



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA MUST AWAIT CUBAN WITHDRAWAL, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that he would oppose any move by the United States to establish diplomatic relations with Angola while a reported 20,000 Cuban troops remain in that country.

Dole said in a statement given on the Senate floor that he does not object to State Department emissary Donald McHenry's discussions with the Angolan government on methods for reducing border conflicts between Angola and Zaire.

"But I would object, and I suspect the majority of the American people would also object, if any efforts are made to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Marxist Angolan government while 20,000 Cuban troops remain in that country," Dole said.

DOLE AMENDMENT

"Accordingly, I intend to propose an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act when it reaches the Senate floor, to bar establishment of diplomatic relations with Angola until Castro has withdrawn his forces from that nation."

Dole again questioned whether the Carter administration has developed a strategy for relations with Africa.

"Unfortunately, this latest diplomatic move seems yet another isolated policy effort that bears no direct relationship to any clear administration strategy in the area," he said. "During the past several weeks, the United States has been engaged in transporting peace-keeping troops into neighboring Zaire, where Angolan-based Katangese rebels have incited death and destruction. Only seven weeks ago, the Central Intelligence Agency, acting on instructions from a committee of the National Security Council, was quietly making inquiries on Capitol Hill about a plan to aid Angolan rebels still fighting against the Marxist regime governing the country.

"Is there a consistent, coherent strategy for southern Africa into which all of these diverse policy plans fit, or is it all part of a 'hit-or-miss' approach that develops on a day-to-day basis, in reaction to events in Africa?"

Following is the text of Sen. Dole's remarks:

Mr. President, the State Department has dispatched to Angola a senior diplomat from our mission to the United Nations to discuss certain issues affecting the southwestern area of Africa. Press reports indicate that the American diplomat, Donald McHenry, will discuss methods for reducing border conflicts between Angola and neighboring Zaire, and also methods of transfer to majority rule in nearby Namibia. Direct communication of this type between the United States government and the Marxist government in Angola, which came to power following considerable civil strife in 1975, is unprecedented. It raises many questions about our overall policy strategy towards Angola, and towards all of southern Africa.

Unfortunately, this latest diplomatic move seems yet another isolated policy effort that bears no direct relationship to any clear Administration strategy in the area. During the past several weeks, the United States has been engaged in transporting peace-keeping troops into neighboring Zaire, where Angolan-based Katangese rebels have incited death and destruction. Only seven weeks ago, the Central Intelligence Agency, acting on instructions from a Committee of the National Security Council, was quietly making inquiries on Capitol Hill about a plan to aid Angolan rebels still fighting against the Marxist regime governing the country.

Is there a consistent, coherent strategy for southern Africa into which all of these diverse policy plans fit, or is it all part of a "hit-or-miss" approach that develops on a day-to-day basis, in reaction to events in Africa? These are the central questions which the American people are asking as the Carter Administration proceeds with contradictory moves in the region.

CUBAN TROOPS BAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Mr. President, I certainly do not object to unofficial discussions with the Angolan government on ways to reduce conflict in the area -- particularly that which is incited by Angolan-Cuban aggression. But I would object, and I suspect the majority of the American people would also object, if any efforts are made to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Marxist Angolan government while 20,000 Cuban troops remain in that country. Accordingly, I intend to propose an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, when it reaches the Senate floor, to bar establishment of diplomatic relations with Angola until Castro has withdrawn his forces from that nation. Only two years ago, the present Marxist regime came to power through a combination of support from Cuban troops and Soviet-supplied weapons. To date, the regime can claim control over only about two-thirds of the national territory, as anti-Marxist guerrilla forces continue to struggle against the regime. According to our administration, Cuban troops in Angola have trained and equipped Katangese rebels who last month attacked the Shaba Province in southern Zaire. Under these circumstances, it would seem ill-advised to even consider establishing diplomatic relations with Angola until all Cuban troops in that nation have been withdrawn.

Cuban President Fidel Castro says that Cuban troops are in Angola at the express invitation of that regime. If this is true, then it should be a relatively simple matter for the Angolan regime to ask them to leave if Angola is truly interested in closer relations with the United States, and it would be a test of the real mandate for Cuban presence in Angola.

In addition, withdrawal of all Cuban troops would clearly be a test of whether the Angolan regime is strong enough to stand on its own - to prove that it is in fact a sovereign regime worthy of diplomatic recognition.

Finally, it would make little sense to establish relations with a nation harboring 20,000 Cuban soldiers, and which seems to rely upon them for its continued existence, when we don't have relations with Cuba itself. It is this Senator's understanding that Cuban provocations on the African continent are one of the main reasons why this administration has not yet moved to formally recognize the Castro regime in Cuba. Can we then, with any logic, formalize relations with a nation such as Angola which came into being, and continues to survive through the presence of Cuban aggressors? I think not.

It may be premature to suspect that the Administration intends to move in the direction of formal relations with Angola. But the unpredictable, contradictory policies of this Administration-- particularly with respect to Africa--are a continuing cause for concern here in the United States. The President refuses to recognize the reasonable, peaceable Rhodesian internal settlement plan, which would lead to majority rule by the end of this year. He continues to denounce Cuba for training and equipping rebels stationed in Angola. It therefore seems inconsistent to formally recognize the Marxist Angolan government, particularly as long as Cuban troops remain. I hope the Administration will refrain from any such initiative and that these concerns can be put to rest. In any case, a clear statement of congressional objections to formal relations at this time, by means of a floor amendment, would discourage any plans of this type which may be developing within the administration.