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DESKBY FCO 270830Z

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

PS/PRIME MINISTER

TELEGRAM NUMBER 637 OF 26 AUGUST

10 DOWNING ST

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON OTTAWA PARIS UKMIS NEW YORK CAPE TOWN LUANDA

NAMIBIA/ANGOLA: FRG VIEWS

1. WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY THIS AFTERNOON TO TACKLE VERGAU (HEAD OF EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT) ABOUT THE WAY AHEAD ON NAMIBIA.

2. VERGAU SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HERR GENSCHER TO AGREE TO THE SORT OF LINKAGE BETWEEN THE NAMIBIA INITIATIVE AND CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA THAT THE AMERICANS CURRENTLY SEEMED TO ENVISAGE. BUT HE INDICATED, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT HIS MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO GO A GOOD WAY TOWARDS THE US POSITION IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE FIVE. THE FRG WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN WITHDRAWAL ALONG THE LINES ENVISAGED IN CHEYSSON'S MESSAGE TO HAIG (MY TELNO 612) AND MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THESE CONTACTS SHOULD BE COORDINATED IN THE NEW YORK (OR WASHINGTON) CONTACT GROUP. THEY MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A SET OF COMMON TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS PROVIDED THAT THESE DID NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE WITH THE NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER GENSCHER WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE A COMMON LINE OF THE SORT ENVISAGED IN YOUR TELNO 1206 TO WASHINGTON AND COMMENTED THAT IF THE AMERICANS INSISTED ON THIS SOME SUITABLY AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO COVER THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE AND THE PARALLELISM BETWEEN CUBAN WITHDRAWAL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT PLAN.

3. VERGAU SAID THAT A REVISED DRAFT REPLY TO HAIG'S MESSAGES HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HERR GENSCHER YESTERDAY. IT HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BUT COULD BE EXPECTED TO ISSUE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS. IT DID NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE BUT PICKED UP THE RECOGNITION IN HAIG'S SECOND MESSAGE THAT CUBAN WITHDRAWAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A PRECONDITION FOR A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP NEXT MONTH. VERGAU COMMENTED THAT GENSCHER WAS LIKELY TO RAISE NAMIBIA WITH HAIG DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT HERE ON 13/14 SEPTEMBER (BONN TELNO 624).

TAYLOR

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