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FM WASHINGTON 212329Z AUG 81
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 2486 OF 21 AUG 81
INFO LISBON BONN PARIS OTTAWA UKMIS NEW YORK LUANDA CAPETOWN.

YOUR TELNOS 75 AND 76 TO LISBON : ANGOLA

1. WE DESCRIBED THE PORTUGUESE APPROACH TO FRASURE (SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS) AND MCELHANY (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS). BOTH CLAIMED THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD APPROACHED THE US IN LISBON OVER A MONTH AGO; HOWEVER THE SCHEME WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED THEN WAS ESSENTIALLY A RESOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN QUESTION PRIOR TO A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT. THIS HAD SEEMED UNREALISTIC EVEN TO THE AMERICANS, AND ACCORDINGLY THE SUGGESTION HAD BEEN POLITELY NOTED AND NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN.

2. CHET CROCKER HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED OF THE LATEST PORTUGUESE APPROACH TO US, AND TAKES THE VIEW THAT THEIR PROPOSALS NEED NO (NO) URGENT ACTION. IN PRINCIPLE HE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS A COMMON RESPONSE BY THE FIVE, BUT PROBABLY NOT UNTIL THE FUTURE OF CONTACT GROUP MEETINGS HAS BEEN RESOLVED; THE AMERICANS CONTINUE TO REGARD THE FIVE'S CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY AS EFFECTIVELY IN SUSPENSE PENDING THEIR CONSIDERATION OF OUR REPLIES TO HAIG'S MESSAGES.

3. U S OFFICIALS ARE GENERALLY SCEPTICAL OF THE VALUE OF THE PORTUGUESE IDEAS AND OF THEIR REAL INFLUENCE WITH THE ANGOLANS. THE MOST THEY ARE PREPARED TO CONCEDE IS THAT IT COULD BE WORTHWHILE TO CONSIDER THESE SUGGESTIONS IF AND WHEN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS STARTS MOVING AGAIN.

THOMAS

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