

What role will the US play?

South Africa escalates invasion of Angola

What could become the US' next war is developing in Angola. The Angolan government reports fighting deep inside its territory as South African troops invade across the Namibian border.

Although there have been numerous invasions since Angola gained its independence in 1975, the latest military incursion began with South African and mercenary troops occupying seven Angolan towns late in July. The forces that penetrated the Southern Cunene Province were backed by helicopters and Impala jets. The invasion followed a build-up of South African forces in Namibia the last two weeks of June.

The US has decried the increase of "violence" in the region but US interest in Angola is longstanding. The US first supported the Portuguese efforts to maintain its colony, then, when Portugal withdrew, it joined South Africa to support movements against the new government, the MPLA.

More recently, the Reagan Administration has moved rapidly to improve relations with South Africa. The Reagan Administration has also proposed a repeal of the law forbidding US covert involvement in Angola, passed after the secret CIA involvement in the Angolan civil war came to light. The ad-

ministration has indicated that it will be willing to provide arms to anti-MPLA forces once that law is eliminated.

In this respect the US has worked with South Africa to delay independence of Namibia, a territory illegally held by South Africa, which lies between South Africa and Angola. South Africa has failed to comply with the 1978 United Nations agreement calling for a UN-enforced cease-fire and internationally supervised elections. South Africa installed a new administrator general, held illegal elections in 1978, created an illegal National Assembly, and has brought in additional troops.

The new US plan for Namibia, which has been rejected by all nations of Africa, calls for meeting South African "concerns" in Namibia and ties any Namibian settlement to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

"The Pretoria-Washington rendezvous is undeniably a sinister plot against the aspirations of Namibian people for genuine independence and freedom," responded Sam Nujoma, president of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

Cuban involvement in Angola was subsequent to that of the US and came at the request of Angola's

then president Agostinho Neto. After the civil war ended with an MPLA victory and the new government was in firm control, Cuban presence continued. Besides the approximately 20,000 Cuban troops, there are 1,000 teachers and 1,000 doctors and other technicians in the country.

The Cuban presence has been the focal point of much of US Africa policy and is used as a rationalization for supporting the racist South African government.

Efforts to push Cuba from Africa have been frequent. The US first asked the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations for assistance, but

that body supported Cuba's military commitment to the MPLA government as consistent with its principals—"The non-aligned countries provide encouragement and support to all people fighting for their independence and equality..."

The Organization of African Unity also supported the right of Angola to ask for Cuban assistance. Tanzania's president Julius Nyerere said in 1978: "They are still there because until now the South Africans... are still financing organizations opposed to and committed to the overthrow of the MPLA government."

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PORTLAND OBSERVER

August 27, 1981
Volume XI Number 45
25¢ Per Copy

Two Sections

USPS 959-680-855

Portland cop makes illegal snatch

Archie Franklin, a newcomer to Portland, is without his driver's license as the result of a police stop. "I drove an old man around the corner, then returned to my house," he explained. "As I pulled over a police officer pulled up. He said not to get out of my car."

Franklin reported that Officer Waddell asked for his driver's license, then returned to his own car and sat for some time. He then came back and asked for papers on the car, which has an Oregon plate. He took the papers, said they weren't sufficient, and asked for evidence of ownership. "He asked how I got an Oregon license plate: I told him I had bought it and showed him the DEQ slip: He asked where I lived and when I showed him my house he asked if I could prove it."

At this time Tess Brewer arrived to visit Franklin. "I saw this policeman leaning against the car window with his hand on his gun. He turned and said, 'What can I do for you?' I said I was coming to see Franklin and added, 'You're not going to

shoot him, are you?'"

Franklin said he was looking for his registration and handed the officer the same papers as before. "He didn't even look at them, but he handed them back and said they were OK but 'put them where you can find them.'"

When Waddell started to leave, Franklin asked for his Arizona driver's license. "He wouldn't give it back and said it was no good—that I would have to get an Oregon license." Franklin, who lived in Arizona until three weeks ago but made frequent trips to Oregon, said his license is still valid.

This happened at about noon on Saturday. Brewer drove Franklin to the *Observer* office, where he told the story to Al Williams. Williams called North Precinct and explained the incident to Lt. Price. Price sent Sergeant Earl Johnson to the office to talk with the men. Johnson agreed that the officer was wrong to keep the license and said that since he was Waddell's supervisor he would talk to him. He said that after

getting Waddell's story, he would call them.

Franklin did not hear from Johnson, so on Sunday he and Brewer went to North Precinct to see Captain McCabe, the commanding officer. McCabe was not in so they returned Monday morning. After listening to the story, McCabe talked to Waddell by telephone. Stating that Waddell said he had put the license in Franklin's mailbox on Sunday, McCabe asked them to look for it. He added that he did not want to get too involved.

The license was not there. Although there was someone at home all day, no one had seen a policeman.

They called McCabe again. He said he would have Waddell and Johnson go to Franklin's house at 2:00 pm. Johnson showed up but Waddell did not. Brewer reported that Johnson had seen the license and determined that it was good, that Waddell's action had been

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Mental health clinic hires director

by Nathaniel Scott

The North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center is a new organization serving an economically and culturally diverse population in Portland. Its catchment area is bounded by the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, the Banfield Freeway, and 82nd Avenue, with a population of approximately 160,000.

The center is the only federally funded comprehensive mental health center in Portland, and its 1981-82 budget, approximately \$2,300,000, is a combination of state and federal funding.

The Executive Director of the North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center, Michael Benjamin, said, "We are not going to indiscriminately send people to Dammasch. Those people who can benefit from community based mental health services, will be able to get that treatment in the community."

Benjamin, 39, a native of Oakland, California, served on the fa-

culty of the Southern Oregon Institute of Alcohol Studies from 1976 to 1976, directed the nationwide alcoholism program for the National Association of Counties, and most recently, was a health science administrator at the National Institute of Mental Health in Washington, D.C.

He said, "With the cutback with federal programs in the human service area, housing, welfare, etc., we will be facing very difficult times over the next two years."

Presently, Benjamin is in the process of screening for a clinical director who will be a psychiatrist. "Once we get fully staffed, there will be 21 persons and we should be fully geared and operational by November 1," he said.

"The Black man is more at risk of becoming mentally ill because of the environmental factors."

But he stressed that mental illness is a combination of factors, "biological and environmental."

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MICHAEL BENJAMIN

PPS denies added parent input

The Portland School Board failed to add another element of citizen participation in its process for the selection of a new superintendent as represented by the Citizen Advisory Committee and adopted a time-line for the selection process.

The selection process was designed by Dr. Don Leu, Dean of the Portland State University education department, who is contracted by the Board to assist in recruitment and selection of applicants. At Dr. Leu's request, a Professional Screening Committee was named to review resumes and cut the list of applicants from over 100 to from 8 to 15. The applications are confidential.

An Internal Advisory Committee, representing staff groups, and a Citizen Advisory Committee, were selected to provide staff and community input.

The role of the Citizen Committee is to provide a set of criteria to the Professional Selection Committee, to receive input from the community, and to participate in the public interview of the three to five finalists.

Committee Co-Chairman George Sheldon reported that the committee is concerned about this lack of ability to participate in the process during the final elimination. The group feels that "if they have been asked to represent the groups and

act as a conduit for the community, they should participate." Otherwise they cannot guarantee the equity of the initial phase of the selection.

The committee asked the Board either to add one or two of their members to the Professional Screening Committee, or to add a step in the process to allow them to have a representative to help prioritize the 8 to 15 semi-finalists.

School Board member Joe Rieke: "Is this an absolute demand?"

School Board member Charlotte Beeman: "Why do you feel that's necessary when you have seven who have access to the applications?" (School Board members).

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Photo: Richard J. Brown

The bottom of the bottle

Grassroot News, N.W.—The above advertisement is from Richard Wright's 1963 *Lawd Today*. It reflects the timeless problem of alcoholism and its cure. (There is no surefire cure).

People have drunk and will continue to drink. "I drink because I want to," is a common answer as to why the thirst exists. But this thirst can control your life and directly or indirectly affect the lives of those around you. Alcohol is not illegal and it takes no secret password or dark alley to purchase it.

On the one hand you have a support structure that produces the supply with the blessings of the system because they get theirs from the top with a liquor tax. And on the other hand, there's a support structure that treats those whose consumption is out of control and is financed by the same system that perpetrates its use. Therefore, we find an incredible conflicting situation with alcohol and its abuse.

The textbook definition of alcoholism is a chronic disease brought on by the repeated drinking that exceeds customary dietary use or compliance with social drinking. It interferes with the drinker's health, interpersonal relations and economic functioning. The next question is: When does the common social drinking develop into full-fledged alcoholism? "A person has to go through an abuse pattern which is in two stages. A person might get in trouble with the law because the crime is alcohol-related, or he's

missing work or beating his wife and children. If one or two of those things are happening consistently, an abuse pattern is being set. After that comes physical dependency. Your body gets used to the alcohol and it needs the alcohol because of the chemical changes that alcohol induces. You wake up in the morning and have the shakes, take a drink and it calms the shakes down," answers a counsellor from one of many alcohol treatment centers.

"The chemical changes vary from a mild hangover to a full-blown tremor. Emotional anxieties, loss of appetite, hallucinations of varying intensities and excessive sweating," Joe Grant from the Hooper Detox Center runs down the symptoms that occur when the body is hooked on alcohol and the drug is withheld for any length of time.

What are some of the reasons or excuses for drinking to the degree that would lead to this physical addiction? "Life," a man answered as he put the bottle up to his lips. The ups and downs of living, along with how drinking is socially used, are the reasons for this problem. You drink when you're happy and you're sad. There is conversational drinking, intimate drinking and crowd drinking. All around you there is advertisement telling you how sexy, beautiful and natural it is to consume. It is an accepted drug and in a drug-dependent society we can take something to cure any ill.

Statistically, the number of peo-

ple who drink are about the same. It may look as though the fold is increasing when, in fact, the number of people who are admitting to themselves that they have a drinking problem are just coming out of the closet.

Whether alcohol is a disease or a learned behavior is a point of argument among the experts. Sometimes a person may drink heavily beginning with the first taste, so this cannot be considered a learned behavior. And then there are people, who are in situations where there is a great deal of drinking, tend to have more problems with their drinking behavior than others, and this could be learned behavior. Whether or not alcoholism is called an illness or a learned behavior, the image of an alcoholic as a weak-willed person or a bum is no longer funny.

There is a ripple effect that goes along with the abuse of alcohol. Healthwise it can cause heart attacks and liver disease, even pancreas problems or brain damage. And please don't drink and drive because the life you save may be your own.

The effects on the Black community are high and run deep. If problems are the reason for drinking then drinking is too excessive because our problems are double those of any other community. And just because you're Black and have problems is still no reason to drink away your dreams, goals or hopes. Too much can leave you the same way you leave it: empty.