

GRS 235
UNCLASSIFIED
FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 220930Z AUG 81
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 140 OF 22 AUGUST
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO ROUTINE BONN PARIS OTTAWA LUANDA
INFO SAVING LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM MAPUTO GABORONE LAGOS

NAMIBIA/ANGOLA

1. ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT A LUNCH FOR FOREIGN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS IN PRETORIA ON 21 AUGUST, PIK BOTHA SAID QUOTE WE DO NOT SAY THAT WE PUT IT AS AN ABSOLUTE CONDITION THAT THE CUBANS SHOULD LEAVE ANGOLA BEFORE THERE CAN BE ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF A SETTLEMENT PLAN UNQUOTE. NONETHELESS QUOTE IT IS THE CUBAN PRESENCE WHICH IS MAKING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO MAKE PROGRESS WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPLEMENT WHATEVER SOLUTION THERE MIGHT BE FOR NAMIBIA UNQUOTE.
2. PIK BOTHA ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE THIRTY THOUSAND CUBANS IN ANGOLA AS WELL AS TWO THOUSAND EAST GERMANS. HE SAID THAT THE NAMIBIAN INTERNAL PARTIES FEARED THAT IF SWAPO LOST INTERNATIONALLY-SUPERVISED ELECTIONS THEY WOULD CONTINUE THE WAR WITH CUBAN SUPPORT. THE INTERNAL PARTIES THEREFORE NEEDED GUARANTEES. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT A VOTE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD NOT MAKE A SOLUTION ANY EASIER. THE INTERNAL PARTIES WOULD SEE THAT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF UN INTOLERANCE.
3. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT A TIME-SCALE OF EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO TWO YEARS FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNISED INDEPENDENCE SETTLEMENT FOR NAMIBIA WAS REASONABLE PROVIDED THAT ALL WENT WELL AND AGREEMENTS WERE HONOURED. QUOTE IT IS THE END RESULT WHICH IS IMPORTANT, NOT THE TIME FACTOR UNQUOTE.

FCO PSE PASS ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

REID

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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