struggle for freedom and independence. Cuba's sons have irrigated our sacred soil with their blood and have supported, shoulder-to-shoulder with their Angolan brothers, the defense of the conquest of the revolution against external aggressions."

Rebel Aid Ban Repealed

He also declared: "The racist state of South Africa has become the faithful guardian of the strategic interests of the U.S.A. in southern Africa. The repeal of the Clark Amendment has freed the bloody hands of the C.I.A. to continue a long list of crimes against the Angolan people."

The Clark Amendment, named for its sponsor, former Senator Dick Clark of Iowa, had banned aid to the Angolan rebels. The law, which was repealed last summer, was adopted in 1976 after the United States Central Intelligence Agency backed the Savimbi rebels and another pro-Western guerrilla army that had lost a power struggle before independence.

In July the Angolans, angered by the repeal of the Clark Amendment, suspended their intermittent negotiations with South Africa that United States officials have brokered for the last three years.

In late November the talks resumed. The chief American negotiator, Chester A. Crocker, Assistant Secretary of

State for African Affairs, is expected to come here within a month.

Diplomats here expressed skepticism last week that the regional peace talks promoted by the United States would lead anywhere.

"The Angolans see negotiations as a stalling operation to stave off aid for Unita," a Western diplomat said, using the common acronym in Portuguese for the Savimbi group. "They're very much motivated by holding off aid to Unita."

Another Western diplomat said: "Some Angolans believe that South Africa will collapse next year, so why not wait it out?"

And an African diplomat said: "With the people elected to the new central committee, the Americans should expect a tougher stand."

But the diplomat, like many interviewed here, did not believe that granting aid to Unita would bring peace to the region. "Granting aid to Unita means driving Angola more towards the Soviet Union," he said.

Representatives here of two African guerrilla groups said providing aid to Unita would put the United States in an unsavory alliance with South Africa.

"We make no difference between Unita and South Africa," said Kandy Nhova, deputy secretary for information of the South-West African People's Organization, which is fighting for the independence of Namibia. "We see Unita as a traitor to the African cause of liberation, and we look with suspicion on whoever helps this group."

"This alliance would be very bad," agreed Uriah Mokeba, the representative here of the African National Congress, which is fighting for majority rule in South Africa. "This is not constructive engagement but destructive engagement."