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Angola: Internal Situation

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 January 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T15/84

Dear Mr. President.

I have read with interest and sympathy the letter of 8 December, which Your Excellency conveyed to me by His Excellency the Minister of Planning, as well as Your Excellency's later letter of 30 December. I am grateful to you for sharing your views with me in this way. I warmly reciprocate Your Excellency's comments about the importance of maintaining and developing the relations between our two countries. I share your conviction that opportunities exist for further deepening our friendship and economic co-operation. My Government is ready to work wholeheartedly with Your Excellency's Government to this end.

In this regard my Government welcomed the visits to the United Kingdom last year by His Excellency the Minister for External Relations and His Excellency the Minister of Planning, and appreciated the cordial reception given in Angola to our Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The recent visit to the United Kingdom by representatives of the Angolan oil industry, and the planned visit next month to Angola by Lord Jellicoe, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, are further examples of our strengthening bilateral ties.

I fully share Your Excellency's anxieties about the conflict in Southern Angola and your wish to re-establish conditions of peace and stability. We were glad to support the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 545, which was adopted in December last year and which

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called for the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. We have naturally viewed with deep concern the recent South African Military operations in your country. We have in public strongly deplored these attacks on Angolan sovereignty and territorial integrity. I wish Your Excellency to know that my Government has also raised the issue direct with the South African Government and urged the speedy withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory.

I note that the South African Government has said that it has pulled back the forces which were engaged in the recent operations. I have also noted the diplomatic proposals, particularly your own offer of a truce, which are on the table. My Government has made clear to the South African Government, as well as to the United Nations Secretary-General and other interested Governments, our strong desire that everything should be done to bring these developments to a positive conclusion. It seems to me that we have reached a very significant stage in the search for a solution. The opportunities need to be seized. My Government will continue to help in any way possible.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Dhalgren

His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 15/84

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TO IMMEDIATE LUANDA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 91 OF 20 JANUARY

INFO PRIORITY CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT: PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS

1. BEGINS:

I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST AND SYMPATHY THE LETTER OF 8 DECEMBER WHICH YOUR EXCELLENCY CONVEYED TO ME BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, AS WELL AS YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LATER LETTER OF 30 DECEMBER. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VIEWS WITH ME IN THIS WAY. I WARMLY RECIPROCATE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR FURTHER DEEPENING OUR FRIENDSHIP AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. MY GOVERNMENT IS READY TO WORK WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT TO THIS END.

IN THIS REGARD MY GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE VISITS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM LAST YEAR BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, AND APPRECIATED THE CORDIAL RECEPTION GIVEN IN ANGOLA TO OUR MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS. THE RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANGOLAN OIL INDUSTRY, AND THE PLANNED VISIT NEXT MONTH TO ANGOLA BY LORD JELlicoe, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH OVERSEAS TRADE BOARD, ARE FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES.

I FULLY SHARE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ANXIETIES ABOUT THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA AND YOUR WISH TO RE-ESTABLISH CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND STABILITY. WE WERE GLAD TO SUPPORT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION NO 545, WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND WHICH CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES FROM ANGOLA. WE HAVE NATURALLY VIEWED WITH DEEP CONCERN THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE IN PUBLIC STRONGLY DEPLORED THESE ATTACKS ON ANGOLAN SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. I WISH YOUR

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EXCELLENCY TO KNOW THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE DIRECT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND URGED THE SPEEDY WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY.

I NOTE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THAT IT HAS PULLED BACK THE FORCES WHICH WERE ENGAGED IN THE RECENT OPERATIONS. I HAVE ALSO NOTED THE DIPLOMATIC PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY YOUR OWN OFFER OF A TRUCE, WHICH ARE ON THE TABLE. MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, OUR STRONG DESIRE THAT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO BRING THESE DEVELOPMENTS TO A POSITIVE CONCLUSION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE HAVE REACHED A VERY SIGNIFICANT STAGE IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION. THE OPPORTUNITIES NEED TO BE SEIZED. MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.
ENDS.

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