

GRS 400  
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FM PRETORIA  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 322  
OF 171030Z SEPTEMBER 85  
INFO PRIORITY LUANDA, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (FOR DI  
ROW 2)

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*Prime Minister  
See X and Y!!*

*N.L.W.  
It is as well he  
is still there.  
mf*

SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ANGOLA  
SUMMARY

1. SA AND SWA FORCES CROSSED THE ANGOLAN BORDER YESTERDAY (16  
SEPTEMBER) IN AN OPERATION AGAINST SWAPO.

DETAIL

2. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED LAST NIGHT (FULL TEXT TO LONDON IN A  
SEPARATE TELEGRAM) THE CHIEF OF THE SADF, GENERAL VILJOEN,  
CONFIRMED THAT AN OPERATION HAD BEEN LAUNCHED INTO SOUTHERN  
ANGOLA AGAINST SWAPO. HE CLAIMED THAT THE SADF HAD BEEN LEFT  
WITH NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAN TO CONDUCT A FOLLOW-UP OPERATION  
IN THE LIGHT OF "IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF SWAPO'S PLANS". THE  
OPERATION FOLLOWED INTENSIVE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IN RECENT  
MONTHS WHICH SHOWED THAT SWAPO'S 8TH BATTALION AND OTHER SPECIAL  
FORCES WERE PLANNING ATTACKS ON MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TARGETS  
IN NAMIBIA.
3. GENERAL GLEESON, THE CHIEF OF STAFF SADF LAST NIGHT CONFIRMED  
IN A TV INTERVIEW THAT TROOPS HAD CROSSED THE BORDER. THEY WERE  
BEING SUPPORTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE. THE ANGOLAN  
FORCES HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE OPERATION THROUGH THE HEADQUARTERS  
OF THEIR FIFTH MILITARY REGION. THE OPERATION COULD BE OVER BY  
THE END OF THE WEEK. GLEESON CLAIMED THAT SWAPO HAD PLANNED NEW  
ACTIONS AGAINST LARGER RESIDENTIAL CONCENTRATIONS AND TOWNS.  
TWO TERRORISTS CAPTURED RECENTLY HAD ADMITTED TO A RECONNAISSANCE  
TASK WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED STEALING SUPPLIES AND BURNING  
SHOPS. A NUMBER OF PREPOSITIONED WEAPON CACHES HAD BEEN DISCO-  
VERED. THE STRENGTH OF THE TARGET WAS BETWEEN 400 AND 800 MEN  
"WELL DISPERSED IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA".
- X 4. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN DIFFERING ACCOUNTS OF THE SADF ACTION.  
IN WINDHOEK YESTERDAY, THE AMBASSADOR AND DEFENCE ATTACHE WERE  
TOLD THAT THE OPERATION WAS DIRECTED AT A SWAPO BASE CAMP SOME  
60 KMS INSIDE ANGOLA. THE ANGOLAN FORCES HAD BEEN INFORMED ONLY  
ONE HOUR AFTER THE INITIAL INCURSION, SO THAT SWAPO COULD NOT BE  
TIPPED OFF. THE SADF HOPED TO COMPLETE THE OPERATION TODAY OR  
TOMORROW. THE SECURITY FORCES WERE SEARCHING A SQUARE 12 KMS  
WIDE, BUT HAD SO FAR FAILED TO MAKE CONTACT. HOWEVER THE SADF  
LINE IN RESTRICTED BRIEFING IN PRETORIA WAS THAT THE ATTACKS  
WERE ON A WIDE-SPREAD FRONT AGAINST SWAPO UNITS PREPARING TO  
PUSH INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS ACROSS THE BORDER AT VARIOUS POINTS  
TO ATTACK SOFT TARGETS.

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5. OUR DEFENCE STAFF HAVE BEEN PROMISED A DETAILED BRIEFING BY THE SADF.

COMMENT

6. THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANOTHER CASE OF HOT PURSUIT, EVEN THOUGH GENERAL VILJOEN DESCRIBED IT AS A "FOLLOW-UP OPERATION". IT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED AND PREPARED. THE SOUTH AFRICANS MAY HOPE TO JUSTIFY IT, IF CHALLENGED, AS A PRE-EMPTIVE RAID TO FORESTALL ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN TARGETS IN NAMIBIA. BUT THE DISCREPANCIES IN PRELIMINARY BRIEFING ARE PUZZLING. WE ARE ENDEAVOURING TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION.

MOBERLY

BT

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