

THE HOUSTON POST

7 January 1976

CIA official denies Angola actions

The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency said here Tuesday that he does not know of any Cuban mercenaries being trained in this country for fighting in Angola.

"There is no CIA involvement in Angola with troops or agents," said Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, number two in command at the CIA, "and I am not aware of Cuban mercenaries being trained here by the CIA."

Last week White House press secretary Ron Nessen would not comment on rumors that Cuban nationals living in the United States were being hired for Angola where Cuba has sent some 7,000 combat

troops to fight for the Moscow-supported site.

Walters, speaking at the Executive Breakfast Club meeting, said he expects the agency will receive a "set of restrictions" and "some reorganization" as a result of congressional investigations into CIA activities.

"We are prepared to live with the results of the congressional reports if we get a fair reporting," Walters said. "Yes, we've had our share of poor judgment, over zealotness, kooks and nuts, but they have been few and far between in 27 years.

Walters, CIA deputy director three years, formerly was with the intelligence

division for the Defense Department.

He said that "much of what has been brought up and used against us" through congressional inquiries were contingency plans rather than policies adopted for use.

Assassinations, mind-bending drugs and use of toxics were discussed within the agency, he said, "but in the final conclusion they were passed over. We were dealing with possibly the means to retaliate if they were used against us."

The deputy director said that in addition to congressional probes, the CIA has had to contend with an American attitude that intelligence work is "unmoral and ungentlemanly."