

Angola

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DESKBY 021830Z

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FM LUANDA 021630Z SEP 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 393 OF 02 SEPTEMBER
AND TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK CAPETOWN LAGOS TRIPOLI
ALGIERS
INFO MAPUTO GABORONE SALISBURY LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM

ANGOLA/SOUTH AFRICA/U S

1. I SAW MORAIS, MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AT 4.00PM THIS AFTERNOON. HE ASKED IF YOU COULD ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN PAULO JORGE AND MR HAIG IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK WHILST FORMER IS IN U S FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I PROMISED TO CONVEY REQUEST.

2. I WOULD SEE VALUABLE POSSIBILITIES IN A MEETING BETWEEN ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND U S SECRETARY OF STATE AND RECOMMEND THAT YOU URGE MR HAIG TO AGREE. THE FACT THAT THE REQUEST HAS COME FROM ANGOLANS AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME (AFTER VETO AND WITH SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS STILL IN CUNENE) IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT. IF U S REJECT THE APPROACH POSITION OF PRO-WESTERN AND POTENTIALLY PRO-U S MODERATES WITHIN ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE WEAKENED.

3. AT ONE P M THIS AFTERNOON PAULO JORGE BROADCAST A STATEMENT ON IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (WHICH HAS BEEN IN ALMOST CONTINUOUS SESSION). THE STATEMENT DENOUNCED THE U S VETO AND SAID THAT IN CONSEQUENCE THE CONDITIONS FOR AN INVOCATION OF CHAPTER 51 HAD NOW BEEN FULFILLED. MORAIS TOLD ME THAT WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SEEK HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS DELEGATIONS WOULD LEAVE FOR NIGERIA, LIBYA, AND ALGERIA TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE. (WHICH I UNDERSTAND TO MEAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE). MORAIS DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE WOULD BE AN INTERVAL BETWEEN THE PROCUREMENT OF ANY SUCH OFFERS AND THEIR ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION.

4. MORAIS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT ANGOLANS THOUGH DISAPPOINTED BY OUR ABSTENTION APPRECIATED THE REASONS FOR IT. SO FOR CRITICISM OF UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MUTED. I STRESS TO MORAIS IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE FIVE AND MOMENTUM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS: THERE COULD BE NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE ONLY THEY COULD EXERCISE THE REQUISITE INFLUENCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. MORAIS SAID HE FULLY APPRECIATED THIS AND AGAIN ASKED IF YOU WOULD HELP ARRANGE THE MEETING WITH MR HAIG. /5. I

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5. I ASKED IF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE ON SOUTH AFRICAN CLAIMS TO HAVE CAPTURED ONE RUSSIAN WARRANT OFFICER AND TO HAVE KILLED TWO OTHER SENIOR RUSSIAN OFFICERS. HE SAID THAT THE FIRST PART WAS QUOTE NOT TRUE UNQUOTE. I SAID THAT THESE REPORTS WERE BOUND TO MAKE AN IMPACT UPON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES BUT THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO DENY THEM IF THEY WERE IN FACT TRUE. MORAIS SAID THAT HE WOULD CHECK THE POSITION AND SEE IF A STATEMENT COULD NOT BE ISSUED ON THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

6. IF MR HAIG IS WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET MR JORGE MESSAGE COULD BE CONVEYED THROUGH ANGOLAN DELEGATION AT U N.

7. I ASKED MORAIS WHETHER THE REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH MR HAIG WAS MADE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS.

FCO PLEASE PASS

KENNEDY

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]
[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

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