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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2506 OF 25 AUGUST 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, LUANDA, CAPETOWN, ROUTINE PARIS,
BONN AND OTTAWA.

TELECON FULLER/CRABBE: ANGOLA/SOUTH AFRICA. mb

1. THE AMERICANS RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE TODAY THAT ANGOLAN ALLEGATIONS OF A RENEWED SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ARE BASED ON FACT. A SUBSTANTIAL SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ANGOLA HAS TAKEN PLACE.

2. HAIG HAS JUST SPOKEN ON THE TELEPHONE TO PIK BOTHA, WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE MILITARY OPERATION HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO A SWAPO BUILDUP IN THE BORDER AREAS. PIK BOTHA CLAIMED THAT THE OPERATION HAD BEEN UNDERWAY FOR ABOUT 2 DAYS, THAT IT HAD ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVES AND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE NOW MOPPING UP AND RETURNING TO NAMIBIA. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT MAGNUS MALAN HAD TAKEN COMMAND OF THE OPERATION FROM WINDHOEK.

3. HAIG SAID THAT THE U.S. DEPLORED THE RAID AND THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA. THE AMERICANS HOPED THAT THE OPERATION WOULD INDEED BE TERMINATED PROMPTLY.

4. THE AMERICANS SIMULTANEOUSLY SUMMONED THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THIS LATEST INCURSION. THE CHARGE CLAIMED TO BE UNBRIEFED.

5. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO US BY A STATE DEPT OFFICIAL IN STRICT CONFIDENCE (PLEASE PROTECT): IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL BE INFORMING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIVE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL HAIG HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS.

6. THIS SHARP U.S. RESPONSE IS ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH IT IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES THAT HAIG SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO ACT BILATERALLY RATHER THAN A CINQ.
THOMAS [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

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