

January 12, 1976

OAU-ANGOLA

The badly divided summit meeting on Angola of the Organization of African Unity, which opened Saturday in Addis Ababa, enters its third and possibly decisive session today. After the brief opening session adjourned on Saturday, most representatives held private discussions and strategy sessions. The meeting yesterday, held in closed session, was stormy at times and apparently ended in deadlock.

Seventeen of the OAU's 46 heads of state were on hand when the summit opened under the chairmanship of Uganda's President Amin. At Amin's request, Holden Roberto and Jonas Savimbi, the leaders of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, were seated as observers at the opening session. Neither was allowed to attend the closed session.

Agostinho Neto, head of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, declined to attend. He is represented by the "foreign minister" of his Luanda-based regime. A high-level Cuban delegation is also present and is lobbying in support of the Popular Movement.

Saturday's opening session quickly pointed up the sharp division among the delegates, who are apparently split almost evenly between those who seek OAU recognition of the Popular Movement as the sole legitimate government of Angola and those who are opposed to recognition of either rival Angolan regime and want to resolve the conflict by gaining agreement for a government of national unity.

The first speaker, Mozambique's President Machel, denounced South Africa's intervention in Angola. He charged that the National Front and National Union no longer deserve OAU support because of their collaboration with Pretoria and called for OAU endorsement of the Popular Movement in its struggle against South Africa.

In a strong rejoinder, Senegalese President Senghor declared that, to be honest, those who condemn South Africa should also condemn the USSR and Cuba for their involvement in Angola. Senghor appealed for a compromise solution that would allow the Angolan people to decide for themselves on a government rather than having one imposed on them in violation of the OAU charter.

The key issue at yesterday's closed session was the question of whether to abandon the OAU's present neutral stance toward the three warring Angolan nationalist groups and officially back the Popular Movement as Angola's government. The Popular Movement submitted a formal request to the OAU secretariat to recognize the Neto regime and to admit Angola as an OAU member.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
MAR 31 1987



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In an effort to block action on this proposal, the National Front and National Union made a similar request, seeking recognition of their own side. They acted on the advice of the Zairian ambassador to Ethiopia, who claims that, under the OAU charter, when two requests for the admission of a single territory are made by opposing groups, both must be rejected out of hand. The Popular Movement's supporters, under a different interpretation of the OAU charter, apparently are seeking to have the matter of admission considered as a procedural question that can be decided by a simple majority vote, rather than a substantive question requiring a two-thirds vote.

████████████████████ 22 OAU members in favor of a government of national unity yesterday proposed a compromise draft resolution designed to postpone entirely the volatile question of recognition. The proposal reportedly would:

- Condemn South African intervention in Angola.
- Condemn all other foreign involvement in Angola without mentioning by name Cuba or the USSR.
- Demand the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Angola.
- Call for the rival Angolan factions to cease fighting on a date to be agreed on by the OAU summit and remain in place when a cease-fire goes into effect.
- Urge the Angolan nationalist leaders to reach an agreement, under OAU supervision and in an African city of their choice, to create the conditions for national reconciliation and to establish a government of national unity.
- Call for the formation of a temporary committee of OAU heads of state to implement the resolution with the aid of the OAU defense commission.

████████████████████ the Popular Movement's backers—led by Nigeria, Algeria, and Burundi—as uncompromising and determined to press for OAU recognition of the Neto regime by tying the issue to a resolution condemning South Africa. According to Radio Luanda, the Popular Movement will reject any cease-fire proposal by the OAU in the absence of prior recognition of the Popular Movement.

A resolution favoring the Popular Movement has been sponsored by Nigeria and is backed by 22 OAU states. It reportedly calls for:

- Recognition of the Popular Movement and its concurrent admission to membership in the OAU.

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--Condemnation of South African involvement in Angola.

--Language committing the Popular Movement to discuss a coalition government for Angola, providing it is recognized and admitted to the OAU.

Zairian Foreign Minister Bula is said to believe that the anti-Movement group is solid enough to block this proposal. (SECRE

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