

National World

Soviet military involved in Angola

United Press International
CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South Africa claims its capture of a Soviet officer and the killing of several others during its blitzkrieg into Angola proves Moscow has military personnel working directly with guerrillas.

"It was generally believed and acclaimed that Soviet Russia was only indirectly involved," Defense Minister Magnus Malan said Tuesday, "but now the opposite has been proven, namely the direct involvement of military personnel on the lower levels of terrorist movements."

In Washington, officials estimated there are 1,000 Soviet advisers and 15,000 to 19,000 East German and Cuban troops in Angola.

"We have no doubt about the presence of the Soviets," a senior U.S. official said, "although we were not sure previously they had been down to the platoon level."

Malan said the Soviets joined a week ago Monday with guerrillas and Angolan troops as a South African armored column cut off the Angolan town of Xangango, 60 miles across the border from South West Africa, also called Namibia.

"During recent operations, some Russian officers working together with SWAPO came into contact with us," he said. "In the skirmishes, some of these Russian officers, amongst others, were killed. A Russian warrant officer was also taken prisoner."

Malan did not say where the unidentified captured officer was being held.

The fighting killed 450 Angolan soldiers, South West African People's Organization guerrillas and Soviet military personnel. Eleven South Africans died.

Angola boasts Soviet missile and radar installations throughout the country, which South Africa said were manned by Cubans and East Germans. But the Soviet presence had been thought to be more in economic spheres.

Another Soviet officer is currently held by South Africa. In July 1980, Soviet Intelligence officer Major Alexei Kozlov was arrested in Johannesburg and charged with spying. He is in a Pretoria prison.

In Lisbon, Angola's ambassador said heavy fighting raged Tuesday near the town of Ngiva, 25 miles inside Angola.

A South African military spokesman denied the report but said the final remnants of its incursion force were bogged down in Ngiva by land-mined roads and vehicle breakdowns.

"All troops will be withdrawn soon as operationally possible," he said.

South Africa launched a five-pronged motorized attack last Monday with jet fighter, artillery and helicopter support, punching 60 miles to occupy Xangango, described as the main SWAPO base in the area.

SWAPO has been waging a war against South African troops in Namibia in an attempt to wrest control of the territory from South Africa. The United Nations calls South African rule illegal.

Manson family member makes trip to altar, then back to prison

United Press International
FRONTERA, Calif. — Flamboyant Texas millionaire Donald "Flash" Laisure designed a \$6,000 wedding dress for his bride — convicted Manson family member Susan Atkins — and prepared for

Wednesday's trip to the prison altar.

Prison officials gave the couple one hour to recite wedding vows and visit privately, then Atkins, who once faced death in the gas chamber for the Tate-LaBianca slayings, was to return to her cell to serve her life sentence.

The couple had planned to have a 72-hour conjugal visit in the prison's family living unit after the wedding, but Atkins' application to use the facility had not been approved before the ceremony.

"Susan's going to be wearing a designer dress made by a woman in New Jersey," Laisure said Tuesday from a nearby hotel room. "I sketched the dress and chose the color and had this woman designer make it. I paid \$6,000 for the dress. It's a real light blue."

"I'll be wearing an orange-colored leisure suit. Laisure's a man of leisure."

The 52-year-old Texan, who claims he inherited wealth and has never worked a day in his life, is known in his hometown of Greenville, Texas, as "Flash" because he always carries a big roll of cash.

Laisure called Wednesday's

ceremony "something that has been brought on by God, ordained by God. I love her very much and I never did love another woman."

"I am not allowing a best man," he said. "She's going to have about 16 guests, including a prison captain and lieutenant."

Six fellow inmates Laisure describes as "close friends of Susan's" were also to attend the afternoon ceremony in the prison chapel.

"I'm going to give the ring to one of them, Gayle Cousins," he said.

Laisure said his "good friend" Fidel Castro sent a wedding gift, but he wouldn't reveal what the gift was, saying "It's for Susan and me. That's all I can tell you."

Laisure said he met his 33-year-old bride 16 years ago in Southern California and they have been close ever since. Two years later, Atkins joined Charles Manson's "family" of runaways and dropouts.

Atkins, who took the name Sadie Mae Glutz in the Manson Family, was sentenced to die in the gas chamber for the 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate and

four others in the home she shared with her husband, film director Roman Polanski, and the killings of the following night of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca.

But the state Supreme Court later overturned California's old capital punishment law, and Atkins was spared the death penalty.

Laisure has vowed to "spend \$50 million if I have to, and I'll spend another \$50 million to get her out (of prison) legally."

Laisure said he corresponded with Atkins while she lived with Manson and other family members. Through that correspondence and psychic readings, Laisure said he knows his fiancée did not commit the gruesome murders.

Laisure said he will build a \$1 million solar house in San Bernardino County until his betrothed is released from prison.

"I'm going to get her a pardon at the White House level," he said.

Atkins' last attempt at parole was rejected on grounds she had criminal history, showed "callous disregard" for the murder victims and displayed no remorse at her trial.

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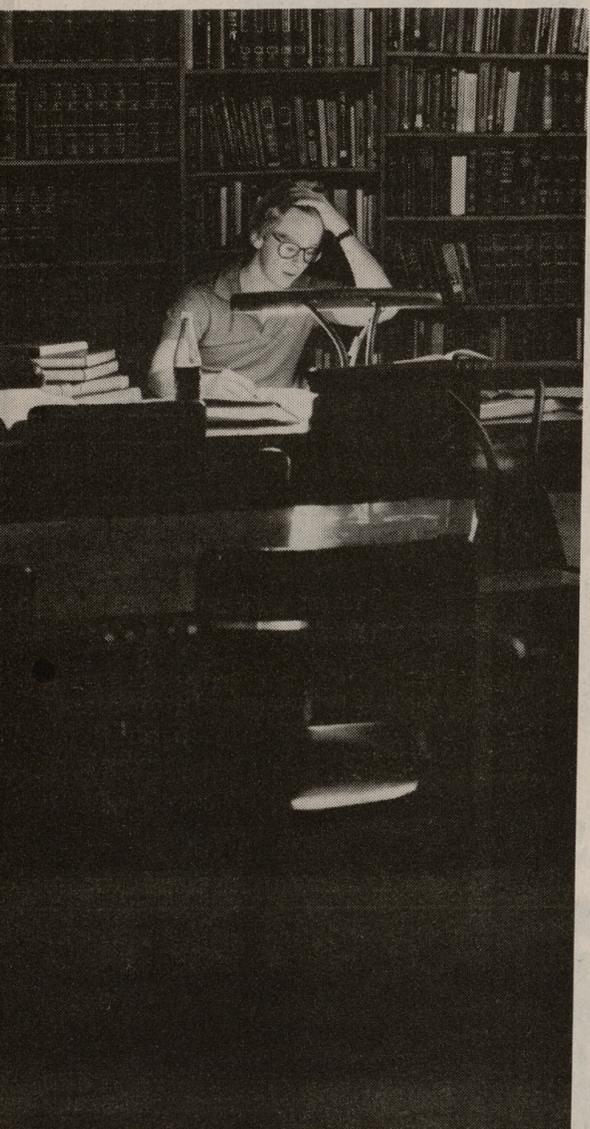
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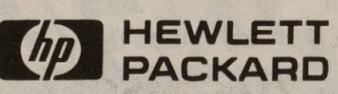
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