

Moscow Reaffirms Commitment In Africa

By Raymond H. Boone

NNPA Foreign Correspondent

MOSCOW — In a rare interview with the press, a ranking Russian official has told the NNPA that the Soviet Union will continue to provide military assistance to black freedom fighters in southern Africa.

"Our principle is to give assistance to those who fight against imperialistic aggression and to those who fight for their freedom and independence," said Y.N. Cherniakov, chief of the press department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs who almost never grants personal interviews.

Throughout the 45-minute exclusive interview in his office on June 1, Cherniakov sent a clear message that the Soviet Union lives by its Communist principles and that black freedom fighters could continue to count on Soviet support in the war for the freedom of all of Africa.

"We declared our position to support Angola with any help," said Cherniakov, a tall, erect, no-nonsense man who appears to be in his early 70's and speaks in a quiet but serious voice. "So we will help them. Our assistance is up to Angola."

In addition to reaffirming the Soviet Union's pledge of continuous military aid to black-ruled Angola which remains under attack by Western-supported rebels operating out of minority white-ruled South Africa, Cherniakov said the Soviet Union would continue to give the same kind of assistance to black freedom fighters seeking to win independence in South Africa, in addition to freedom fighters in Namibia — the vast mineral-rich territory which is illegally controlled by South Africa.

Cherniakov's remarks refuted speculation in the American press that the Soviet Union has second thoughts about its involvement in the black liberation struggle in Africa because of its heavy costs. The Communist superpower reportedly pays the bills for keeping some 3,800 Soviet and Eastern European military advisers, in addition to 8,000 civilian technicians in a number of African countries and covers the costs of 37,000 Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia.

Further, Cherniakov's pro-black liberation remarks were consistent with those delivered by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in connection with the celebration of African Liberation Day in Moscow late last month. Brezhnev said "the USSR undeviatingly supports the African peoples' struggle for their national liberation." He further criticized the West for "shamelessly" equating the African liberation movement with terrorism while the West openly supports the terrorism of South Africa and encourages its "direct aggression against neighboring sovereign African countries."

Cherniakov said Soviet presence in Africa was necessary to counter white racism and imperialistic exploitation in Africa. Otherwise, he suggested, the black liberation movement would have little chance for success against Western aggression led by South Africa and the United States with their superior weaponry.

Cherniakov began the interview speaking in Russian, but on several occasions interrupted his interpreter to speak English in an obvious effort to make certain that he was accurately understood and/or to accentuate a point.

He became visibly annoyed when he was questioned about charges of Soviet terrorism that have appeared in the American press. "First of all," he responded, "this is nonsense. Not only nonsense but it is meant to cover the aggression of the West and the United States against the liberation movement in Africa."

While Soviet-supported Angola struggles to hold on to power as Western-backed guerrilla forces conduct attacks out of South Africa, SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) fights for black freedom in Namibia and the ANC (African National Congress) battles to unshackle black people in South Africa. SWAPO and ANC receive military assistance from the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc supporters, with the blessings of the Organization of African Unity.

Cherniakov came down hard on the West for failing to support a 1978 United Nations Security Council resolution which called for the withdrawal of South African military troops from Namibia and national elections administered by the UN.

South Africa took control of Namibia in 1920 through a League of Nations mandate that was

formally revoked in 1966 by the UN. Nevertheless, South Africa, often with the support of the United States and other Western nations, continued its harshly anti-black rule.

The American pampering of South Africa, including the latest by President Reagan, has drawn fire not only from the Soviet Union — but also black Africa which sees America as continuing its long-standing policy of being buddy-buddy with colonial rulers.

South African Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha has told President Reagan and other Western leaders that they should be more concerned about Soviet and Cuban presence in Africa than about black liberation. Reagan, ignoring the lessons of history, is apparently following the advice of the white racist.

major attempt at stemming the tide of rampant German and Italian militarism.

After World War II the old order, which every conservative politician tried to save, was incapable of stemming the tide of Third World national liberation movements. Where they tried to interfere militarily they were defeated; where they thought that established colonialism was strong enough to survive on its own they gave arms and other forms of aid.

And when world clamor cried out for the end of racism and colonialism they withdrew into the diplomatic-political underbrush and stalled for time in the hope that the liberation forces would bleed themselves to a compromise solution.

Now, in the final phase of the liberation movements, the anti-colonial forces are demanding rigid, uncompromising sanctions against the



ATLANTA — Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner Lee P. Brown (c) makes a statement outside the Fulton County Jail, that Wayne Williams has been arrested and being held in the jail. Brown refused to say whether other charges might be filed, saying "We have one charge that he is being held on at this time."

UPI Photo

From Non-Intervention To Sanctions

By Laura Parks

A shameful and dismal idea is being pushed around the corridors of power in London, Bonn, Paris and Washington. The idea is that sanctions are an ineffective weapon in general and particularly ineffective against South Africa, if and when they should be used. Chief architect of this philosophy is Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who has dutifully enlisted her NATO allies in the crusade against sanctions.

To date the allies have deferred to Britain's "Iron Lady." This is largely due to Mrs. Thatcher's self-proclaimed expertise on sanctions which she claims to have mastered during Zimbabwe's struggle for independence. Her foreign allies follow her, not out of any great feeling for her anti-sanction philosophy, but rather out of respect for their own economic and strategic self-interests.

These interests are best summarized by saying that a white minority ruled South Africa, strong in arms, rich in resources and strategically located on the southern tip of Africa is a known and preferred political entity on whose allegiance the NATO Brotherhood depends and with whom it feels comfortable.

Entirely overlooked is the very real possibility that a free and black majority ruled South Africa will, in the long run, prove to be a far more stable nation, a free trading partner with the rest of the world, a vital member of the Third World movement, dedicated to peace and the prosperity of the African continent.

But Thatcherism will have none of this. In this respect she is following the well trodden path of her British and European predecessors from the time of the 1936 Spanish Civil War, the Italian Ethiopian War, the League of Nations attempt at Collective Security against Fascism all the way down to British Harold Wilson's half-hearted sanctions against the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia.

Simply stated the pre

World War II European establishment was far more concerned with the preservation of the old order in Europe even if this meant giving Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy a free hand in Republican Spain under the guise of the policy of Non-Intervention. This policy only applied to the Western Democracies, then deeply committed to appeasing Fascism and seen as a vital bulwark against rising popular opposition to the old order.

The Fascist rulers flouted Non-Intervention and won the war for Spanish dictator Franco. Appeasing Fascism in Europe was followed by appeasing them in Ethiopia.

The policy of Collective Security was tried in the belief that the world had come to understand the menace of Fascism and the danger of a world war. But here again the appeasers of Fascism refused to join the League's last

last bastions of the old order in Africa.

Third World leaders dismiss Mrs. Thatcher's claims about the uselessness of sanctions as another example of the old order trying to hold on a little while longer. Moreover, Third World leaders are confident that the pressure of world events will force the imposition of fully effective sanctions against South Africa.

They point out that the British Lion of today is not the same beast it was in the past, its powers are greatly reduced, and that the old establishment is deeply bogged down in an unwinding inflationary and stagnant economy, probably beyond effective repair.

At the same time, Third World forces are on the rise and in spite of monumental problems have the invigorating feeling that the confluence of world power and destiny is on their side.

Now, in the final phase of the liberation movements, the anti-colonial forces are demanding rigid, uncompromising sanctions against the



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