

Soviet influence in Africa discussed

PARIS (AP) — Experts from the United States and four European countries meet here Sunday to discuss a Western response to alleged Soviet-inspired "destabilization" in Africa and to organize backing for a French-sponsored Pan-African peace force for Zaire.

The representatives from the United States, France, Britain, Belgium and West Germany will conduct "an in-depth analysis of recent events in Africa" during their two-day meeting and make recommendations to their governments, a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry

said.

U.S. military planes already have begun transporting about 1,000 Moroccan troops from Agadir, on Morocco's Atlantic coast, to Zaire as the first contingent of the peace force, sources in Rabat reported.

American C-141 Starlifters also are scheduled to fly out the 600 French Foreign Legion paratroopers who jumped into Kolwezi more than two weeks ago to drive out Zaire's southern Shaba Province from bases in Angola.

French sources, who declined to be identified, said most of the legionnaires will be

replaced by midweek with 1,500 Moroccans and eventually 500 other African troops. The most likely contributions are Gabon, Togo, Senegal, and possible Ivory Coast, the sources said. The force will be led by French officers and armed by France, which already has 14,000 troops in and around Africa, the sources said.

France took the lead in convening the meeting because President Valery Giscard d'Estaing believes Western interests by Soviet-inspired disruption of pro-Western African governments. The French sources said the main focus of the meeting will be on

how to continue economic development in African countries threatened by military and political turmoil.

Rene Journiac, Giscard d'Estaing's top aide on African affairs, was in West Africa last week, reportedly lining up support for the peace force which first was proposed by President Omar Bongo of Gabon. Journiac and Jean Soutou, the Foreign Ministry's No. 2 man, head the French delegation to the Paris talks. David D. Newsom, undersecretary of state for political affairs and former chief of the State Department's Africa section, leads a five-man American team.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Tokyo anti-smokers rally

TOKYO — Anti-smoking groups held rallies in three cities Sunday to demand respect for the rights of non-smokers.

About 300 members of an anti-smoking group met in Tokyo, adopted a resolution calling on smokers to observe the rights of non-smokers, and then took to the streets chanting anti-smoking slogans.

Organizations said similar rallies were held in Sapporo in Northern Japan, and Nagoya in central Japan. The anti-smoking campaign was sponsored by the National Council of Smoking Prohibition.

Well, excuse me!

ANAHEIM, Calif — Comedian Steve Martin couldn't make it to accept his Headliner of the Year award for entertainment from the Orange County Press Club, so he sent his parents to sub for him.

"Steve appreciates this very much and would want my mother and me to thank you," Steve's dad said, smiling at his wife who cast him a dirty look.

"Well, excuuuuuse me," Dad said, in true Steve Martin style.

Amin sends Queen greetings

NAIROBI, Kenya — Pres. Idi Amin of Uganda, who often has proclaimed his affection for the British royal family, sent a message to Queen Elizabeth II on the anniversary of her coronation.

Uganda radio quoted Amin as saying he remembered with pride his attendance at the queen's coronation parade in 1953 when he was a member of the British army. The queen marked her anniversary on the throne last week.

Pauling backs vitamin C

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Chemist Linus Pauling says his theories on the medical value of vitamin C are ridiculed because they challenge myths that have dominated health sciences for decades. Pauling, a Nobel Prize winner, has championed vitamin C to help prevent and treat cancer, colds and other ailments.

Pauling said Saturday at a symposium on "Nutrition and Health: Myths and Realities" that many recognized authorities on nutrition have publicly derided the value on vitamin C, and many physicians and scientists have criticized his theories.

...while officials say SALT unaffected by Soviet policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Carter administration officials said Sunday that negotiations for a new strategic arms limitation agreement are continuing in earnest despite Soviet actions in Africa.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, a former defense secretary, said in separate interviews that a new SALT agreement is too important to be sharply affected by transient events.

"We should not look mainly at the last week's or the last month's events," Brown said. "We have to look at a series of years."

Brown noted that the long-term outlook is not necessarily encouraging, citing the Soviet military buildup in Eastern Europe and along the Chinese border. "That is a long-term trend which, if it continues, forces a response from the United States," he added.

But he said Soviet intervention

in Africa, while important, should not by itself be allowed to scuttle arms limitations negotiations.

"SALT is in the common interests of the Soviet Union and the United States," the defense secretary said. "I would not hold up a SALT agreement in order to express unhappiness with Soviet actions in Africa."

Schlesinger agreed that SALT should not be linked with the African intervention.

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