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FM KINSHASA 040940Z JUL 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 178 OF 4 JULY 84

*Recommnd Summary only  
CDP*YOUR TELNO 133: PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT  
MOBUTU - MR BOTHA 'S VISIT -

## SUMMARY

1. BOTHA HAD ASKED ALSO TO VISIT MOBUTU, WHO HAD TEMPORISED BUT NOT REFUSED. MOBUTU SHARED THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISH TO SEE THE CUBANS OUT OF ANGOLA BUT COULD NOT SAY SO IN PUBLIC. WITHOUT THE CUBAN PRESENCE THE MPLA GOVERNMENT WOULD COLLAPSE UNDER PRESSURE FROM UNITA - AS MOBUTA HAD TOLD KAUNDA. NO INDICATION THAT MOBUTU PLANS TO INTERVENE TO BRING MPLA AND UNITA TOGETHER.

*mb*

## DETAIL

2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS BEEN INACCESSIBLE FOR 10 DAYS, INTER ALIA ON VISISTS TO SHABA, LUSAKA AND BRAZZAVILLE. BUT I WAS ABLE TO GIVE HIM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON 3 JULY ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE. UMBA DI LUTETE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER, WAS THE ONLY OTHER PRESENT.

3. MOBUTU'S FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT BOTHA HAD ASKED TO COME AND SEE HIM TOO. HE HAD SEEN PROBLEMS, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IN GETTING CLEARANCE FROM THE MPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO INVITE HIM AND HAD SENT A TEMPORISING ANSWER. BUT HE HAD NOT SAID NO.

4. I SAID THAT ONE AIM OF THE MESSAGE WAS TO REASSURE HIM THAT OUR POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA AND OUR OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID HAD NOT CHANGED. MOBUTU SAID THE MESSAGE SHOWED THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SPOKEN VERY FIRMLY.

5. ON NAMIBIA/ANGOLA, MOBUTU SAID THAT, IN FACT, HIS POSITION ON CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS OURS. THERE WAS A NUANCE IN THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE THIS POSITION PUBLICLY, BECAUSE THE CUBANS HAD BEEN FREELY INVITED BY A LEGALLY RECOGNISED GOVERNMENT. BUT AS HEAD OF STATE OF ZAIRE HE CONSIDERED IT IN HIS COUNTRY'S INTEREST THAT THE CUBANS SHOULD GO.

6. I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT CUBAN WITHDRAWAL DEPENDED ON MPLA/UNITA RECONCILIATION. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD HAD A LONG DISCUSSION ON THIS WITH KAUNDA (YOUR TELNO 165 TO LUSAKA REFERS) AND IMPLIED THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT. THE MPLA NEEDED THE CUBANS TO MAINTAIN THEIR REGIME INTERNALLY. IF THE CUBANS LEFT NOW THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT WOULD COLLAPSE UNDER PRESSURE FROM UNITA.

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7. I ASKED IF HE SAW ANY WAY OF BRINGING MPLA AND UNITA TOGETHER. MOBUTU SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD COME EVENTUALLY, BUT IT WOULD TAKE TIME. THERE WERE TWO CAMPS IN LUANDA. ONE GROUP FAVOURED TALKS WITH UNITA AND CUBAN WITHDRAWAL. THE OTHER ARGUED THAT THIS WOULD PUT THE COUNTRY AT THE MERCY OF THE AMERICANS. SO FAR THE PRO-CUBAN, PRO-SOVIET GROUP HAD PREVAILED, AS THE REGIME DEPENDED ON RUSSIAN SUPPLIES FOR ITS SURVIVAL. A FURTHER COMPLICATION WAS THAT, APPARENTLY, THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR CUBANS TO TAKE ANGOLAN NATIONALITY AND SETTLE IN THE COUNTRY.

8. MOBUTU GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE CONTEMPLATED TRYING TO BRING MPLA AND UNITA TOGETHER AT THIS STAGE OR THAT HE WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SAVIMBI.

9. MOBUTU'S REALISTIC ATTITUDE TO ANGOLA AND SOUTH AFRICA IS IN CONTRAST WITH HIS PUBLIC POSTURE. UMBA WAS WORRIED THAT I MIGHT REVEAL SOME OF THIS TO THE PRESS AND I UNDERTOOK SIMPLY TO SAY THAT THE MESSAGE CONCERNED SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED HER OWN IMPRESSIONS AND ASKED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE CONTENT OF THIS CONVERSATION BE TREATED WITH GREAT DISCRETION AND CERTAINLY NOT REVEALED TO OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS OR THE PRESS.

10. THOUGH MOBUTU DOES NOT YET SEEM READY TO EXERT HIMSELF TO RECONCILE MPLA AND UNITA, I BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO CONTINUE THESE EXCHANGES, THOUGH WE SHALL ONLY GET FRANK SPEAKING AT THE LEVEL OF MOBUTU HIMSELF, UMBA AND POSSIBLY NYIWA MOBUTU (SEE MY TELNO 87 OF 27 MARCH).

11 CAFD PLEASE REPEAT FURTHER AS DESIRED.

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