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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 355 OF 27 AUGUST
INFO PRIORITY CAPE TOWN

Prime Minister
Angola
The latest batch of telegrams from Angola, S. Africa, our mission to the UN, as well as a report of a conversation between Lord Carrington and Mr Haig.

MS

L/M
27/8

ANGOLA / SOUTH AFRICA: MY TELNO 353

1. IF THE INVITATION TO VISIT CUNENE PROVINCE, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, IS CONFIRMED I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO ACCEPT. THE INVITATION MAY BE IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST WHICH I MADE. ON MONDAY, BEFORE WE RECEIVED NEWS OF THE MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATION, I DISCUSSED WITH OLGA LIMA, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, THE PROBLEM OF GIVING ACCURATE ASSESSMENTS TO OUR GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA IN THE FACE OF THE WELTER OF CLAIMS AND COUNTER-CLAIMS WHICH HAD FOLLOWED EARLIER INCURSIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF HER MINISTRY COULD ARRANGE FOR AMBASSADORS OCCASIONALLY TO VISIT REGION AND SEE THE EXTENT OF THE PENETRATION AND OF THE DAMAGE INFLICTED IN ANGOLA. SO LONG AS WE WERE RESTRICTED TO LUANDA OUR ABILITY TO REPORT WAS ALSO RESTRICTED. I ASSURED HER THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC BRITISH INTEREST IN THIS BUT SUGGESTED THAT HER MINISTER MIGHT CONSIDER INVITING THE AMBASSADORS OF THE THREE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE FIVE REPRESENTED IN ANGOLA TO TOUR THE SOUTHERN AREA. HE HAS DONE EXACTLY THAT.
2. AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF MY CONVERSATION WITH MORAIS AND OF THE BRIEFING BY DA MOURA WAS THE CARE WHICH EACH MINISTER TOOK TO EMPHASISE THAT F A P L A FORCES ALONE HAD BEEN IN ACTION AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY AND THAT NO CUBANS HAD BEEN INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH THE REMARKS ON THE REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 51 REPORTED IN PARA 4 OF MY T U R WERE SOMEWHAT SELF CONTRADICTIONARY DA MOURA'S GENERAL INTENTION WAS CLEARLY TO ARGUE THAT THE QUOTE CUBAN BOGEY UNQUOTE COULD NOT REASONABLY BE INVOKED TO JUSTIFY THE SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION. FIGUEIREDO ALSO TOLD ME THAT IT WAS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY THE CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATION BY REFERENCE TO S W A P O TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. THE U S - I THINK UNFORTUNATELY- APPEAR TO HAVE ALLUDED TO BOTH THESE POINTS IN THEIR STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE RAID.
3. DA MOURA WAS VERY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT THE MEETING AND BOTH HE AND MORAIS ARE NO DOUBT MODERATES AND GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN. BUT I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD BE SEEN TO RESPOND TO THE INITIATIVES WHICH THE MODERATES TAKE.
4. AN EARLY REPLY TO PARA 1 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

KENNEDY

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]
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