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Rebels of 4 Nations Form Antileftist Front

Groups' Meeting in Angola Organized by U.S. Lobby

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JAMBA, Angola, June 5—Guerrilla leaders from Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Laos and Angola formed the world's first alliance of anticommunist rebels during an American-organized conference in a rebel-controlled part of Angola last weekend.

In a communique issued Sunday, representatives of the four groups pledged to "cooperate" in halting "Soviet colonialism," but stressed that their alliance will not involve exchanges of troops, arms or funds.

News of the meeting was delayed because the chartered aircraft that journalists were using broke down and they could not leave Angola until today.

President Reagan sent a message of support to the conference, saying that the rebels' goals "are our goals."

"Around the world we see people joining together to . . . free their nations from outside domination and an alien ideology," Reagan's letter said.

Reagan's letter did not mention any U.S. assistance to the insurgents, although the CIA is known to have provided more than \$250 million to the Afghan rebels fighting Soviet occupation forces and \$80 million to Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Marxist-led Sandinista government.

The first conference of Armed Movements Fighting Against Soviet Expansionism was held in Jamba, the Angolan rebels' "provisional capital" in southeastern Angola, about 50 miles north of the border with the South African-controlled territory of Namibia.

Rebel delegates held out the possibility that exchanges of people and arms might take place in the future.

"As time goes by, we will definitely implement many ways to cooperate with each other, which will be made known at the appropriate time," said Adolfo Calero, head of about 12,000 men in the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

Jonas Savimbi, conference host and leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, said the alliance's first goal is "to make the people of the United States understand the struggle" of the rebel groups.

The alliance will have a "central clearinghouse" in Washington, said Lewis Lehrman, a New York Republican who is chairman of the Washington-based Citizens for

America, the conservative lobbying group that organized the conference. He gave no further details.

But another Citizens for America official said his organization may lobby Congress for a package of U.S. aid for the insurgent forces that formed the alliance and others that may join later. He also said that rebel delegates at the conference had vowed that at least one of their movements will achieve victory before the end of Reagan's presidential term in 1988.

The communique, called the Declaration of the Democratic International, issued at the end of the two-day conference, said that the rebel groups had decided to unite because their goal is the same: "independence from Soviet colonialism, a

colonialism brutally enforced by Soviet troops and the troops of her surrogates."

Besides Calero and Savimbi, the two-page declaration was signed by Pa Kao Her of the Ethnic Liberation Organization of Laos and Ghulam Wardak of the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujaheddin.

Wardak is a former rebel who now performs political work in the United States. Conference organizers said the Afghan rebels' military chiefs wanted to attend the Jamba meetings but were prevented from coming by Pakistan, the country they use as a support base. The organizers said Pakistani authorities gave no reason for their refusal.

Cambodian rebels fighting against Vietnamese occupation

forces were invited but did not attend because the military situation in their country was "very serious," according to Jack Wheeler, a conference organizer. But former prime minister Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, sent a message of solidarity to the conference.

[A Portuguese radio report last week had said that Cuban and Mozambican resistance movements also would be represented at the conference. According to the report by Radio Commercial, the organizers plan a follow-up conference to be held in Washington in July.]

Although Savimbi was the summit's official host, the event was organized by Lehrman, who brought Reagan's message. Lehr-

man is a personal friend of the president and was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of New York in 1982.

The organization he heads, Citizens for America, is currently lobbying Congress to restore U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, cut off since spring of 1984. Lehrman acknowledged that the alliance with the Afghan rebels, whose cause is highly popular in Congress, could help his organization advance the Nicaraguan guerrillas' cause among U.S. lawmakers.

Savimbi indicated that the new alliance may lead the White House to seek the repeal of the Clark Amendment, a 1975 congressional ban on U.S. military or humanitarian aid to the Angolan guerrillas

battling their country's Marxist government.

Savimbi said he wants the Clark Amendment repealed not so much to receive U.S. aid but to issue a clear warning to the Angolan government to send home the 25,000 Cuban troops now defending the government.

Rebel delegates and the two dozen journalists who covered the conference were flown into rebel-occupied Angola aboard a dilapidated DC3 transport plane owned by a South African charter company. They took off from a small suburban airfield outside Johannesburg.

Western diplomats in the region say South Africa's white-minority government is the principal source of aid for Savimbi's rebels.