



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 May 1980

JS  
 Subject file  
 Dunem visit -  
 May 80.

ANGOLAN EMMISARY

The Angolan Ambassador at Brussels, Sr. van Dunem, called on the Prime Minister as arranged this afternoon. I enclose the Portuguese language text and a copy of the English language text of the message from President dos Santos which he left with the Prime Minister. (dated 14-5-80)

In handing over the message, Sr. van Dunem apologised for the postponement of his previous appointment. President dos Santos had wished to wait until the situation was a little clearer before having his message delivered. Angolan territory was being repeatedly bombed by the South Africans, most recently on 21 May when there had been 200 Angolan casualties. The Angolan Government wished to work for peace and security in the region. They regarded expenditure on the purchase of weapons as a waste of money which they could ill afford to spare. So long as the threat to Angola persisted, the Angolan Government had no option but to ask "their Cuban and Russian friends" to remain in the country. This was a pity.

The Prime Minister asked Sr. van Dunem whether he thought the Cubans would leave if the Namibian problem was resolved. Sr. van Dunem said that he was sure they would go. They had come into the country in order to help repel an invasion. Like anyone else, the Angolans would prefer to live their own lives. Nobody liked to have other people on their own land. The Angolans had chosen a Socialist system but they sought good relations with everyone. They were anxious, for instance, that their trade should resume its natural pattern, i.e. that it should be principally with Western nations.

Sr. van Dunem said that President dos Santos was confident that British pressure on South Africa would be highly effective in securing an improvement in the situation in the area. In reply to a question from the Prime Minister, he said that he was delivering similar, but not identical, messages from President dos Santos to the Heads of Governments in Bonn and Brussels. The Prime Minister said she might well wish to discuss President dos Santos' message, once she had studied it, with

/Chancellor

Chancellor Schmidt and Prime Minister Martens. There might be an occasion to do so at the European Council Meeting in Venice.

The Prime Minister said that she was concerned by what she heard about the health of the British mercenaries at present in prison in Angola. She knew that HM Ambassador had raised the question with the Angolan Foreign Minister recently. She also knew that the men had been properly sentenced and had served only part of their terms. However, she wondered whether President dos Santos had yet come to any conclusion as to whether or not clemency would be extended to the mercenaries. She did not wish to press the point, but would be grateful if Sr. van Dunem could tell President dos Santos that she had raised it. Sr. van Dunem said that he would convey the message to the President.

MA

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.IIIAA/80

REPÚBLICA POPULAR DE ANGOLA

## *Presidente da República*

*Subject file - Dumen Vint  
May '80*

In the interest of safeguarding peace, the common action in favour of the liberation of the still oppressed peoples in our Continent, and World peace, I have the honour of sending to Your Excellency, my delegate whose purpose is to contribute to the strengthening of relations and to inform you of important views related to the actual situation which prevails in the Southern Part of our Continent.

On the other hand we notice with concern, that a new plot is being prepared against our Country along our Southern border. This plot is directly engineered by the racist regime of South Africa in on declared war against the people's Republic of Angola. UNITA- the docile puppet of South Africa is armed, provided with munitions, infiltrated into our Country and supplied with massive logistic by support by the South African Army in order to massacre the unarmed civil population, wreck vital economic sectors for our Country's development.

In this context, Your Excellency, the realization of a policy of economic co-operation and the establishment of fraternal relationships between the Soverain Countries is adversely affected by the continued support given to puppet groups in the service of enemies against peoples aiming peace and progress.

HIS EXCELLENCY  
MARGARET THATCHER  
PRIME MINISTER OF UNITED KING-  
DOM  
L O N D O N

The People's Republic of Angola, faithful to its fundamental principles will continue to practise a policy of good neighbourhood of non aggression, non interference in the internal affairs of other countries and of peaceful coexistence in absolute respect to the O.A.U., U.N. and of the Non-Aligned Movement's Charters.

Due to the critical situation which prevails in this part of our Continent, I am sure Your Excellency will not remain without contributing once more in finding the most correct way to achieve peace and defence for the peoples namely those who are still under racist and colonialist domination.

I wish to you, Your Excellency, my thanks in receiving my Delegate, who is encharged with the task of explaining to you questions which worry us.

Accept, Your Excellency, the feelings of my highest consideration.

JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS  
PRESIDENT OF THE MPLA-WORKER'S PARTY AND OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

LUANDA, 14TH MAI 1980