

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH NATIONS OVERSEAS

Political Relations with Nations Overseas

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AFRICA—USSR

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Military Aid

p. 3944-45

Commenting on the US figures of Soviet military and economic aid to 11 African countries (see map), the *Daily Nation* (Kenya) says that the figures make one conclusion inevitable—"that the men in the

Kremlin are more generous with military aid, arms and advisers, than they are with economic aid.

"Of course, there is also the question of what the leaders of the receiving countries think their people need—military hardware or means of improving their people's standards."

Between 1971 and 1975, the *Nation* points out, Soviet military aid to these countries amounted to about \$2,000m., while economic aid amounted to a mere \$600m. "Here then is evidence of perverted priorities: **Somalia**, virtually a desert, has received an estimated \$32m. in economic aid and \$132m. in military aid. There are an estimated 1,000 Russian and 50 Cuban advisers there.

"**Mali**, another desert, has received \$12m. in military aid and \$10m. in economic aid.

The other countries are: **Guinea**, \$39m. in economic aid and \$94m. in military aid; **Angola** \$108m. in military aid; **Uganda**, whose economy is not known for being robust, \$48m. in military and \$12m. in economic aid; **Egypt**, \$1,300m. in military and \$355m. in economic aid; **Algeria**, \$89m. in military and \$174m. in economic aid; and **Nigeria**, \$39m. in military aid.

"Except for **Mozambique** and, regrettably **Angola**, none of these countries was in dire need of military aid. They had no one to fight. The question arises: Why does the Kremlin want to arm so many people whose welfare otherwise is just about zero, or nearly so? There is plenty of reason for suspicion." (DN 30/1)

Soviet Policy Document

A document issued by the Soviet Embassy in **Kenya** (the first of a series of special

bulletins issued in connection with the forthcoming Congress of the Soviet Communist Party) claims that with Russian support, the influence and prestige of "revolutionary-democratic parties" have been enhanced in many African countries.

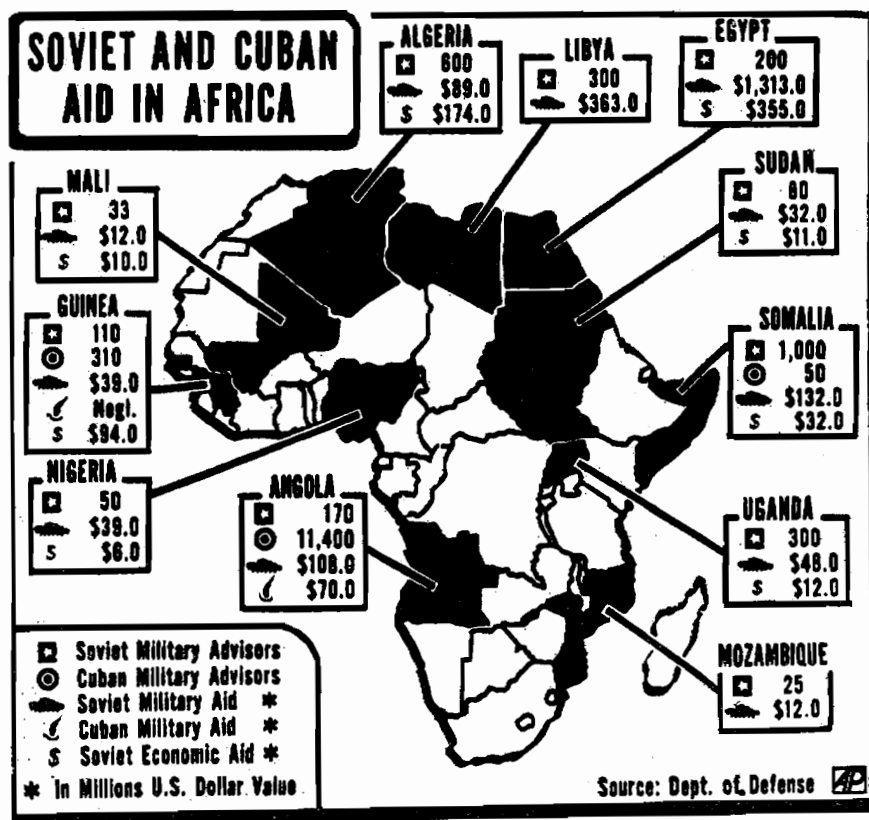
Apart from the collapse of Portugal's African empire, "the reactionary pro-imperialist régimes in Ethiopia, Dahomey and the Malagasy Republic have been toppled" the document declares. It goes on to state that today the Soviet Union maintains diplomatic relations with all the independent African states south of the Sahara with the exception of the Ivory Coast "and the racist régimes".

Russia claims to have long-term agreements on economic and technical co-operation with nearly all African countries and to have given the continent vast aid in the form of some 400 major projects, of which 170 are industrial and 70 are agricultural enterprises.

The statement continues: "Apart from promoting inter-state relations the CPSU Central Committee pays special attention to developing inter-party contacts with the revolutionary-democratic forces in Africa.

... Today the CPSU maintains direct contacts with 11 parties and organisations in tropical Africa, i.e. with practically all the influential political groupings which stand on anti-imperialist positions and reject capitalism as an alternative for the development of their countries." Frelimo and the MPLA are included among the names of parties with which the Soviet Communist Party has particularly close contacts.

The document concludes: "There is every ground to believe that co-operation between the CPSU and the revolutionary democrats in Africa will develop successfully and will continue to be an important factor in strengthening solidarity between the Soviet and the African peoples, between world socialism and the national-liberation movement." (See pp. 3941AB, 3942BC). (St 7/2)



A map based on American intelligence estimates of Soviet and Cuban military advisers and assistance now in Angola and other countries on the African continent. (QTul 30/1)