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OO WASHINGTON

OO OTTAWA

OO UKMIS NEW YORK

GRS 350

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FM FCO 271155Z AUGUST 1981

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1266 OF 27 AUGUST

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

MY TELNO 1260: NAMIBIA/ANGOLA

1. STRICTLY FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION I HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM HAIG DESCRIBING WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SECOND TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PIK BOTHA:

'I HAVE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM SAG FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA TODAY IN WHICH HE PROVIDED NEW INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA. BOTHA INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONE MAJOR ENCOUNTER DURING WHICH SADF FORCES ENGAGED BRIEFLY WITH MPLA UNITS BEFORE THE LATTER WITHDREW FROM THE ACTION. HE STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WERE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ENGAGE SWAPO UNITS ENCLUSIVELY AND THAT EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO AVOID ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MPLA. BOTHA ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF SOME SOVIET ADVISERS AND FAMILIES IN THE AREA AND THAT THE SAG WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR REGARD.

BOTHA WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT THE SADF HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO PURSUE THEIR OPERATION NORTH TO LUBANGO. HE SAID THAT THE SADF HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THIS ACTION, BUT THAT THE SAG HAD CALLED IT OFF AFTER SPEAKING WITH ME YESTERDAY. HE UNDERSCORED THAT THIS CHANGE WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF MY REPRESENTATIONS TO HIM THAT THE CONTACT GROUP NEEDED TO RETAIN ITS CREDIBILITY AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE IN THE NAMIBIA

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NEGOTIATIONS.

BOTHA FURTHER INDICATED THAT A SOPHISTICATED AIR DEFENSE INSTALLATION AND A SUBSTANTIAL STOCK OF WEAPONRY HAD BEEN SEIZED. MOST OF IT WOULD BE DESTROYED. FINALLY, BOTHA WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT THE SAG HAD HAD A FEELER FROM THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT INDICATING A DESIRE FOR CONTACT. I MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS, BUT IT IS CLEAR THE SAG IS READY FOR EITHER DIRECT CONTACT OR INDIRECT CONTACT WITH THE ANGOLANS, POSSIBLY THROUGH ONE OR MORE OF US.

I THANKED BOTHA FOR THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INDICATED TO HIM THAT I WOULD BE PASSING IT TO MY ALLIED COUNTERPARTS. WE CAN REVIEW FURTHER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE EVENTS AS WELL AS THE OAU MINISTERIAL MISSION AND THE UN SPECIAL SESSION.''

CARRINGTON

STANDARD  
C.A.F.D  
S.A.F.D  
O.A.D.  
U.N.D  
C.C.D  
N.A.D  
E.C.D  
M.C.D.  
E.L.D  
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