

Sen. Case urges Kissinger to ask Soviet Union to stop arms to Angola

Senator Clifford Case urged Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to do his utmost to persuade the Soviet Union to halt its increasingly dangerous flow of weapons into Angola.

The Angola situation should be taken up while Dr. Kissinger is in Moscow this week to discuss SALT negotiations, Senator Case said.

The New Jersey Republican, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said all outside powers should stay out of the Angola conflict and terminate whatever support they might be giving to the various factions.

Senator Case noted that at least one amendment has been introduced in the Senate to require congressional authorization for any aid to the parties in the Angola conflict.

"However the Russians should realize that it will be difficult to persuade other nations to stay out of the situation as long as the Soviet Union is playing such a major role," Senator Case said.

The senator said, "I am deeply concerned by the widespread reports that the Russians have shipped rockets, armored cars, light tanks and perhaps even MIG jet fighter planes to Africa to support

one of the Angolan factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola.

Additionally, several thousand Cubans are reported to have entered Angola to help operate the equipment. The shipments appear to represent a major escalation of involvement in Angola by an outside power.

"They also raise serious questions about Moscow's willingness to abide by the non-intervention principles of the Helsinki agreement and the spirit of detente. A major objective for the Soviet Union in entering the essentially tribal-based conflict may be the possibility of obtaining air and sea bases near the South Atlantic sea lanes," Senator Case said.

He added, "As long as the Soviets seem to think the U.S.-Soviet detente does not inhibit them from adventurism in regional conflicts, such as in the Mideast and Africa, Dr. Kissinger should remind the Russians of the growing congressional skepticism about detente plus the recent U.S.-Russian grain deal and other efforts to obtain economic benefits from the U.S."

Senator Case said he expected that the Foreign Relations Committee or its Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, of which he is the ranking member, will hold hearings next year on the Russian grain deal.

He said the press reports in the last few days that the Russians were backing down on allowing American flag vessels to carry one third of the grain raised additional questions about the agreement.

Senator Case recently urged the administration to submit the grain agreement to Congress for scrutiny as a treaty.