

Angela

ms

GRS 389

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
FM LUANDA 181000Z AUG 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 327 OF 18 AUGUST
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK CAPETOWN BONN PARIS OTTAWA
INFO SAVING LAGOS LUSAKA MAPUTO DAR ES SALAAM SALISBURY GABORONE

U S : ANGOLA

1. ANGOLANS HAVE GONE TO EXCEPTIONAL LENGTHS TO ACCOMMODATE THE PARTY OF VISITING U S CONGRESSMEN. VISITORS SPENT FIVE HOURS YESTERDAY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH VENANCIO DA MOURA, VICE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, ARE VISITING HUILA PROVINCE (OFTEN CLAIMED AS QUOTE U N I T A COUNTRY UNQUOTE) TODAY, AND EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS THIS EVENING.
2. MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM, MORAIS, YESTERDAY EVENING HOSTED A RECEPTION. BEFORE THE CONGRESSMEN ARRIVED MORAIS SENT FOR ME AND ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT VISIT OF DELEGATION IMPORTANT. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY OF EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH THE U S . MORAIS THEN IMMEDIATELY RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE CUBANS. HE SAID THAT THE CUBANS WERE QUOTE NO PROBLEM UNQUOTE. CUBAN TROOPS WOULD LEAVE ONCE A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE THREAT OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK REMOVED. THEY HAD ONLY COME TO DEFEND ANGOLA AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION AND ANGOLA WOULD NOT WISH TO RETAIN THEIR SERVICES WHEN THEY WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED. THEIR MAINTENANCE COSTS WERE A SIZEABLE BURDEN ON THE ANGOLAN BUDGET. I ASKED THE MINISTER WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE SOVIET ADVISERS IN ANGOLA WOULD AGREE THAT THE CUBANS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN EVEN IF A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. MORAIS SAID QUOTE YES, CERTAINLY. WHY NOT? UNQUOTE I SAID TO MORAIS THAT IF THIS WAS THE CONSIDERED POSITION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT THEN I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF A FORMAL ASSURANCE ON CUBAN WITHDRAWAL COULD BE CONVEYED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US.
3. I UNDERSTAND THAT VENANCIO DA MOURA MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSMEN I.E. THAT THE CUBAN MILITARY WOULD LEAVE ONCE THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION HAD BEEN SETTLED AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN THREAT REMOVED.
4. I DISCUSSED WITH THE LEADER OF THE CONGRESSMEN HOW THEY MIGHT APPROACH THE QUESTION OF THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT . THEY WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FROM DOS SANTOS A STATEMENT ON THE RECORD WHICH THEY CAN TAKE BACK WITH THEM TO THE US SECRETARY OF STATE.
FCO PASS AND SAVING TO LAGOS LUSAKA MAPUTO DAR ES SALAAM SALISBURY GABORONE

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]
[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

KENNEDY	
STANDARD	
C A F D	WED
OADS	ECD
UND	ES & SD
NAD	CABINET OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL