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Don't make a deal for covert aid, conservatives tell UNITA leader

By James Morrison
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American conservatives have warned Jonas Savimbi not to accept any secret deals offered by the Reagan administration to ward off congressional debate in exchange for covert military aid to his Angolan rebels.

The warning was telephoned to a Savimbi aide and conveyed directly to Mr. Savimbi as the resistance leader met with Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday.

"We told him to avoid making any promises and making any deals," a source said.

Mr. Savimbi talked for more than an hour with Mr. Shultz, who has opposed congressional efforts to provide open aid to his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Mr. Shultz also has remained silent on reported Reagan administration moves that imply backing for secret military aid.

Beginning his first full day of activities on a 10-day Washington visit, Mr. Savimbi also met with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and received a rare standing ovation from a normally somber crowd of State Department and Foreign Service employees.

His plans for today include a meeting with President Reagan.

Late Tuesday, Mr. Shultz met privately with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole shortly after the Kansas Republican decided to push for what a source called "something more than moral support" for the rebels. Earlier, Mr. Dole planned to introduce a resolution for only general congressional endorsement of UNITA's 10-year-old war to force free elections in Angola.

One source said the Shultz-Dole meeting was an exchange of ideas on the best strategy to pursue for rebel aid. Another source saw the meeting as a possible sign that Mr. Shultz might moderate his opposition to congressional aid.

Lately, Mr. Shultz has called for "effective and appropriate" aid, without explaining what that means, and has asked Congress only to express moral support for the rebels.

Mr. Savimbi gave no hint of the contents of his private discussions with Mr. Shultz.

"I had a one-hour-and-10-minute discussion with the secretary of state, and I am satisfied. I hope there will be progress," Mr. Savimbi told reporters before he rode away to the Pentagon in his long, gray limousine.

When he arrived at the State Department, the bearded guerrilla leader was not wearing his trademark green fatigues. He was clad in a blue topcoat worn over a light gray Nehru suit, and he carried an ivory-handled, black enameled cane.

Mr. Savimbi, though not a head of state, was treated as such. He was accompanied by a U.S. security detail and greeted at the State Department by U.S. Chief of Protocol Selwa Roosevelt.

In an off-the-record speech following his meeting with Mr. Shultz, the dynamic guerrilla commander brought about two-thirds of an audience of nearly 500 to its feet.

"If he was able to sway the Foreign Service, he will do all right with Congress," a State Department employee said. "This guy's bandwagon is really rolling."

Mr. Savimbi was "candid and very blunt," the source said. The rebel leader said the Soviet Union has poured \$4 billion into Angola to prop up the government. He also said Russian officers now are directing the government struggle because the 35,000 Cuban troops in Angola are poor fighters and disenchanted with the war.

The rebel leader also attacked American oil companies operating in Angola because they are "financing the killing of our people."

The State Department added that Angolan-based American firms are helping the Marxist government there in its war against the insurgents.

"Much of the hard currency earned by the Angolan government with the help of these firms goes toward imports of military equipment and payment for the Cuban troops," a spokesman said. "This supports war rather than the search for peace."

Mr. Savimbi's visit here has sparked what one State Department official called an "ideological

superbowl," with conservatives demanding public aid for the guerrillas as a sign of U.S. support for freedom fighters and liberals calling Mr. Savimbi a secret communist or a "stooge" for South Africa.

"The issue to be decided this week is whether the United States will send him more than a Valentine card to fight the Soviet Union," said Howard Phillips, head of the Conservative Caucus.

Anti-Savimbi forces kicked off their campaign to block U.S. aid at a news conference featuring the former chief of the CIA's Angola Task Force.

John Stockwell, who quit the CIA in 1977 to write a bitterly critical book on CIA activities in Angola, claimed the Reagan administration already is secretly funding the rebels with up to \$15 million.

The anti-rebel campaign is sponsored by the Washington Office on Africa, the Congressional Black Caucus, the TransAfrica organization and 500 specialists on Africa at universities in 38 states and Washington.

While Mr. Savimbi lobbied Washington, his guerrillas announced they bombed a hotel occupied by Bulgarian technicians and killed 57 soldiers, including four Cubans, in a series of operations last weekend.

This story is based in part on wire service reports.

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