

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ANGOLAN  
MINISTER OF PLANNING AT 1630 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 1983  
AT 10 DOWNING STREET

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Present:

Prime Minister  
Mr. A.J. Coles

Senor Nascimento  
Senor Luis de Almeida

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Sr. Nascimento said that he wished to convey the greetings of President Dos Santos to the Prime Minister. He wished also to transmit a message from his President about the problems of Southern Africa as well as the problems facing Angola and the question of our bilateral relations. In addition, he had been asked to convey an oral message.

The Prime Minister read the message from President Dos Santos and asked Sr Nascimento to convey her thanks to the President - she would reply fully in writing.

Sr Nascimento said that he was most grateful to the Prime Minister for receiving him. His visit to the United Kingdom had been very successful and there were good prospects for developing relations.

With regard to Namibia, Angola appreciated Britain's position on Southern African questions. President Dos Santos would like the United Kingdom to bring its influence to bear not only on South Africa but also on the United States Government so that peaceful solutions might be found for Southern Africa. Angola could not accept any link between the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

His Government had had many discussions with the United States about Namibia but had not made much progress. However, a few days ago a message had been received from the US Government via Mozambique that the Americans were willing to resume discussions with Angola. There was no obstacles from the Angolan side.

/ Angola was .



Angola was also ready to hold direct discussions with South Africa. But such discussions must be properly prepared so as not to disappoint expectations. In that context, he wished to inform the Prime Minister that the Portuguese Government had been trying to organise meetings between the Angolan and South African governments. But this had been an unfortunate initiative, not least because the Angolan Government had first been informed of it through the press. The Portuguese had been trying to promote a summit but such meetings needed the most careful preparation. The Angolan Government did not agree with the Portuguese initiative.

The Prime Minister asked whether President Dos Santos' position was that he would be prepared to meet the South African Prime Minister if such a meeting was properly prepared. Sr Nascimento replied that such meetings were not intended for the moment - until they had been properly prepared by other meetings. The recent meeting between President Kaunda and Mr. Botha had shown the pointlessness of unprepared events of this kind.

Sr Nascimento then raised the question of the British mercenaries in prison in Angola. President Dos Santos had asked him to say that he was ready to use his power of clemency and would do so very soon. Clemency would be exercised in the case of the British prisoners in connection with a simultaneous exercise of clemency in respect of other prisoners. All this would need preparation. Angola needed to take account of certain OAU and UN resolutions about mercenaries. The President asked that Britain should help Angola to find peaceful solutions in its region. He also sought the British Government's assistance to prevent the continuation of anti-Angolan activities in the United Kingdom. This would favour the development of bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister said that she wished to be clear about the President's message. As she understood it, he had decided to exercise clemency. This would happen very soon. It would be part of a package involving other prisoners. Our bilateral relations would be assisted if we could bring influence to bear against anti-Angolan activities in the UK.



She was not sure what these activities were but Britain was a free society. Anti-Thatcher activities were not uncommon. We could not suppress organisations within our free society provided they conducted themselves within the law. We might not approve of the activities in question but we could not deal with them unless the law was infringed.

She was very grateful for the President's oral message and would like Sr Nascimento to convey her warm thanks to him. How would the Angolans wish this matter to be handled from the point of view of public relations?

Sr Nascimento said that he had suggested to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary earlier in the day that the issue should be kept private. The Prime Minister stated that nothing would be said to our press in advance though, of course, when the prisoners were released there was bound to be publicity. She wondered what the likely timescale for release was. Sr Nascimento said that he believed it would happen in not more than a month.

Sr de Almeida then said that Angola wished to open an Embassy in the United Kingdom. But it would not do so until the British Government closed the offices of groups opposed to the Angolan Government such as UNITA. France and Belgium had already taken action of this kind. The Prime Minister said that she had to explain that the British Government did not have the power in law to close such offices. We of course had no relations with them. We would very much like Angola to establish an Embassy here. She did not believe that a country like Angola, with its great size and promising future, should be put off by the activities of a few individuals in London.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that when she replied to the President's letter, she would thank him for the oral message conveyed by Sr Nascimento and say how welcome it was. Her reply would contain no specific reference to the prisoners.

The conversation ended at 1710.

A.J.C.



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*cc MASTER SET*



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 December 1983

*Dear Sir,*

Call by the Angolan Minister of Planning  
on the Prime Minister

I enclose a record of the conversation which took place here today between the Prime Minister and the Angolan Minister of Planning. I also enclose a copy of the message from President Dos Santos to the Prime Minister which Senor Nascimento delivered.

*Yours ever*

*R.B. Bone*

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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REPUBLICA POPULAR DE ANGOLA  
**GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE**

TO  
HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARGARETH THATCHER  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
L O N D O N

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Minister for Planning of the People's Republic of Angola will be officially visiting the United Kingdom from the 12th to the 14th of December, and I have personally entrusted him with this message to deliver to Your Excellency.

I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge reception of the messages You were so kind as to send me, through your present Ambassador as well as his predecessors.

Mutual understanding and progressive growth that have been part of our bilateral relations of friendship and of economic cooperation are ample proof that there really exists a common wish on the part of our respective Governments to overcome our ideological differences, placing cooperation and commercial exchanges over and above this all, whenever it is judged useful and fair to the development of our two countries.

I wish to reassure Your Excellency that my Government is interested in maintaining and developing economic and financial relations between Angolan and British Enterprises and Institutions basing ourselves on the principle of peaceful cooperation

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between States, and logical economic interdependence between Nations. It is in this context that our Minister for Planning has been empowered to explore all possible avenues of stable and fruitful relationship with your Country and I wish that visit be crowned with success.

While manifesting these intentions to you, we must also remember that Angola, although despoising of a great wealth of natural resources, is situated in Southern Africa, a zone of tensions where we can only wish for the re-establishment of peace and stability, respecting as always the political will and rights of those who were, and continue to be oppressed by colonialism and apartheid. Peace is necessary to all, but cannot in any way be separated from social justice. For this reason, we have considered as urgent the solution of the Namibian problem based on the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 435, as first important step for clearing up tensions in Southern Africa. The Government of the People's Republic of Angola has received with great satisfaction, the latest declarations of the British Government on the question of decolonization of Namibia, as not being related in any way with the withdrawal of Cuban forces in Angola; I would greatly appreciate it if Your Excellency would exert all Your influence with other member countries of the Western Contact Group on Namibia, so as they assume the same position and convince South Africa to indicate the electoral system as well as the initial date for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 435/78. I also think that Your Excellency might be able to convince the South African Government that its' politics of military destabilization against neighboring countries through armed subversive groups can only increase the misery of those who have always been poor, but cannot alter the present political map. "UNITA and the "MNR"





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**GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE**

have no future at all in both Angola and Mozambique respectively. One must face the legitimate Government of Angola in a realistic spirit and despite her youth, she is an independent Government who practices a coherent political line of principles based on defending the interests of the Angolan People as a whole.

On the basis of trying to narrow the gaps in the relations of friendship between our people, and in response to Your last appeal for a gesture of clemency towards the British citizens condemned to a maximum prison sentence in Angola in 1976, our Minister for Planning Comrade Lopo do Nascimento has been mandated to transmit You a verbal message. I pray You will accept all that he will say in my name, especially when he will convey the feelings of friendship of the Angolan People with the People of Great Britain, as well as my best wishes for good health and personal well-being to Your Excellency and the assurances of my Highest Consideration.

JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS  
PRESIDENT OF THE MPLA - WORKER'S PARTY  
PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA





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*Presidente da República*

Excelência,

O Ministro do Plano da República Popular de Angola efectuará uma visita oficial ao Reino Unido da Grande Bretanha no período de 12 à 14 de Dezembro e confieilhe a missão de lhe fazer a entrega desta mensagem.

Aproveito a oportunidade para confirmar que recebi as mensagens que teve a amabilidade de me enviar, seja através do vosso Embaixador actual como do seu antecessor.

A compreensão mútua e a ampliação progressiva que se tem verificado nas relações bilaterais de amizade e cooperação económica, mostram que há de facto um desejo comum dos nossos Governos respectivos de situar a cooperação e o intercâmbio comercial acima das diferenças ideológicas, desde que ela seja justa e útil ao desenvolvimento dos nossos países.

À

SUA EXCELÊNCIA MARGARETH THATCHER

PRIMEIRO MINISTRO DO REINO UNIDO DA GRANDE BRETANHA

L O N D R E S



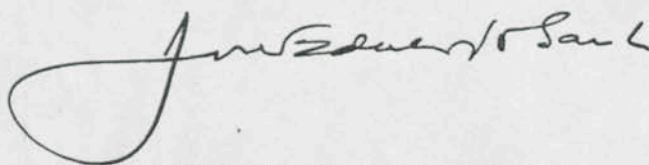
Asseguro à Vossa Excelência que o meu Governo está interessado em manter e desenvolver, na base do princípio da coexistência pacífica entre Estados e da interdependência económica lógica entre as Nações, relações económicas e financeiras entre Empresas e Instituições de Angola e da Grande Bretanha. Neste âmbito o nosso Ministro do Plano tem mandato para explorar todas as possibilidades de um relacionamento estável e frutuoso com o vosso País e desejo por isso que a sua visita seja coroada de êxito.

Ao manifestar-lhe a nossa intenção temos presente na nossa memória que embora Angola tenha grandes recursos naturais ela está situada na África Austral, uma das zonas de tensão do Mundo, onde desejamos que a Paz e a estabilidade se reestabeleçam respeitando a vontade política e os direitos dos que foram ou continuam a ser oprimidos pelo colonialismo e pelo apartheid. A Paz é necessária para todos, mas não pode ser desligada da justiça social. Por essa razão temos considerado urgente a solução do problema da Namíbia na base da Resolução 435 do Conselho de Segurança das Nações Unidas, como primeiro passo importante para o desanuviamento de tensão na África Austral. O Governo da República Popular de Angola acolheu com grande satisfação as últimas declarações do Governo da Grande Bretanha, sobre o não relacionamento da descolonização da Namíbia com a retirada das forças cubanas de Angola e gostaria que Vossa Excelência usasse da sua influência junto dos outros Países membros do Grupo de Contacto Ocidental para a Namíbia para assumir a mesma posição e convencer a África do Sul a indicar o sistema eleitoral e a data para o início da implementação da Resolução 435/78 do Conselho de Segurança da ONU. Penso também que a Senhora Primeiro Ministro pode tentar convencer



o Governo Sul-Africano de que a sua política de desestabilização militar contra os países vizinhos através de grupos subversivos armados aumenta apenas a desgraça daqueles que sempre foram pobres, mas não pode alterar o mapa político actual. A "UNITA" e o "MNR" não têm futuro em Angola e em Moçambique, respectivamente. É necessário encarar o Governo legítimo de Angola com espírito realista, ele é apesar da sua juventude um Governo independente que pratica uma política coerente de princípios, baseada na defesa dos interesses do Povo Angolano tomado como um todo.

No quadro do estreitamento das relações de amizade entre os nossos Povos que pretendemos e em resposta ao seu último apelo para um gesto de clemência a favor dos cidadãos britânicos condenados a pena de prisão maior em Angola em 1976 o Camarada Lopo do Nascimento, Ministro do Plano leva a incumbência de lhe transmitir uma mensagem verbal. Peço-lhe que acredite em tudo quanto ele disser em meu nome sobretudo quando lhe transmitir os sentimentos de amizade do Povo Angolano para com o Povo do Reino Unido, os meus votos de saúde e bem-estar pessoal para Vossa Excelência e os protestos da minha elevada Consideração.



- JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS -  
PRESIDENTE DO MPLA - PARTIDO DO TRABALHO  
PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA POPULAR DE ANGOLA

Luanda, aos 8 de Dezembro de 1983.