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# S. African units attack rebels in Angola

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JOHANNESBURG — South African troops yesterday invaded Angola to strike at guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization, an incursion that seemed certain to bring renewed international condemnation of Pretoria for intervening in neighboring black nations.

Gen. Constand Viljoen, commander of the South African military, said the raid was mounted because of "irrefutable evidence of SWAPO's plans" to strike at targets inside South-West Africa.

He gave no indication of the size of the raiding force, its targets or its penetration. It was the second strike in 10 weeks inside Angola, where about 25,000 Cuban troops are based.

The general said reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering operations had established that guerrillas were planning long-range bombardments of military bases and attacks on big towns and residential areas in the northern part of the disputed territory.

Southern Angola is the base area of SWAPO guerrillas fighting for the independence of South-West Africa, a mineral-rich territory also known

as Namibia. South Africa has controlled the territory since World War I, despite the ending of the U.N. mandate that placed it under South African authority.

In an initial U.S. statement yesterday, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that "if the reports are true, we would be deeply concerned about such cross-border raids."

The raid followed by one week the return of the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, Herman Nickel. Mr. Nickel, who has been ambassador to Pretoria for 3½ years, was recalled in mid-June to show American displeasure at a South African com-

mando raid into Gabarone, capital of Botswana. The raid was intended to strike at members of the African National Congress.

The recall of Mr. Nickel and growing congressional impatience with South Africa has strained the administration's policy of constructive engagement, or maintaining close relations with South Africa to press for reforms.

In a briefing yesterday for American correspondents, a U.S. official said constructive engagement remains the only viable policy toward Pretoria. But the official, who spoke on the condition that he not be named, said the United States

will be taking a higher profile in its quest for reform in South Africa.

Commenting on recent statements by South African officials that seem to point toward reform, the official stressed that action, not words, is needed now.

"We've gotten past the point where statements are enough. Things have to be seen to be happening," he said.

The U.S. official also repeated the administration's call for some form of negotiations between the government and black leaders — including jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

"His [Mandela's] attitude toward a dialogue is a crucial element in the process" of negotiation, the official said.

The raid into Angola yesterday followed a year in which South Africa's Angolan policy has suffered one setback after another following the relative success of a mutual non-aggression pact signed in 1984.

The government announced the pullout of its troops from Angola in mid-April, only to have a South African commando team ambushed in the far northern Cabinda Province the next month. Two soldiers were killed, and a third, Capt. Wynand du

Toit, was captured.

The last major South African incursion into Angola came at the end of June, following an upswing in SWAPO activity. Code named "Bush Willow," the operation drove 25 miles into Angola.

Gen. Viljoen said yesterday the Angolan government was informed of the latest strike and warned "not to interfere."

The raid seemed likely to set back negotiations on withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, a major goal of U.S. policy in the area. In his briefing for journalists yesterday, given

before the raid into Angola was announced, the U.S. official said it is a policy the administration "would very much like to make some progress on from the South African side."

But the strike into Angola probably will chill Pretoria's regional and international negotiations. It is likely to dampen the good will built up by President Pieter W. Botha's statements last week on black citizenship and the recommendation by a President's Council to scrap regulations controlling the movement of blacks in the country.

The U.S. official touched on a number of American policy positions, reaffirming Washington's stance that engagement, not isola-

tion, is the best way to bring about change in apartheid. But he said that U.S. diplomats will give a more active interpretation to constructive engagement.

"To some extent I think there will be a somewhat higher public profile because I think that the president felt that what we were trying to achieve in this policy wasn't getting across clearly enough both in terms of our own domestic constituency and also here, especially among blacks," the official said.

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On other issues, the official stressed that Washington would like to see the 8-week-old state of emergency ended. He noted that the South African police and military now patrolling black townships pose

a major obstacle to the government re-establishing credibility in the black community.

The official also reiterated the administration's call for a "real political dialogue" with blacks.

"We don't think a real political dialogue is possible so long as key members with whom you should be talking are not available because they are in detention or in prison, and that specifically includes Nelson Mandela," the official said.

Concerning Mr. Botha's requirement that Mandela renounce violence as a condition to negotiation, the official said it was an unrealistic demand.

*This story is based in part on wire-service reports.*