Approved For Release 2010/09/02 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302490030-2

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE C-9

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
30 January 1986

Angola rebel chief lobbies D.C.

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WASHINGTON—Angolan guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi said yesterday he hopes to persuade the United States to end a decade of non-involvement in his country's civil war and to come up with some financial backing for his fight against the Marxist government.

After a 70-minute meeting with Secretary of State Shultz, Savimbi said simply: "I am satisfied and I hope that there will be progress."

Amid tight security provided by the Reagan administration, Savimbi raced around town in a long black limousine for meetings with senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and CIA director William Casey. He is scheduled to meet with President Reagan today as part of an intensive 11-day lobbying campaign for U.S. support.

Covert assistance

An Alexandria, Va., firm is being paid a reported $650,000 to lobby on behalf of Savimbi's National Union for Total Independence of Angola, which has received most of its support to date from the government of South Africa. The Angolan government has received $2 billion in aid from the Soviet Union, Cuba and other Soviet bloc nations. An estimated 30,000 Cuban troops are fighting alongside Angolan government troops against Savimbi.

The Reagan administration has submitted a proposal to Congress for an estimated $10 million to $15 million in covert assistance to Savimbi forces. But Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minn.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and his counterpart in the House, Rep. Lee Hamilton, have opposed covert military assistance to the non-Communist forces, largely because of unease on Capitol Hill over the expanding role of the CIA in open-ended guerrilla wars against Soviet and Cuban-backed rebels.

Congress has urged the administration to pursue an open aid package that would provide $27 million in military aide and $27 million in humanitarian assistance. One congressional resolution calls on the Angolan government to engage in good faith negotiations with Savimbi or face U.S. aid to the rebels and economic sanctions.

Angolan oil exports to the U.S., the government's largest trading partner, reached $1.1 billion in 1984.

The decision on aid to Savimbi has far reaching implications. It comes at a time when the U.S. is trying to negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement in which the Cuban troops leave Angola in exchange for South Africa's departure from South-West Africa, known as Namibia.

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