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PEKING ACCUSES MOSCOW OF INCITING CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA

PRC Vice Premier Ku Mu on 23 July broke Peking's silence on the armed fighting in Angola among competing liberation organizations, blaming the Soviet Union for "perpetrating subterfuges and trying by all means to stir up internal conflicts" in Angola for its own hegemonic ends. Ku's remarks, at a banquet welcoming a Malagasy Government economic delegation to Peking, have been followed by several NCNA commentaries sharply critical of Moscow's Angolan policy and represent a Chinese rejoinder to recent accusations by the Soviet media that Peking has encouraged attacks by one liberation group, the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA), against the others.*

In his banquet speech Ku noted that the three Angolan liberation organizations—the FNLA, the People's Liberation Movement of Angola (MPLA), and the Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA)—had recently confirmed their intention to work together toward independence, and he expressed Peking's conviction that superpower "sabotage and intrigue" could be overcome if the groups strengthened their unity. Without specifically mentioning the USSR, Ku added that "a superpower" which he said was stirring up Angolan internal conflict for its own advantage was merely "lifting a rock only to drop it on its own feet."

A 26 July NCNA commentary sharply accused Moscow of attempting to sabotage the landmark accord worked out among the three rival groups in Nakuru, Kenya, on 21 June by publicly classifying the groups into "revolutionary, nonrevolutionary and even counter-revolutionary" categories and by secretly shipping arms to "stir up civil war" among the rival insurgent movements. It avoided specifically mentioning which liberation group Moscow supports against the others, however. NCNA further charged that Moscow, like a "thief crying 'stop thief,'" has set its "propaganda machines in motion" to slander China and "other African countries" over Angola and it reaffirmed Peking's "consistent, resolute support to the Angolan people's efforts to fight for national independence in unity."

NCNA on 27 July accused Moscow of interfering in the 18-28 July OAU Council of Ministers session in Kampala, Uganda, with the intention of rendering "the Angolan issue even more complicated by dividing African leaders." It reported favorably on the 28th

* Recent Soviet media charges that Peking is fostering civil war in Angola are discussed in the TRENDS of 23 July 1975, pages 20-21.

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that the OAU ministerial council session had proposed for approval by the OAU's 12th summit conference opening on 28 July that the three Angolan liberation organizations cease hostilities immediately and attend the conference to discuss the Angolan question.

BACKGROUND A 22 January 1975 PEOPLE'S DAILY editorial commemorating the 15 January signature of the Angolan independence agreement in Lisbon by all three Angolan liberation groups had warned against the dangers of superpower "sabotage" and stated that "the unity of the Angolan liberation organizations . . . is an important guarantee for implementing the agreement and winning independence in the days to come." Peking has since taken pains to maintain friendly relations with the three Angolan groups, each of which has sent delegations to Peking this year. Both the UNITA delegation led by general commander Samuel Chiwale in late March and early April, and the FNLA delegation led by Front Politburo member Hendrik Vaal Neto in mid-July, had "cordial and friendly" conversations with PRC Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, according to NCNA. The agency reported that the MPLA delegation led by Politburo member Lucien Lara in late May and early June had a "cordial and friendly" conversation with lower-ranking Vice Premier Chi Teng-kuei. Peking had not previously reported the outbreak of fighting between the Angolan groups either before or since the signing of the Nakuru agreement on 21 June, avoiding the issue even in NCNA's factual 22 June report on the signing of the agreement.

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