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by William Shakespeare

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HONGUI PRESENTS

U.N. tries to halt Angola's war



LOBITO, Angola (AP) — Lightly armed but with plenty of bravado, the first contingent of U.N. blue-helmeted infantrymen arrived Wednesday to face a daunting mission — to help end two decades of fratricidal bloodshed in Angola.

It was the United Nations' second try to halt Angola's 20-year war.

The 380 Uruguayans were met with cheers and back slaps by 650 British technical troops who have been preparing the devastated coastal town to be the launching point for an advance into rebel territory in the central highlands.

"It's a good sign that the first in-country troops are here," said Georgina Yates, spokeswoman for the British. "Seeing these blue helmets and blue scarves will calm people who feared the war would never end."

UNITA rebels and the government signed a U.N.-brokered peace treaty in November to end a civil war that first erupted on the eve of independence from

Portugal in 1975.

The fighting — once a major Cold War conflict — has killed 600,000 Angolans, 150,000 of them after rebel leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his loss in U.N.-sponsored elections in 1992 and returned to war.

The latest cease-fire has generally held, but firefights have erupted over closely dug-in battle lines. In northern Angola, hostile troops are deployed less than three miles apart, and rebel patrols still range freely across the vast central highlands.

Even seasoned peacekeepers were awed Wednesday by the damage to Lobito, where every building still standing bears the scars of rocket blasts and machine-gun fire.

A third of the buildings are completely flattened, and the city is crowded with refugees, its population quadrupled in the last year to 100,000 people.

"It's worse than Mozambique, worse than Cambodia," said Pvt. Luis Sanchez, 30, a veteran of both successful U.N. operations. "It looks nuclear."

With Lobito's telephone system long dead, and all sur-

rounding roads heavily mined and gouged by mortar fire, the British technicians raised parts of the city from rubble in order to establish a working communications system.

The Uruguayans have drawn the mission's toughest job. They are to deploy between Savimbi's headquarters in Bailundo, 330 miles southeast of Luanda, and two elite government battalions six miles away.

That means securing a mined and bandit-plagued road corridor between Bailundo and the coast, then overseeing the disarmament of Savimbi's guards.

Battalions from Zimbabwe, Brazil and Romania will arrive in coming weeks, and 1,000 peacekeepers from India are due July 4.

The U.N. special representative to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, said late Wednesday that Savimbi welcomed the peacekeepers.

"Savimbi is ready to shake the hand of the first Uruguayan to arrive in Bailundo," Beye said after returning to Luanda, the capital, from a meeting with Savimbi.

Prince Charles welcomed in Ireland

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Welcomed by many and condemned by a few, Prince Charles set foot in Ireland on Wednesday, the most senior British royal to make an official visit to Dublin since 1911.

"I've always looked forward to coming to Ireland," Charles said after his plane landed at a military airport outside the Irish capital.

On the eve of the historic visit, a crude firebomb exploded in a Dublin bookstore. In Mullaghmore, on Ireland's western coast, larger firebombs were defused at an estate once owned by Charles's uncle, Lord Mountbatten, whom the IRA killed in 1979.

Police linked both bombs to anti-British sentiment, and tightened security.

Those displeased by Charles' visit objected to his links with British military troops who killed 13 Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland in 1972.

Charles' trip was made possible by improved relations between England and Ireland, and the Irish Republican Army's Sept. 1 cease-fire to its decades-long battle to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The prince's 24-hour official visit is the first by a member of the royal family since the Irish republic gained independence from Britain in 1922. Other royals have visited privately.

Charles attended a garden party marking the official birthday of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, at the British ambassador's residence, then went to a dinner hosted by Prime Minister John Bruton at Dublin Castle on Wednesday evening.

The prince planned to meet Irish President Mary Robinson and visit community groups and Trinity College on Thursday, then spend another day in

Ireland privately.

A group calling itself Dublin Against Royal Tour demonstrated against the prince because he is colonel-in-chief of the parachute regiment that killed 13 Northern Ireland Catholics in Londonderry on "Bloody Sunday," Jan. 30, 1972.

About 1,500 demonstrators beating drums and waving banners marched past Dublin Castle to demand an apology for the killings, which were a turning point in galvanizing Catholic support for the IRA. Forty-five people in funeral shrouds carried black flags representing those killed by the parachute regiment over the past 25 years.

"We see Prince Charles as representing the British occupation of six counties of our country," Eamon Larkin said. "Unless he takes his troops and government out of Northern Ireland, he is not welcome."

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political ally, said the prince should not be visiting Ireland now — because of the Bloody Sunday killings and because he backed efforts to reopen the case of a paratrooper, Pvt. Lee Clegg, convicted two years ago of killing a joyrider in Belfast.

Fintan O'Toole, writing in *The Irish Times* newspaper, said Charles' visit will rouse great public interest — but for the wrong reasons.

"The political symbolism of his visit is overshadowed by its role as an episode in the greatest soap opera of our times," O'Toole wrote.

Charles' separation from his wife Diana more than two years ago and his public confession to having an affair with a married woman have made him a figure of intense public curiosity.

Britain's Bosnian negotiator resigns

LONDON (AP) — Lord David Owen announced his resignation Wednesday as the European Union's special negotiator in Bosnia, and strongly warned against allowing U.N. forces there to be dragged in as combatants.

"I do not believe that this humanitarian intervention can be extended through a fourth winter. And if there is not a peace settlement by the autumn of this year, then the U.N. forces will, I fear, be forced to leave," Owen told the House of Lords. He plans to leave his post the end of June.

He ruefully recalled thinking, when he took the job in August 1992, that it would be completed in six months. More than

200,000 people have died or are missing since the fighting began in April 1992.

Prime Minister John Major, who ordered more troops into Bosnia last weekend after Serbs took British U.N. soldiers as hostages, called the House of Lords and the House of Commons back from recess for an emergency debate.

"I believe that the British government's decision to reinforce the U.N. can make an important contribution, but it should be made clear, without fixing exact deadlines, that this commitment depends on political progress," Owen said.

Owen, 56, said the American experience in Somalia in 1993

was a warning of the danger of being caught up in a conflict.

"Through three winters we have found that, while we have saved many lives, humanitarian supplies — whether food, winterization materials, or heating oil — have been increasingly diverted to the war effort," he said.

Owen said the sacrifice of British families who have lost a loved one in Bosnia, or have had a relative injured, have been justified.

"But I would not find such sacrifices easy to justify were we to become combatants, lose our impartiality, and cease to be part of a U.N. humanitarian intervention," Owen said.

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