

ANGOLA - GENERAL

1988 - ~~1989~~

JANUARY - MARCH.

Unita claims capture of strategic railway town (S) D/D 1/1/88

LISBON — Angolan rebels said yesterday they had used captured Soviet-built tanks and US ground-to-air missiles to capture a strategic town along the Benguela railroad, killing 116 government soldiers in seven days of heavy fighting.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) said in a statement distributed in Lisbon they also shot down a Soviet-built MiG-23 plane and five helicopters and destroyed two bridges and four T-34 tanks in the fighting around the town of Munhango.

The rebels, who have been fighting since 1975 to force the Soviet and Cuban-backed Angolan government to share power, said 12 guerillas were killed and 93 wounded.

Unita, backed by the United States and South Africa, said they used captured Soviet-built T-55 tanks to seize Munhango from government forces on December 22.

The town is on the strategic Benguela railroad that runs across central Angola, linking landlocked southern African countries to the Atlantic Ocean.

The rebels said they advanced westward along the railroad from Munhango and on Wednesday destroyed a bridge over the Cuanza River near the town of the same name and another bridge at nearby Massanda.

Unita said the destruction of the bridges left government forces commanded by an unidentified Cuban general cut off in the town of Cuemba, unable to reach the government-held cities of Luena and Cuito further west along the railroad.

The rebels said they used ground-to-air missiles to prevent Angolan and Cuban troops dropping supplies.

There was no immediate reaction from the Angolan Government or any independent confirmation of the rebel claims. — Sapa-AP

Car & Traps 4/1/88

Captured weapons aid Unita

LISBON. — Angolan rebels have claimed they used captured Soviet-built tanks and United States ground-to-air missiles to capture a strategic town along the Benguela railroad, killing 116 government soldiers in seven days of heavy fighting.

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Unita, backed by the United States and South Africa, said they used captured Soviet-built T-55 tanks to seize Munhango from government forces on December 22.

The town is on the strategic Benguela railroad that runs across central Angola. — Sapa-AP

SA soldier captured in Angola — claim

ARGUS 5/1/88 (S) (15)

LISBON. — Angolan armed forces have captured a South African soldier working for Pretoria's counter-intelligence service in southern Angola, according to the official Angolan news agency Angop.

It said the man, identified only as "Pufuta", was taken prisoner on December 12 in the southern Cunene province.

"The soldier was on a reconnaissance mission for the South African 42nd battalion. He had been carrying out counter-intelligence and reconnaissance operations since 1986 inside Angolan territory."

Angop quoted the soldier as saying his duties were to track down Swapo guerrillas.

BATTLES

The captured man was also reported to have said many South African soldiers had been killed in recent battles between Unita rebels and Angolan troops but special South African units had collected and hidden the bodies.

The report gave few other details and did not quote the captured soldier directly.

South Africa has said about 30 of its men died fighting in Angola late last year.

A SADF spokesman in Pretoria said he had no comment on the Angop report "until such time as information is provided which can be reasonably investigated".

He said the Angolan report gave no details about the soldier. "There's no name, no number, nothing," he said. — Sapa-Reuter.

ARGUS 6/1/88 (5)

Cuban troops: 'SA in talks with Angola'

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — South African representatives had talks with Angola's interior minister, Mr Alexandre "Kito" Rodrigues, in Harare last week, according to reports said to be circulating among diplomats in Luanda.

The reports are, however, described as speculative by the Mozambican news agency, AIM.

Mr Rodrigues was in Harare for the formal installation of Robert Mugabe as Zimbabwe's first executive president.

AIM says that according to unconfirmed reports the South Africans requested the meeting with Mr Rodrigues in an attempt to prevent greater involvement of Cuban troops in actions against South African forces.

HEAVY ATTACK

AIM reported that elements of Angola's Fapla army came under heavy attack by South African aircraft in the Cuito Cuanavale area last month. Fapla claimed to have shot down a South African plane — thought to be a Mirage — on December 26 in the Baixo Longa area.

Angolan defence minister MrzPedro Maria Tonha was quoted as saying the SADF was continuing to penetrate deep into Angola. Fapla claimed on December 30 that South African troops operating with Unita forces had been detected in the Mulondo region of Huila province, more than 300 km north of the border with Namibia.

AIM said there was strong speculation in Luanda about the possibility of a combined Fapla-Cuban offensive against the South African forces.

ABROAD

A recent directive by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos barring government officials from trips abroad for the first three months of 1988 was being linked to the possibility of such an offensive. AIM said no attack was likely before the visit to Luanda this month by Dr Chester Crocker, the United States assistant secretary of State for Africa.

The AIM report also said that a black South African soldier recently captured by Fapla had said some of his white colleagues had been shot by their officers for refusing to fight in Angola.

Key Angola bridge damaged in attack

The Argus Foreign Service

LISBON. — Angola has confirmed the "partial" destruction of a key bridge on the Benguela railway.

The official Angolan News Agency, Angop, said "South African commandos, using frogmen, attacked the Cuanza river bridge on December 30, causing its partial destruction".

Unita claimed last week that it had "totally destroyed" a bridge in central Angola near Kamakupa after a week of heavy fighting.

It also said its forces destroyed four tanks, six aircraft, including a Mig-23 jet, and killed nearly 120 soldiers in the fight for the bridge, about 575km north of the border with SWA/Namibia.

The destruction of the bridge had severed the railway and "completely isolated" the nearby garrison of Kuemba, said Angop.

It said Angola had shot down three South African Mirage jets on December 29 near the frontline air base of Cuito Cuanavale, the scene of heavy fighting against Unita and South African forces over the last four months.

Angola has claimed the destruction of nearly 50 South African aircraft since September.

A South African Defence Force spokesman denied that three Mirage aircraft had been shot down.

"This is the third time Angop has made unsubstantiated claims that South African aircraft have been shot down in Angola.

"These allegations are part of Angop's continuing campaign to divert attention away from Unita's successes against Cuban and Russian-supported Angolan forces."

SA 'had talks with top Angolan'

SADF denies Mirages were downed

Angola claims SA forces 'battering' its army positions

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The reports are, however, described as speculative by the Mozambican news agency, AIM.

Mr Rodrigues was in Harare for the installation of Mr Robert Mugabe as Zimbabwe's first executive president.

AIM says that according to unconfirmed reports the South Africans requested the meeting with Mr Rodrigues in an attempt to prevent greater involvement of Cuban troops in actions against South African forces said still to be stationed in Angola despite Pretoria's claim to have withdrawn its forces.

The agency said both Cuban and Angolan sources had confirmed that Cuban forces had been involved in small-scale clashes with South African troops in southern Angola last month.

Cuban troops were now stationed at the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, the same sources said.

AIM said there was strong speculation in Luanda about the possibility of a combined Fapla/Cuban offensive against the South African forces.

A recent directive by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos barring government officials from trips abroad for the first three months of 1988 was being linked to the possibility of such an offensive.

AIM said no attack was likely, however, before the visit to Luanda this month by Dr Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, who is expected to discuss peace moves with the Angolan government.

LISBON — South African air and ground forces were battering Angolan army positions in a bid to take the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, the official Angolan news agency, Angop, said yesterday.

The Angop report, monitored in Lisbon, said Angolan forces had shot down three of six South African Mirage jets which were bombing government troops around the town in Cunene province a week ago.

The agency, quoting an Angolan Defence Ministry communique describing battles between December 29 and January 4, said many civilians were injured in the bombing raids.

"The South African army operations show they are deep inside Angolan territory and are aimed at circling and capturing several locations, such as the town of Cuito Cuanavale, and expanding north of the Benguela railway," it said.

Angop claimed that a special South African commando of frogmen had, on December 30, partially blown up a key bridge which carries the Benguela railway over the Cuanza river in the Bie province.

Coincided with Unita claims

This account coincided with earlier claims by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) that rebels had destroyed the bridge.

Angop said South Africa was using heavy ground and air weapons in the most recent clashes.

The weapons included G-5 and Kentron long-range artillery.

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force in Pretoria denied that three Mirage aircraft had been shot down.

He said this was the third time Angop had made unsubstantiated claims that South African aircraft had been shot down in Angola.

"These allegations are part of Angop's continu-

ing campaign to divert attention away from Unita's successes against the Cuban- and Russian-supported Angolan forces.

"The Defence Force has nothing to add to the official statement already made about South Africa's position on the Angolan issue," he added.

The provincial commissioner of Cunene said on Monday that government troops killed 1 500 Unita guerillas in fighting throughout the southern Angolan province last year.

Angop quoted Cunene commissioner Mr Pedro Mutinde as saying that South African troops remained in the region in defiance of a United Nations Security Council call for their withdrawal from Angolan territory by December 10.

Mr Mutinde, the report said, noted that most fighting in 1987 with the Unita rebels took place near the Cunene towns of Cuvelai, Mupa, Calonga and Mongua.

The commissioner said South African forces remained in Cunene's Ruacana, Calueque and Curoca regions.

This was nearly a month after the UN deadline for their withdrawal across the border with Namibia.

South Africa acknowledged publicly in November that its troops had entered southern Angola to aid Unita guerillas in fighting off the annual dry season offensive by Angolan government forces.

The government units were reportedly backed by Cuban support troops and Soviet military advisers.

Unita also receives military aid from the United States.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party government has rejected Unita demands for a power-sharing accord.

Unita has waged a 12-year bush war against the MPLA government since the collapse of their provisional coalition government following Angolan independence from Portugal in 1975. — Sapa-AP.

ARGUS 7/1/88 5

EXCLUSIVE PICTURES: RENAMO AT WAR



These exclusive pictures of Mozambique rebels on patrol in the bush outside the nation's beleaguered capital, Maputo, were taken recently by Cape Town-based freelance photographer Cloete Breytenbach.

There are more pictures, plus an account of what he found at the rebel headquarters barely 25km from Maputo, on page 15 today. There is an analysis of the grim situation inside Mozambique on page 14.

The main picture shows re-

Relief airlift suspended

MAPUTO. — Ten thousand people in central Mozambique face starvation because rebel activity has forced the suspension of a relief airlift, according to Red Cross officials.

Among the 10 000 in northern Sofala province are hundreds of starving people at Inhaminga.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been operating an airlift since February 1986 to about 50 relief centres occupied by people fleeing the conflict between government troops and rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

Most of the aid consisted of medical supplies, clothing, blankets and soap.

These exclusive pictures of Mozambique rebels crossing a river. Of special interest in the smaller picture is that one of the rebels is wearing the full camouflage battledress and issue boots of the former Rhodesian and present Zimbabwean army.

The Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR or Renamo) was founded by the old Rhodesian regime and Zimbabwean troops are today deployed against it along the strategic "Beira corridor" which is Zimbabwe's shortest link to the sea.

But in Sofala, the ICRC airlift was almost the only source of food for about 10 000 people.

Red Cross officials yesterday confirmed that the flights had been suspended on December 24, affecting about 30 000 people.

And a Zambian national radio report said 10 Mozambican right-wing rebels kidnapped a woman and two small boys and stole food in a raid on a Zambian border village on Tuesday. No casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, rebels have given themselves up to the terms of an amnesty law passed three weeks ago, the government has announced. — Sapa-Reuters and The Argus Correspondent.

Cuba admits to 1 000 dead in war

CAPB Times
8/1/88

5

MAPUTO. — Cuba has announced that 1 000 of its 40 000 troops in Angola have died during the past 10 years, the Mozambican news agency AIM reported yesterday.

The announcement by Mr Jorge Risquet, a member of Cuba's politburo, was the first time Cuba had confirmed such a large military presence in Angola. Recent Western estimates placed the Cuban strength in Angola at about 35 000.

AIM's report was filed by its executive director from Luanda, and was based on reports received there from Havana.

According to AIM, Mr Risquet denied claims that 10 000 Cubans had died in Angola since the first troops arrived there to aid the Marxist government in its 12-year-old civil war against rebels of Unita.

Mr Risquet reportedly said a major-

ity of the 1 000 Cuban deaths resulted from disease, accidents and "terrorist attacks" rather than combat.

Unita receives arms from South Africa and the United States, and South African troops intervened in the war late last year on the rebel's behalf.

South Africa has said it is withdrawing its soldiers, but has declined to give details about the pull-out.

AIM quoted Mr Risquet as saying about half the total Cuban force was now in southern Angola, the main area of combat.

There have been unconfirmed reports of clashes between Cuban and South African forces, and AIM earlier this week said South Africa may have sought contacts with Angolan officials in hopes of averting such confrontations. Neither Angola nor South Africa have commented publicly on this report. — Sapa-AP

3.35: Tom Jones Special. 4.10: Adventures of the Gummi Bears. The Gummi's are

3.35: Tom Jones Special. 4.10: Adventures of the Gummi Bears. The Gummi's are

Breakthrough for Unita looms

JONAS SAVIMBI'S rebel Unita soldiers look set to capture the Angolan government's most important logistical airbase at Cuito Cuanavale, military analysts believe.

Unita this week also claimed several attacks on the strategic Benguela railway line.

Out-of-season battle has continued in Angola's Kuando Kubango province, where control of Cuito Cuanavale is at stake in the 12-year bush war for political supremacy between the ruling MPLA government and Unita rebels.

The continued military confrontation between Unita and Angolan government forces (Fapla) was interpreted by military analysts this week as Unita's renewed attempt to gain control of the important Fapla-controlled air and logistics base at Cuito Cuanavale. The base is about 200km northwest of Unita's bunker headquarters and northernmost airfield at Mavinga.

Savimbi's rebels are out to regain the territory they have lost since 1985. Then at its strongest, Unita was operating in every province in Angola, said Jane's Defence Weekly's SA correspondent Helmoet Heitman.

"Unita has already regained the ground they lost during last year's Fapla offensive," said Pretoria University Institute of Strategic Studies director Mike Hough.

Another key target Unita has turned to in recent weeks is the strategic Benguela railway line. The railway which runs from the Zaire border to the Atlantic has long been a favourite rebel target, although Unita now seems intent on completely cutting the main supply route to Fapla troops in eastern Angola.

A communique issued by Unita in Lisbon this week said the rebels overran the railway line last Sunday for the fourth time in less than

ELSABÉ WESSELS



a month, killing 57 government troops in a battle for the town of Canacupa in the central Bie Province.

Canacupa lies just east of Nova Sintra, which was attacked last week, and about 150km west of Munhango, another Benguela railway town captured by Unita late last month.

Heitman said Unita, its morale boosted by last year's successes against Fapla, had stepped up its activity.

Insurgency was facilitated by increasingly wet weather which provided ample surface water and thicker bush conditions. Fapla's sophisticated radar network was also rendered less effective by rain and cloud cover, which made air support difficult.

According to claims by Unita and the official Angolan news agency Angop, Unita has also involved itself in semi-conventional warfare to gain ground. Heitman pointed to the use of T55 tanks when Unita successfully took Munhango.

During last year's October offensive Fapla reached the Lomba River northwest of Mavinga. The Angolan troops claimed they were

halted by SA bombing raids and artillery fire.

The analysts said Fapla realised the loss of Mavinga would drastically weaken Savimbi's position.

The occupation of Mavinga would have completed the Angolan system of air defence and would have enabled the air force to threaten the lines of supply to Unita's capital at Jamba.

But tables have been turned for the moment. "If Unita exploits the rainy season to take out Cuito Cuanavale they will be stronger than ever," said Heitman. It would be a visible defeat for the MPLA government, he added.

By driving Fapla out of Cuito Cuanavale and forcing them back to Menongue, Unita — now pinned down in the south-eastern corner of the country — would be able to establish itself in the south for the remainder of the rainy season.

It would be well placed to disrupt any attacks when Fapla renews its conventional offensive in the September/October dry season.

In the past three weeks Angola has repeatedly claimed that SA army operations have been taking place "deep inside Angolan territory".

Angop also claimed Angolan forces had shot down three SAAF mirages. The SADF has denied these claims.

Since its first major incursion into Angola in 1975, SA has either denied its involvement in Angola or subsequently justified its presence in terms of "self-defence" against "Swapo terrorism".

Interpreting SA Defence Force chief Jannie Geldenhuys's statement, issued shortly before December 10 — the date set by the United Nations Council for foreign troop withdrawal from Angolan territory — military analysts pointed out that Geldenhuys had not committed SA to a total withdrawal of forces from Angola.

CAN. Times 12/1/88
SADF

'bombing Angolan army'

LISBON. — The Angolan Defence Ministry claimed yesterday that South African forces were bombing and shelling army positions in southern Angola with the aim of capturing key towns.

The Angolan Minister of Defence, Mr Pedro Maria Tonha, said in a statement reported by the Angolan news agency, Angop, that South African troops used long-range artillery to shell Angolan army positions 15 times between January 5 and Monday.

The report said South African aircraft also bombed a populated area near the city of Cuito Cuanavale and a military supply column.

The minister said the objective of the South African forces was to capture Cuito Cuanavale and extend their operations further north.

He said their ultimate aim was to prevent the Angolan government reopening the strategic Benguela railroad.

Angop also quoted former Nigerian president General Olusegun Obasanjo as saying the war South Africa was waging against Angola was "war against Africa".

General Obasanjo, visiting Luanda, was reported as saying: "If Angola continues to be destabilized, other countries to the north will be destabilized."

● In Pretoria, a Defence Force spokesman said that Angola's claims were part of a concerted effort to divert attention from Unita's recent successes. — Sapa-AP

SA aircraft raid Swapo headquarters in southern Angola

W/C 170645 16/11/88 (5)
Weekend Argus Africa Service

WINDHOEK. — In a dusk raid last night South African Air Force jets blasted a major Swapo base in southern Angola.

A statement issued by the South West Africa Territory Force in Windhoek said the objective of the strike was the headquarters of the western command of Swapo's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of SWA/Namibia.

The territory force said the base was responsible for Wednesday night's raid on Oshakati.

Two people in a black township on the outskirts of the town died in a blast from one of the mortars fired by the insurgents in a "stand off" bombardment. There were no military casualties in the attack.

The Angolan air raid went in about 6.30pm last night and so far the military authorities say they have no idea of Swapo casualties. The territory force did not say where the headquarters base was.

It said, however, that the strike was further confirmation that the security forces in SWA/Namibia would not let "Swapo's acts of terror go unpunished".

A territory force spokesman in Windhoek said this morning that all aircraft involved in the raid had returned safely to base.

On October 31 last year a combined South African air and ground strike was launched against a major Swapo base at Cuvelai, about 250km inside Angola. Six security force members and 150 Swapo fighters died in the battle.

The latest air strike comes against a background of detailed Angolan government claims that South African ground and air units are attacking a number of towns in the south of the country in support of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels.

Angola

air strike

CPT Temp 16/1/88 (5)

SOUTH AFRICAN aircraft yesterday struck across the Angolan border at a Swapo base.

According to an official communique from the SWA Territory Force, the "successful" strike was launched at an unnamed base in southern Angola at 6.30pm. No details of losses on either side were given.

Acknowledgement of the strike comes amid reports from Angola of a full-scale South African involvement in heavy fighting around the key southern Angolan government garrison of Cuito Cuanavale.

The Angolan government yesterday alleged that about 6 000 South African troops, backed by planes, tanks and artillery, had attacked government forces around Cuito Cuanavale in a major battle said to have begun on Tuesday.

"The battle . . . is still raging," the Angola defence ministry said in an announcement carried by the official Angolan news agency Angop.

"Up to 6 000 men from two tactical groups of a South African battalion backed by planes, tanks and artillery are attacking army positions just east of Cuito Cuanavale," the dispatch said.

Seize vital base

The report gave no details of casualties in the fighting for Cuito Cuanavale, the second biggest town in Cuando Cubango province and an important military staging post for operations against Dr Jonas Savimbi's anti-government Unita rebels.

The Angolan government said South Africa aimed to seize the vital air base in Cuito Cuanavale to "ease the infiltration" of Unita rebels into the central highlands and block the rebuilding of the international Benguela railroad in central Angola.

But, in a statement issued in Lisbon, Unita denied South African involvement in the battle, saying it had "destroyed (Fapla's) celebrated 21st brigade" in an eight-hour battle and had "completely encircled" the base.

The SWA Territory Force said yesterday 747 insurgents had been killed in action last year, up from the 1986 figure of Swapo dead (642) and that for 1985 (599). — Sapa-Reuter-AP

S/Times
17/1/88

Key base may soon crumble in Unita siege

By KEN POTTINGER: Lisbon

THE Angola government's vital military command post of Cuito Cuanavale has been under siege for more than a month and may fall at any time.

Reports indicate that the onslaught of Unita rebels has badly weakened the Cuban-led defenders.

An Angolan defence ministry communique monitored in Lisbon claims that about 6 000 South African troops supported by fighter-bombers, tanks and heavy artillery had surrounded the town, where fierce fighting has raged since last Tuesday.

The South African Defence Force, however, has refused to comment on the allegations.

According to a report in the well-informed Lisbon newspaper, O Seculo, the Luanda government's efforts to re-supply the town have been stymied by heavy Unita action.

Observers here suggest that should Cuito Cuanavale fall, the next Unita target will be the larger, well-fortified town of Menongue to the north-west, where Cubans have built underground silos for Luanda's MiG fighter planes.

Angola's repeated claims that South African troops

alone are responsible for the spate of offensives in the area are viewed sceptically by most military experts.

One source said: "Luanda's military commanders are seeking a scapegoat for successive defeats in the field and Pretoria is the easiest target."

Unita's Lisbon spokesman, Major Alcides Sakhala, claimed the battle for Cuito Cuanavale was a rebel initiative alone.

Denial


"I can categorically deny that any South African troops are involved.

"Cuito Cuanavale will fall and become known as the Dien Bien Phu of Angola."

This was a reference to the siege of the Vietnamese town in 1954 which led to the end of French rule.

Major Sakhala said that in fighting this week the rebels had killed 102 government soldiers and two Cubans.

He did not give any casualty figures for the Unita side. Diplomats here predict the next stage will be a Moscow-prompted peace effort involving possibly surprising compromises in the 12-year-old conflict.

ARGUS 20/1/88 (S) 

'Massive' attacks claimed from Luanda 'Cuban planes strike at SADF in Angola'

Argus Africa News Service

JAN20MAPUTO. — As the battle for the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale intensifies, the Cuban air force is claimed to have struck at what have been described in Luanda as "positions held by the South African Defence Force".

More than 100 Cuban soldiers and thousands of Angolan government troops are trapped in the town, say reports reaching here.

Western diplomatic sources in Harare said they were told "several hundred" Cubans were trapped in the town and its fall seemed imminent.

Cuban troops moving towards the besieged town have reportedly been attacked by Unita rebels.

Intensified pressure

In a report from Luanda the Mozambican news agency Aim said that since the beginning of this month South Africa had intensified pressure on Cuito Cuanavale.

"Last week their attacks came to a climax, with the SADF launching between 170 and 200 shells from G-5 and G-6 long-range guns against Cuito Cuanavale every day," the agency said.

There had been more than 100 casualties among Angolan troops in the town.

Two Cuban soldiers had died at the weekend and three were reported missing.

There were about 160 Cuban troops stationed in the town, which had an important radar defence system.

Aim said that on Friday the Cuban air force struck "on a massive scale" against SADF artillery and rearguard units.

Cuban ground forces had begun moving towards Cuito Cuanavale.

"Cubans ambushed"

In Lisbon a Unita spokesman said Cuban troops approaching the town had been attacked.

Unita troops had killed eight Cubans and injured more than 30 in an ambush on Cuban troops trying to reach Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday.

He said 29 Angolan troops and another three Cubans had died at the weekend in battles near the town.

It was from Cuito-Cuanavale that Angolan government troops last year launched an offensive against Unita controlled areas in southern Angola.

Government forces were defeated at the battle of the Lomba River.

South Africa acknowledged then it had moved in to help the Unita rebels halt the offensive.

Unita has claimed it is besieging Cuito Cuanavale — but the Angolan government has repeatedly accused South Africa of being involved in the battle.

Claims "nothing new"

An SADF spokesman said today the Aim claims were nothing new.

"Angop has made similar claims in the past few weeks. Now Aim is continuing with them.

"It is part of the continuing effort to divert attention from the widely publicised successes achieved by Unita.

"South Africa's position on Angola has been clearly stated."

Besieged Angolan town set to fall — reports

(5) SML
20/1/88



The Star's Africa News Service

Maputo

Cuban and Angolan soldiers are reported to be trapped in an Angolan town under heavy bombardment from South African artillery.

The fall of the strategically vital town of Cuito Cuanavale is imminent, according to Western diplomatic sources in Harare.

No Defence Force comment on the reported fighting was available at the time of going to press.

As reports from Lisbon and Maputo today said that a fight for the town had become a major battle, the Cuban air force was reported to have become involved in the fighting, striking at what has been described in Luanda as "positions held by the SADF".

The Mozambican news agency AIM claimed in a report from Luanda, the Angolan capital, that the Cuban air force had launched strikes against SADF artillery and rearguard positions.

More than 100 Cuban soldiers and hundreds, if not thousands, of Angolan government troops are trapped inside the town, according to reports reaching Maputo.

Cuban troops moving towards the besieged town have reportedly been attacked by Unita rebels.

AIM's report from Luanda said that since the beginning of this month South Africa had intensified its pressure on Cuito Cuanavale.

"Last week these attacks came to a climax with the SADF launching between 170 and 200 shells of their G-5 and G-6 long range cannon against Cuito Cuanavale every day," the agency said.

AIM, quoting unspecified Angolan sources, said there had

Radar system

There were "about" 160 Cuban troops stationed in the town which previous reports said also harboured an important radar defence system for the Angolan government.

AIM said the Cuban air force had struck "on a massive scale" against the SADF artillery units and against SADF rearguard units on Friday.

It has previously been reported that Cuban pilots fly Angolan warplanes, but the claim that the Cuban air force is launching strikes against South African forces is new.

AIM said that Cuban ground forces had started moving towards Cuito Cuanavale.

In Lisbon a Unita spokesman said Cuban troops moving towards the town had been attacked.

The Unita spokesman said 29 Angolan troops and another three Cubans had died at the weekend in battles near the town.

It was from Cuito Cuanavale last year that Angolan government troops launched an offensive against the Unita-controlled areas in southern Angola. The offensive was defeated at the battle of the Lomba River.

THIS RECOVERED

Cuban warplanes hit SA positions in Angola — claim

5 DD 2/1/88

LUANDA — Cuban warplanes have launched strikes on South African positions in south-east Angola in a bid to halt a heavy bombardment of a town held by Cuban and Angolan troops.

According to a Mozambiquan news agency (AIM) report filed from Luanda, there appears to be an increased likelihood of direct clashes between Cuban troops and SADF troops fighting in Angola.

AIM, quoting an unidentified Cuban source, said the air strikes were the first by Cuba's air force directed specifically at South African positions.

The report said the strikes were launched last Friday after South African forces intensified the bombardment of Cuito Cuanavale, firing up to 200 shells a day from long-range mobile cannons.

AIM said two of the 160 Cuban soldiers in the town had been killed by the shelling, and about 100 Angolan government troops were killed or wounded. It gave no details about the effects of the air strikes, other than to say the bombardment had stopped "for the time being".

A South African military spokesman, Major Riaan Louw, said he could neither confirm nor deny the details in the AIM report.

Maj Louw reiterated South Africa's contention that recent combat reports emanating from Luanda are aimed at diverting attention from the successes of Unita, which claims to have surrounded Cuito Cuanavale. — Sapa-AP

Cuban jets hit SA troops — claim

Cape Times 21/1/88

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON. — The Cuban air force has clashed directly with South African forces for the first time in the 12-year-old Angolan war, Portuguese state radio reported yesterday.

The radio said the Cubans had bombed South African military positions in southern Angola as part of a last-ditch effort by the Angolan government to prevent the vital command post of Cuito Cuanavale from falling into rebel hands.

According to a report monitored here from the Luanda correspondent

of the Mozambiquan news agency AIM, the Cubans swung into action last Friday.

The Cape Times Defence Correspondent reports that the AIM report was dismissed by a South African Defence Force spokesman, who remarked that it was "not a new claim".

But Cuito Cuanavale — the Angolan government's forward launching-pad in its war against Unita — is totally besieged and is expected to fall to the insurgents and their South African al-

To page 3

Mozambican news report claims . . .

2/11/88

(S) 6/Deij

Cuban warplanes strike SA positions in Angola

LUANDA — Cuban warplanes had launched strikes on SA positions in south-east Angola in an attempt to stop a heavy bombardment of a town held by Cuban and Angolan troops, a report said yesterday.

The report, filed from Luanda by Mozambican news agency AIM, suggested there was an increasing chance of direct clashes between Cuban troops and SA forces fighting in Angola in support of Unita.

AIM said the airstrikes were the first by Cuba's air force directed specifically at SA positions.

The strikes had been launched on Friday after SA forces intensified the bombardment of Cuito Cuanavale, firing up

to 200 shells a day from long-range mobile cannon.

AIM said two of 160 Cuban soldiers in the town had been killed by the shelling, and about 100 Angolan government troops had been killed or wounded. It gave no details about the effects of the air strikes, other than that the bombardment had stopped "for the time being".

Unita has insisted that only its soldiers — not South Africans — are involved in the assault on Cuito Cuanavale.

Unita said in Lisbon on Tuesday that the town was close to falling. Its capture by the rebels would open the way to a further major advance on sensitive targets like the Benguela Railway and

place Angola's largest province in Unita's hands.

Commenting on the AIM report, an SADF spokesman told HELEN WISHART: "This report is not a new one. Angop — the official wire agency in Angola — has made similar claims in the past few weeks. AIM is continuing with them as part of the continued effort to divert attention from the widely publicised successes achieved by Unita.

"In addition, Unita has extended an invitation to the UN to visit the real area of conflict and acquaint itself with the situation.

"SA's position on Angola has been clearly stated. The Defence Force has nothing to add to these statements." — Sapa-AP.

D/D 23/1/88

SA siege stopped, Angola claims

(5)

LISBON — Angolan forces have halted the advance of 6 000 South African troops besieging the strategic garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale and shot down about 40 aircraft, the official Angolan news agency said yesterday.

"The enemy has not succeeded in its mission... Cuito Cuanavale is still with us," the Air Force Chief of Staff, Colonel Alberto Neto, said.

Colonel Neto said anti-aircraft batteries ringing the south-eastern town had shot down about 40 aircraft giving air support to the South

African ground troops.

But a spokesman for the SADF said: "The allegation that Angola has shot down 40 South African aircraft is blatantly ridiculous and not worth a rational comment.

"Furthermore, Unita has already claimed significant military successes which Angola is obviously trying to avoid giving them credit for."

The battle for Cuito Cuanavale has raged for three weeks as Angolan government forces defend their main military staging post for attacks against UNITA rebel strongholds.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerillas say they and not the South Africans are besieging the town, which has one of the few airfields in the region and vast stores of Soviet-built supplies and munitions.

Diplomatic sources in South Africa said on Thursday that UNITA rebels, backed by South African artillery, appeared close to capturing the Cuito Cuanavale.

The loss of the town, about 300 km (200 miles) from the Namibian border, would deal a major

blow to Angola's Marxist government in its struggle against the rebels and their South African allies.

The Angolan authorities, backed by more than 30 000 Cuban troops, have fought UNITA since the country gained independence from Portugal almost 13 years ago.

US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker is due in Luanda next week for talks on the war, Namibian independence and the withdrawal of the Cuban troops.— Sapa-RNS

Angolans claim 40 SA planes down

LISBON. — Angolan forces have halted the advance of 6 000 South African troops besieging the strategic garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale and shot down about 40 aircraft, the official Angolan news agency claimed yesterday.

An SADF spokesman in Pretoria said the allegation of aircraft losses was ridiculous "and not worth a rational comment".

"Furthermore, Unita has already claimed significant military successes which Angola is obviously trying to avoid giving them credit for," the spokesman said.

"The enemy has not succeeded in its mission ... Cuito Cuanavale is still with us," the air force chief of staff, Colonel Alberto Neto, told a Luanda television programme on Wednesday night, Angop said in a report received in Lisbon.

Colonel Neto said anti-aircraft batteries ringing the south-eastern town had shot down about 40 aircraft giving air support to the South African ground troops.

Angop did not explain the delay in reporting the television interview.

The battle for Cuito Cuanavale has raged for three weeks as Angolan government forces defend their main military staging post for attacks

against Unita rebel strongholds.

Unita guerillas say they, and not the South Africans, are besieging the town which has one of the few airfields in the region and vast stores of Soviet-built supplies and munitions.

Diplomatic sources in South Africa said on Thursday that Unita rebels,

LUANDA. — Angola has asked the British government to block a visit to Britain by Angolan rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, saying it could damage relations between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

It said that according to "recent information", Dr Savimbi planned to visit Britain in February.

backed by South African artillery, appeared close to capturing Cuito Cuanavale.

The loss of the town, about 300km from the Namibian border, would deal a major blow to the Angolan government.

The United States Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, is due in Luanda next week for talks on the war, Namibian independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops. — Sapa-Reuter

Heavy fighting in Angola, report

w/c ARGUS 23/1/88

LISBON — Angola's Defence Minister said government troops were engaged in heavy fighting with South African forces around two strategic cities in the southern provinces of Cuando Cubango and Bie.

In a dispatch monitored in Lisbon yesterday Angop quoted Defence Minister Pedro Maria Tonha as saying full-scale bat-

ties were taking place around Cuando Cubango's Cuito Cuanavale, 300km north of the SWA/Namibian border, and Munhango, 580km from the border.

Mr Tonha said South Africa was massing more troops across the SWA/Namibian border, preparing "to launch even greater aggression against Angola".

In a separate report Angolan air defence chief Colonel Alberto Neto was quoted as saying government units still controlled Cuito Cuanavale after several days of siege by the South African forces and Unita rebels.

"Cuito Cuanavale is still ours," Colonel Neto said in an interview aired by Angolan television.

Speaking at a military ceremony in Lubango, capital of south-central Huila province, Mr Tonha termed the South African incursion into Angola "monstrous", stating South Africa had sent in its troops because Unita on its own "failed to halt (government) advances" in the region.

● A South African Defence Force spokesman said earlier allegations that Angola has shot down 40 South African aircraft were "blatantly ludicrous and not worth a rational comment".

"Furthermore, Unita has already claimed significant military successes which Angola is obviously trying to avoid giving them credit for." — Sapa-
Reuter

6 000 SA soldiers in fighting — claim

MiGs enter battle for Angolan town

(S) 51M
25/1/88

Up to 6 000 South African motorised infantry troops, backed by armoured cars, tanks and long-range G-5 and G-6 cannons, are facing MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighter aircraft in a bloody battle for the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, an Angolan Defence Ministry spokesman has claimed.

The claim, which was disputed by South Africa, was made as it was announced in Washington that US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker would travel to Luanda tomorrow for a resumption of peace negotiations with the Angolan Government on January 28 and 29.

And visiting Bavarian Prime Minister, Dr Franz Joseph Strauss, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, held talks with Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi yesterday at a secret venue in the Kalahari.

In another development, Britain has rejected an Angolan government appeal to stop a proposed visit to Britain by Dr Savimbi next month.

A spokesman for the British Foreign Office said Dr Savimbi was free to visit Britain as a private citizen.

But Whitehall sources said it was unlikely he would be granted a meeting with the British government.

Commenting on the Angolan claims, a South African Defence Force spokesman said yesterday that they were a continuation of Angolan efforts to divert attention from Unita successes.

South Africa's position on Angola had been clearly stated, the spokesman said.

The position was unchanged since an announcement by the chief of the SADF on December 5 that South African troops were withdrawing from Angola "as operational circumstances permit".

No losses

No losses had been suffered this year, the spokesman said, and the SADF had nothing to add to these statements.

Angolan spokesman Major Mario Placido, briefing foreign reporters in Luanda at the weekend, confirmed that the town of Munhango, on the Benguela railway line in the central province of Bie, had fallen to Unita and said the situation in Cuito Cuanavale was "difficult".

The town is the government's main forward position in the war-torn province of Cuando Cubango.

Major Placido claimed Angolan air force MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters were operating against South African troops.

He admitted that the SADF's artillery gave the South Africans superior firepower and said these guns were being used to bombard the town's airstrip and a nearby bridge.

The major claimed Angolan air defences around Cuito Cuanavale were "very good" and were capable of neutralising any air attack. For this reason, he said, the South Africans did not dare to attack Cuito Cuanavale from the air.

Admitting the fall of Munhango, Major Placido alleged that Unita had been backed by "South African special forces".

● See Page 15.

LUANDA. — Angola's armed forces, backed by MiG fighters piloted by Cubans, and equipped with sophisticated anti-aircraft defences, are determined to stop an invading South African force from capturing a strategic garrison town in south eastern Angola, according to top Angolan government officials.

Angolan jets against SA guns — claim

CMK Tim's
25/1/88
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The besieged Angolan strategic forward base of Cuito Cuanavale was being shelled heavily at the weekend while South African troops made a concentrated attack, an Angolan spokesman claimed.

Major Mario Placido, of the Angolan Defence Ministry, admitted to foreign reporters that the situation at in the Cuando Cubango province was "difficult" and that South African troops had superior artillery firepower.

He claimed the South African forces consisted of up to 6 000 men and backed by armoured cars and Scorpion light tanks. He said they were attacking the town in an east-to-west direction.

The town's airstrip and the bridge over the nearby Cuito River were being shelled at long range by South African G-5 and G-6 guns.

"We are in Cuito Cuanavale and we are maintaining our position. It is important to us — they won't take it," Major Placido said.

An SADF spokesman said yesterday: "The Angolans are merely continuing their effort over the past few weeks to divert attention from the widely publicized successes by Unita."

He said South Africa's position had been clearly stated by various cabinet ministers and the Chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys.

Local military observers yesterday said the SADF did not have light tanks, "and certainly not Scorpions".

To page 3

Secret bid to end Angola war

CAC Tunks
25/1/88

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Bavarian Prime Minister Mr Franz Josef Strauss told Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi during a secret meeting in the Kalahari Desert at the weekend that the Soviet Union wanted a settlement in Angola.

Mr Strauss, who visited Moscow shortly before coming to Southern Africa, was in a good position to give momentum to a peace plan as he was still in touch with Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, according to Dr Savimbi.

Dr Savimbi said Unita's fight against the MPLA government was progressing well and that he was in a stronger position now to exert pressure for a settlement.

The Kalahari talks, attended by the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, covered the possibility of an Angolan peace plan and the unresolved Namibian question.

Keen on new talks

The US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, is due to visit Luanda next week to discuss a settlement that could include proposals for Namibian independence.

It will be Dr Crocker's first visit since he held unsuccessful talks there in July, followed by an equally unproductive meeting with the Angolan Foreign Minister in Brussels in September.

The Angolans have indicated they are keen on fresh talks, but they may merely be trying to stall a combined offensive by Unita and South African forces.

Dr Savimbi said that as Mr Strauss was visiting Southern Africa at the request of West German Chancellor Mr Helmut Kohl, his report would have considerable weight.

There is speculation that one of the main reasons for the 72-year-old Mr Strauss's trip was to promote a rapprochement between South Africa and Mozambique.

Mr Strauss, who arrives in Cape Town today, flew from his meeting with Dr Savimbi to Bophuthatswana and was due to meet President Lucas Mangópe last night.

Mr Strauss is due to meet President P.W. Botha at the Tuynhuys again today. He is expected to brief Mr Botha on his talks with Mozambican President Joachim Chissano and possibly to suggest a meeting of the two presidents.

Mr Strauss has also arranged a meeting with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi but, in spite of attempts by local German Embassy staff, no talks are scheduled with left-wing black leaders.

An embassy spokesman said last night that he was surprised to hear of the talks with Dr Savimbi. If Mr Strauss had met Dr Savimbi, it was in his private capacity and not on behalf of Mr Kohl, the spokesman said. Nor did the visit to Bophuthatswana signal a change of German policy rejecting recognition of homelands, he said.

In a television interview broadcast in West Germany, Mr Strauss reiterated his opposition to sanctions against South Africa.

"The whole region lives on the economic strength of South Africa," he told the network.

Nor could the frontline states solve South Africa's racial problems without the participation of the Pretoria government itself, Mr Strauss added.

Dr Savimbi appeared to win another diplomatic victory at the weekend. According to a Sapa report from London, Britain has rejected an Angolan government appeal to stop his proposed visit to Britain next month.

Thatcher's secret letter to Botha — Page 7

Strauss reveals Soviet wish for Angola peace

D/D 25/11/88

228 5

JOHANNESBURG — The Bavarian Prime Minister, Dr Franz Josef Strauss, told the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, during a meeting in the Kalahari yesterday that the Soviet Union wanted a settlement in Angola.

Dr Strauss, who visited Moscow for the first time shortly before undertaking his Southern African peace mission, was in a good position to give momentum to a peace plan as he was still in touch with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. Dr Savimbi said afterwards in an interview.

The talks, attended by the South African Foreign Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, covered the possibility of an Angolan peace plan and the unresolved Namibian question.

Dr Savimbi and four companions arrived by private plane at a landing strip among the dunes yesterday morning and were met by Mr Botha and Dr Strauss, who was accompanied by advisers. Senior members of the Department of Foreign Affairs were also present.

Dr Savimbi said afterwards they discussed the plans for peace and reconciliation and the ending of conflicts in Southern Africa, particularly in Angola, where he believed only talks between Unita and the MPLA would bring about peace.

He said he had been in touch with Dr Strauss

for many years and Unita had a representative in Munich.

Dr Strauss had been in Moscow recently and was "in touch with the Russians," who had a role to play in finding solutions to the problems in Angola.

He said Mr Gorbachev was now talking "very much" about political, not military solutions in Angola.

"That is what we have been saying for years. That is why we think that now we have a chance of trying through Germany to send our message to the Russians that we are the ones who are prepared to join the peace plan," Dr Savimbi said.

After the meeting Dr Strauss went on to Bophuthatswana, which is usually shunned by international statesmen, and was due to meet President Lucas Mangope last night.

Dr Strauss is due to fly to Cape Town for a second meeting with President P. W. Botha today.

He has arranged a meeting with the KwaZulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, but, despite attempts by local German Embassy staff, no talks are sched-

uled with leftwing black leaders who command support in the townships.

An embassy spokesman said last night he was surprised to hear of the talks with Dr Savimbi. If Dr Strauss had met Dr Savimbi, it was in his private capacity and not on behalf of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The visit to Bophuthatswana did not signal a change in German policy rejecting recognition of the homelands, the spokesman said.

The Daily Dispatch's London bureau reports that the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has sent a secret letter to President Botha which is believed to deal with events in Mozambique and could be connected with Dr Strauss' efforts to try to negotiate an end to Renamo rebel activity.

A Downing Street spokesman declined to confirm or deny the existence of the letter, but a senior British government source said a letter had been sent "in the past few days".

Mr Botha's media liaison officer, Mr Jack Vivers, refused to confirm or deny receipt of the letter, saying it was not policy to comment on the President's correspondence.

There is growing belief among Western governments that, amid the general turmoil in Southern Africa, a solution to Mozambique's security problems is the one attainable goal in the short term.

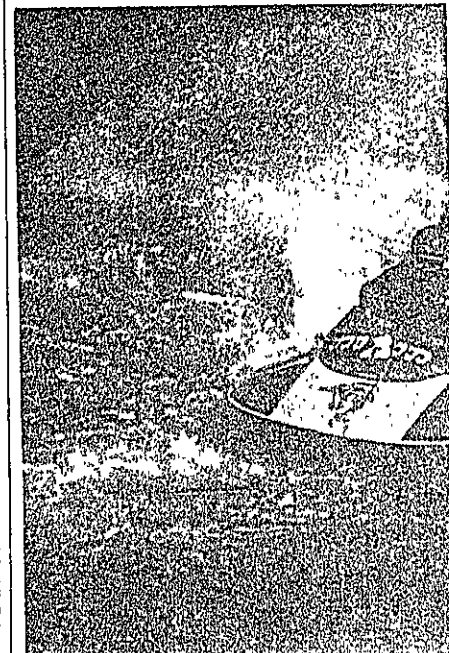
This is strengthened by recent Soviet indications that Southern Africa requires "regional solutions for regional problems" and that it is no longer prepared to pour endless amounts of money into seemingly bottomless pits to prop up bankrupt governments.

Mrs Thatcher's letter followed a visit to London last week by the US Under Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, who held extensive discussions with the British Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr Christopher Patten.

Dr Crocker is due to fly to Luanda this week to discover whether the Angolan government is prepared to take a new look at peace negotiations following the defeat of its offensive in the south-east of the country last year.

It will be his first visit since he held abortive talks there in July.

See also page 11



Justin Lindhorst, 10, leaves a spray of water in his wake at the powerboat regatta held on the Buffalo River on...

Fresh bill to ree rent through emp

CAPE TOWN — The government has again refined and reinforced its legislative efforts to force employers to act as rent collectors on behalf of local authorities in terms of a new bill.

The Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill, presented to Parliament by the Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, follows two other aborted attempts by the government to coerce employers into acting as its agents to overcome the ongoing rent boycott.

Tabled virtually unnoticed late last year, and now before the parliamentary standing committee on Constitutional Development, it has new strategies to involve employers in rent collecting — with stiff penalties for those who don't comply.

A first attempt to "press gang" employers into collecting rent was embodied in the Black Local Authorities Amendment Bill of 1986.

It aroused widespread criticism, not least for the disastrous impact it would have had on employer-employee relations if enacted.

Its successor, the Local Government Af-

fairs Amendment Bill, was presented in June 1987 and faced a similar barrage of criticism.

It was to serve as an attachment model against an employer, obliging him to pay to a local authority the amount owed out of the employee's wages.

The latest draft legislation takes this a step further by qualifying that the attachment order can be made in favour of the local authority "for a liquid debt" of the amount and interest specified.

This would include "any emoluments at present or in future owing or accruing to that debtor by or from his

Sunny skies light winds

FAST LONDON The gale force south-westerly winds which kept East Londoners off the beaches yesterday are expected to moderate today.

A spokesman for the weather station here said the strongest gust recorded was 72 km/h while the maximum average wind speed was 41 km/h.



First class passes begin with Rex Trueform from Strand
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CAF Times 25/1/84

From page 1

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Major Placido said the Angolan air defences around Cuito Cuanavale were "very good" and were capable of neutralizing any South African air attack. He added that for this reason the South Africans did not dare to attack the town by air.

Angolan MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters were operating from Menongue in the west, he said.

The airstrip at Cuito Cuanavale was not currently being used but was nevertheless in an "impeccable" condition. Shell holes caused by artillery fire were being repaired "immediately".

Major Placido also denied reports that heavy Cuban reinforcements had been arriving in Angola over the past few weeks to strengthen the Cuban military contingent already in Angola, estimated by Western military analysts to be about 35 000.

The chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, said on Saturday that he endorsed Cuban air strikes on South African positions in Angola.

Dr Kaunda said Angola's use of Cuban jets against South African forces was "in the interest of national defence".

"The Angolan government should be saved at all costs and the battle for the town of Cuito Cuanavale has to be won," he said.

Dr Kaunda, who is also chairman of the frontline states, said it was gratifying that Cuban President Fidel Castro had provided the jets.

Diplomatic sources in Johannesburg say South Africa is supporting the siege of Cuito Cuanavale with long-range artillery, but probably has fewer troops committed to the battle than Luanda claims.

— Sapa-Reuter and Staff Reporter.

The Russians want peace, Strauss tells

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TOP-LEVEL MEETING: Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss, centre, with Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and President Botha at Tuynhuys today.



Mr Mikhail Gorbachev

By **TOS WENTZEL**, Political Correspondent
RUSSIA was interested in a peaceful solution in Southern Africa, especially Angola, which would include all parties, visiting Bavarian Prime Minister Dr Franz Joseph Strauss said today.

At a Press conference in Cape Town after talks with President Botha he said his impressions from recent meetings with the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the Russian foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was that Russia felt itself to be over-committed in Africa, Afghanistan and Central America.

At the conference, President Botha said he was prepared to talk to any leader in Southern Africa.

Mr Strauss, who has had talks with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, Uruta leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana, said he was not on a peace mission but on a fact-finding mission. He denied reports that he had brought a "secret message" from the Russian leader to the South African Government.

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He said he had told Mr Shevardnadze that he would convey his views to the South African Government.

He said he believed Russia would be interested in a solution in Angola which included Unita.

R60-m project

In Mozambique, the Frelimo regime was prepared to accept more private enterprise and capital, Dr Strauss said.

West Germany was planning to spend about R60-million on a development project in Mozambique.

This could include the modernisation of Maputo harbour, technical help to get the Cahora Bassa scheme working again and a scheme to protect the rail link between Maputo and Johannesburg.

He said it had not been possible for him to meet members of the rebel movement Frelimo.

US links

The Mozambican regime had told him Renamo had South African ties and even stronger links with Europe and America.

Dr Strauss said he had discussed the possibility of improving relations between Mozambique and South Africa with President Chissano.

Among other things, the Mozambican leader wanted South Africa to employ more Mozambicans.

LISBON — Angolan rebels had surrounded the strategic southern city of Cuito Cuanavale and were confident its fall was "only a matter of time", a guerrilla spokesman said yesterday.

Unita Lisbon-based spokesman Alcides Sakala said the government-held city was encircled by guerrillas and could not hold out much longer.

The Angolan government has said troops defending Cuito Cuanavale have been engaged in major battles with 6 000 South African soldiers attacking the city.

News reports from Luanda say Cuban pilots have taken part in bombing raids against the alleged South African offensive.

Cuito Cuanavale is 300km north of Angola's Namibian border. Angolan government officials say SA aims to capture the town to enable Unita to penetrate further north.

Unita denies South Africans are supporting guerrillas in the battle for the city. Sakala said the fall of the town into rebel hands was certain, but he declined to give further details.

In a separate statement yesterday,

Unita confident of capturing key Cuito Cuanavale

26/11/88

day, Unita said it had killed 48 government soldiers and captured 49 Soviet-made guns in four attacks on government positions in central Angola from January 18-20.

Rebel casualties were given as five killed and eight wounded. Unita also said it had captured two towns.

"In the Huambo province, our forces attacked and took victoriously the village of Ussoke, near Balombo on the main Huambo-Benguela road. The enemy suffered 27 dead," it said.

The rebels said they also overran the town of Catende in the southern Huila province, killing 12

Angolan soldiers.

In the northern Kwanza Norte area, Unita attacked government troops near Bula Atumba and shot dead a further nine troops.

There was no independent confirmation of the guerrillas' claims.

The statement made no mention of the battle raging around Cuito Cuanavale.

Unita, which is backed by the US and SA, has been fighting the Marxist government in Luanda, which is supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, since shortly after Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975. — Sapa-AP and Sapa-Reuter.



NEW TALKS . . . The Bavarian Prime Minister, Mr Franz Josef Strauss (left), and President P W Botha pose for press photographers after their talks yesterday.

Political Staff

THE Soviet Union would not reject an Angolan peace solution that included both the MPLA government and the rebel Unita movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

This was the substance of an unofficial message relayed to President P W Botha by visiting Bavarian Prime Minister Mr Franz Josef Strauss.

Mr Strauss yesterday said he had met the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, shortly before his Southern African mission.

Shevardnadze did not say 'we want a victory in Angola'. He said 'we

talks yesterday
Time 26/1/88
Soviets want peace
not victory Strauss

shall accept a solution which guarantees peace and which is approved by all parties."

Mr Strauss said he had got the impression the Soviets felt they were over-committed in several parts of the world, including Africa.

"Shevardnadze said they would not reject a peace solution including both the MPLA and Unita. The Soviets are convinced; neither side can win the war in Angola."

He disclosed at a joint

press conference that in spite of increasing world pressure for punitive economic measures against South Africa, President Chissano of Mozambique had asked him to ask Mr Botha to "allow more unemployed Mozambicans to work in South Africa".

After meeting Chief Lucas Mangope of Botswana, Mr Strauss said the chief's problem was that SA did not consider the homeland part of SA and did not finance it. Because of the lack of international recognition, the homeland was not entitled to development aid.

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CMT Times 26/1/88

Cuito Cuanavale to fall soon, says Unita

LISBON. — Angolan rebels are surrounding the strategic southern city of Cuito Cuanavale and are confident its fall is "only a matter of time", a guerilla spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Alcides Sakala, a Lisbon-based spokesman for Unita, said the government-held city was encircled by guerillas and could not hold out much longer.

The Angolan government has said troops defending Cuito Cuanavale have been engaged in major battles with 6 000 South African soldiers attacking the city. The SADF has denied these claims.

News reports from the Angolan capital of Luanda say Cuban pilots have taken part in bombing raids against the offensive.

Unita yesterday said it had killed 48 government soldiers and captured 49 Soviet-made guns in four attacks on government positions in central Angola between January 18 and 20. Rebel casualties were given as five killed and eight wounded. — Sapa-AP

Angolan peace prospects boosted

By Gerald L'Ange
The Star's Africa News Service

Prospects for peace in Angola appear to have been given a boost by two recent developments: the dramatic military advances by the Unita rebels against the MPLA government and the signals from Moscow that it will accept a political compromise between the two.

Ultimately these could have an important effect on whether South African troops continue to fight in Angola and on the Namibian border.

The most explicit indication of a change in Soviet attitudes has come from Bavarian premier Franz Josef Strauss, who recently visited Moscow and discussed Moscow's southern African policy with the Soviet Foreign Minister shortly before embarking on his current tour of the region.

The signals from Moscow take on added significance in the light of military developments in Angola, which include the possibility that the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale might fall to Unita.

The threat to Cuito Cuanavale follows the defeat late last year of the most powerful of-

fensive ever launched by the MPLA's Cuban and Russian-supported Fapla forces on Unita's stronghold in south-eastern Angola.

The Luanda government claims the rebels are being supported by South African forces, who have been shelling the town and its important airfield with the ultra-long-range G5 and G6 cannons.

While the SADF has indirectly denied participating in the attack, it would have a powerful motive for doing so, given the potential benefits to be gained.

The fall of Cuito Cuanavale would be a major setback to Fapla and would make it difficult, if not impossible, for another offensive to be launched against Unita in this year's dry season. And it would greatly strengthen the doves in the Luanda government who are reported to favour a negotiated settlement with Unita.

In rolling back last year's offensive, Unita is believed to have inflicted substantial casualties on Fapla and to have captured or destroyed much of the weaponry the Soviets poured into Luanda to replace

that lost in the abortive offensive the previous year.

The Kremlin might now be reluctant to back yet another offensive this year.

This might have had a bearing on what Mr Strauss says he was told by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze shortly before embarking on his southern African tour.

"Mr Shevardnadze did not say he wanted the victory of this or that party, only that a solution should guarantee peace and be approved by all parties involved," Dr Strauss said in Cape Town this week.

He interpreted this to mean that Mr Shevardnadze did not reject a solution that included Unita as well as the MPLA.

Dr Strauss said he had formed the impression from his talk with Mr Shevardnadze and from his own recent visit to Moscow that the Soviets were now convinced that neither the MPLA nor Unita could win a military victory and that Moscow felt it had over-extended itself world-wide.

Yesterday Dr Strauss told the SA-German Chamber of Trade and Industry in Johannesburg that he got the im-

pression from Mr Shevardnadze that "they were not interested in the total defeat of Unita".

In Cape Town, Dr Strauss said he had told the Soviet Foreign Minister he would convey his remarks to President Botha. In this context Mr Shevardnadze's statement gains added significance.

It is against this background that Dr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, is visiting Luanda this month to resume his efforts to negotiate a settlement of the Namibian and Angolan issues.

He is believed to be responding to suggestions from Luanda that the MPLA is interested in serious negotiation.

But some analysts doubt that it is, given the possibility that the next US president will be a Democratic and that the Democrats will retain control of both Houses of Congress in the election in November.

In that event, the Stinger missiles and other American weapons now being supplied to Unita would almost certainly be cut off — and the hawks in Luanda, if not in Moscow, would be given new heart.

you have news or interest to Argus readers, telephone staff reporter Linda Galloway or call on her at The Argus office in the Town Centre — Shop 10, first floor, Plain

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Unita claims victory but Luanda says
 Argus 27/1/88

Argus Africa News Service
A BLOODY battle is raging around the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, which the rebel group Unita claims has been abandoned by government and Cuban troops.

The town is reported to have been heavily damaged by shelling, which the MPLA government says was carried out by South African forces firing ultra-long-range G5 or G6 cannons.

In Luanda, military sources said Cuban-piloted MiG 21 and MiG 23 fighter-bombers attacked South African positions.

They said South African troops equipped with the long-range artillery came close to overrunning the town.

"They got to within one kilometre."

To prevent the loss of the town Angola's military high command ordered a big air strike against the South Africans for the first time, driving them back 30km to the east, the sources said.

Informed sources in Lisbon said last night several Angolan and Cuban brigades were now stationed 23km north of the town.

The Angolan and Cuban command at Cuito Cuanavale had left the town and moved to the new position.

Hospital destroyed

Angolan government spokesmen said Angolan troops were strengthening their positions 30km east of Cuito Cuanavale and warned they will not allow the town to fall.

In a report from Luanda, the official news agency AIM said Cuito Cuanavale had "suffered considerably" under artillery bombardment.

"The town's hospital and school have been destroyed and the airstrip is partially damaged."

In the past few weeks there have been reports that Angola and Cuba are considering moving Cuban reinforcements to southern Angola.

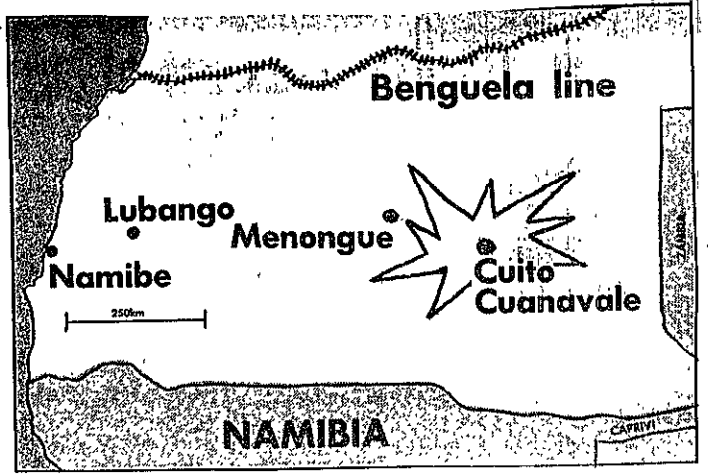
Angola has claimed South African long-range artillery has been shelling the town for the past few weeks — but this has been described by the SADF as an attempt to divert attention from Unita's successes.

A top-level Angolan "politico-military" delegation has visited the town. The delegation was led by the armed forces chief of staff Lieutenant General Antonio dos Santos Franca.

Mr Jorge Risquet, the leading Cuban official dealing with the negotiation process involving Angola, South Africa, the United States and SWA/Namibia, has meanwhile arrived in Luanda for talks with President dos Santos.

The American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Chester Crocker, is expected in Luanda tomorrow.

Radio Angola is now slogans in the middle of its main news bulletins calling on the population to defend the country against "South Africa aggression".



Holding key town
'a question of survival'

THE fall of Cuito Cuanavale, deep in the bush wilderness of south-eastern Angola, would be a major defeat for the Marxist government, crippling its ability to strike at Unita guerrillas, diplomatic analysts said.

The airstrip is to the east of the town but most of the urban area is on the west bank of the River Cuito. The road west to Menongue is the town's sole lifeline.

A Western diplomat said: "It could break the annual cycle of government offensives that have wrenched Angola almost every year since the country gained independence (in 1975)."

Cuito Cuanavale is part of a line of forts which runs from Namibe on the coast through Lubango and Menongue to Lumbala, near the Zambian border. Their associated Russian radar system can pick up South African air activity deep inside Namibia.

Cuito Cuanavale, which once boasted a small mining business and a population of about 15 000, is about 300km north of the SWA/Namibian border.

Cuito is the southernmost fortified air base and it puts the Angolan air force within striking distance of Jamba, Unita's headquarters.

Its importance is vested in the airfield and radar which can guide Angolan government air strikes against Unita. The nearest government airfield is at Menongue, 150km away.

Cuito Cuanavale is also a strategic crossroads and crossing point for two major rivers which flow through the south-east corner of Angola.

The Angolan government regards the town as a vital position for launching offensives and controlling incursions.

If Unita were able to hold Cuito it could transport supplies to the north and west by road. — The Independent News Service and Sapa-Reuter.

One source said: "We cannot lose that area ... it is a question of survival."

Angolan claims conflict

LUANDA — Angola said yesterday its armed forces were still in control of the strategic south eastern town of Cuito Cuanavale.

A Defence Ministry spokesman denied a claim by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) issued in Lisbon that government forces had fled the town on Friday after a month-long siege. — Sapa-RNS

2/1/80

Benguela traffic is cut off

LISBON — Rebel attacks have cut traffic on Angola's strategic Benguela railway, linking Zambia and Zaire to the Atlantic coast, by about 90 per cent, the official Angolan news agency Angop said yesterday.

Angop said that only 90 000 tons of cargo — one tenth of capacity — was carried last year, mainly within the central provinces of Huambo and Bié.

The railway is a favourite target of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), rebels who have effectively closed most of the line for the past decade.

Angola, which hopes to reopen the railway with aid from Zaire and Zambia, estimates the damage and loss of revenue over the years at \$2 billion.

The rebels, who have fought Angola's Marxist government since independence from Portugal in 1975, say the line will stay closed as long as the authorities use it for military transport. — Sapa-RNS

Columns in New BO

CHR TMS 28/1/88

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Angolan president ready for talks on Namibia

Call on govt to explain

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

THE PFP and the Conservative Party yesterday called on the government to say what was going on in Angola.

PFP leader Mr Colin Eghin said: "The issue of whether South African men are involved in battles raging deep in Angola is a matter of major concern to many South Africans. There are assertions and reports from abroad. There are rumours doing the round. This is bad."

Mr Eghin said South Africans were "concerned and adult enough" to want to know the facts.

Conservative Party defence spokesman Mr Koos van der Merwe said the taxpayer public was entitled to know what was going on in Angola.

"In general, the public should be informed so that they can judge the government's actions," he said.

Mr Van der Merwe said he had already asked the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, to bring him up to date on the latest developments in Angola. General Malan had promised to do this and he would then issue a detailed statement on the situation, he said.

talks on Namibia

Own Correspondent and Sapa-Reuter

ANGOLAN President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said yesterday he was ready to negotiate on the independence for Namibia after had already presented "constructive proposals" in this regard.

His statement came amid indications that Cuba was prepared for a phased withdrawal of its 40 000 troops in Angola, together with a similar South African pull-out of Namibia.

Well-placed Cuban observers and senior Western diplomats in Havana are optimistic that Cuban President Fidel Castro would be prepared to accept the withdrawal of his troops from Angola, in exchange for a negotiated settlement in Namibia, the Guardian newspaper reported.

yesterday.

Mr Dos Santos — who did not say to whom he had presented his proposals — was speaking shortly before the arrival in Luanda of United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Dr Crocker flew into the Angolan capital yesterday and is due to have talks today and tomorrow with Angolan government officials on ways of finding a solution to the Namibian question.

The moves to settle the Angolan and Namibian question come against a background of fighting which has dramatically intensified since September, when South Africa had stepped in to halt a combined Soviet and Cuban-backed government offensive against Unita strongholds in the extreme south-east of the country.

Two days after the key garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale, in the south-eastern province of Cuando Cubango, allegedly fell to Unita insurgents, the fate of the Angolan government's forward air base and jumping-off

point for offensives against Unita strongholds is still uncertain.

Angolan Defence Ministry spokesman Major Mario Placido yesterday claimed that government forces, backed by Cuban-piloted MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters, had stopped an invading South African force of 6 000 men from capturing the fortified town.

"SA troops had been driven back to a position 30km east of the town and government troops were strengthening their defences to hold the town 'at all costs'."

In neighbouring Cunene province to the west, SA Mirage and Impala jets together with motorized infantry battalions, were continuing to harass government supply routes and positions, he said.

Major Antonio Luis Mufatchis-senge said in a briefing in the southern city of Lubango that the incursions, penetrating up to 300km inside Angolan territory, were apparently aimed at diverting Angolan forces away from the

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Angola

Cuito Cuanavale battle-front.

Major Mufatchis-senge said South African planes bombed and strafed government positions at Xangongo and a village near Chibemba, all in the south, on January 18, causing a number of casualties.

Major Placido said the South African forces had built up "an awesome array" of arms and equipment specially adapted to operate in the flat, scrub-covered terrain of southern Angola.

This arsenal included the highly mobile and effective long-range G-5 and G-6 guns, used together with computerized rangefinders, which had been employed with devastating effect to pound strategic targets.

Angolan military spokesmen say the South Africans are also using remote-controlled, pilotless aircraft, fitted with

anti-aircraft defences around Cuito Cuanavale were very good, adding that the South Africans had not yet dared to launch an air strike against the town itself.

Major Placido said the anti-aircraft defences have been working to improve their missile and radar anti-aircraft defences. The Angolan spokesmen say their armed forces of Pretoria's air strikes, to counter the threat their raids into Angola.

In addition, South Africa had deployed scores of armoured cars and light tanks — AML-60s, AML-90s, Saracens, Buffaloes and Scorpions — to support its troops in the bridge over the Cuito River near Cuito Cuanavale was damaged by such a device earlier this year, the spokesman added.

The bridge over the Cuito River near Cuito Cuanavale was damaged by such a device earlier this year, the spokesman added.

either television cameras or explosives, for both reconnaissance flights and strikes against specific objectives.

Unita says Angola has abandoned Cuito Cuanavale

The Star's Africa News Service

A bloody battle is raging around the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, which the rebel group Unita claims has been abandoned by government and Cuban troops.

The town is reported to have been heavily damaged by shelling — said by the MPLA government to have been carried out by South African forces firing the ultra-long-range G5 or G6 cannons.

Reports that the town had been overrun by Unita appear to be premature. In Luanda military sources told the news agency Reuter that Cuban-piloted MiG 21 and MiG 23 fighter-bombers had been in action against South African positions. The sources said South African troops, equipped with long-range artillery, came close to overrunning the town.

To prevent the loss of the town, Angola's military high command ordered a big air strike against the South Africans for the first time, driving them back 30 km to the east, the sources said.

It was not clear if these attacks occurred yesterday or if the spokesman was referring to air strikes reported last week from Luanda.

On Wednesday the Mozambique news agency Aim reported that Cuban pilots had been in action against "South African-held positions" near Cuito Cuanavale.

Sources in Lisbon last night said several Angolan and Cuban brigades were stationed 23 km north of the town in the Namumbe area.

They said the Angolan and Cuban command at Cuito Cuanavale had left the town and moved to this position.

Angolan government spokesmen said troops were strengthening their positions 30 km east of Cuito Cuanavale and warned they would not allow the town to fall.

At present the town appears to have become a no-man's land.

● The American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Chester Crocker, is expected in Luanda tomorrow.

(5)

BLOODY BATTLE RAGES IN ANGOLA

A BLOODY battle is raging around the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, which the rebel group Unita claims has been abandoned by government and Cuban troops.

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Sowetan Africa News Service

had been overrun by Unita appear to be premature, however.

In Luanda military sources told *Reuters* news agency that Cuban-piloted Mig 23 fighter bombers had been in action against South African positions.

The military sources said South African troops, equipped with long-range artillery, came close to overrunning the town.

"They got to within

one kilometre," one source said.

To prevent the loss of the town, Angola's military high command ordered a big air strike against the South Africans for the first time, driving them back 30km (18 miles) to the east, the sources said.

Informed sources said from Lisbon that several Angolan and Cuban brigades were now stationed 23 kilometres north of the town in the Nacumbe area.

The sources said the Angolan and Cuban command at Cuito Cuanavale had left the town and moved to this new position.

Angolan government spokesmen said Angolan troops were strengthening their position 30km east of Cuito Cuanavale and have warned that they will not allow the town to fall.

MS 28/11/88 (S)

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Dos Santos prepared to compromise on Namibia

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Angola is ready to negotiate and make compromises to reach an agreement for the independence of Namibia, President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, has said.

But at the same time Mr dos Santos said there was no point in negotiating with the rebel Unita.

Speaking at a Press conference President dos Santos denied that the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale had fallen to Unita and South African forces.

Contacts

Prospects for the withdrawal from Angola of Cuba's 40 000 troops have improved with the Castro regime signalling a willingness to pull out if South Africa ends its occupation of Namibia, the Argus Foreign Service reports from Havana.

And it has emerged that Havana and Washington have had informal contacts over Angola for several months.

Cuban observers and Western diplomats in Havana are optimistic that a timetable can be agreed, possibly even before the end of President Reagan's term of office.

Conservatives

The Argus Foreign Service's Neil Lurssen reports from Washington that conservatives in the United States Senate are keeping a sharp eye on this week's US-Angolan talks and

There was speculation in Washington that the Reagan administration may be ready to accept only a partial withdrawal of the Cubans and be prepared to permit the establishment of a Cuban-interest section in the US capital.

At a Press conference broadcast by Radio Angola and monitored in Johannesburg last night Mr dos Santos said his country had made "constructive proposals" to solve the Namibian impasse and was ready to compromise to achieve a solution.

At his Press conference Mr dos Santos said there was no point in negotiating with Unita.

Busmen clash

LAHORE. — About 4 000 bus workers demonstrated in the streets of Lahore to demand new buses be added to the old fleet. About 30 demonstrators were injured and 80 arrested when police charged with batons and threw teargas at the workers. — Sana-AD

Crocker meets Angolans, SA soldiers on

NY Times 29/1/88

LUANDA — United States envoy Dr Chester Crocker met Angolan government officials yesterday in the latest bid to forge an agreement on independence for Namibia, but the chances of a quick settlement appeared to be complicated by renewed South African military pressure on Angola, Western diplomats said.

"Some think it will make the Angolans more conscious of the need to achieve a negotiated settlement," one diplomat said. "Others say it makes the Cuban presence even more indispensable."

The diplomats said a two-week-old siege by South African forces of a strategic town, Cuito Cuanavale, was likely to complicate the complex and long-stalled negotiations.

Dr Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, was making his third trip to Luanda in six months.

Angolan official sources said their country's delegation to the talks included Foreign Minister Mr Alfonso Van-Dunem Mbinda.

Dr Crocker was also expected to see Angolan President Mr Jose Eduardo Dos Santos during his visit, which ends today.

The diplomats said they expected the talks to focus on the sensitive issue of a timetable for a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Both the US and South Africa have made the Cubans' withdrawal a condition for any Namibian independence deal.

The Angolan government, which says it is adopting a flexible attitude, has proposed a two-year timetable for the withdrawal of some 20 000 of the estimated 35 000 Cuban troops inside the country.

A Cuban envoy, Mr Jorge Risquet, held talks with Mr Dos Santos on Tuesday and the diplomats said the Angolans were expected to remain in close consultation with the Cubans during Dr Crocker's visit. — Sapa-Reuter

● Film of troops at 'abandoned' Angolan base —
Page 3

Angolan
peace
prospects
are slim

24/1/88
Film of troops
at 'abandoned'
Angolan base

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The prospects of peace in Angola remain remote, according to Dr Philip Nel, director of Stellenbosch University's Institute for Soviet Studies.

Dr Nel gave his assessment yesterday after reports that the Soviet Union had indicated through Bavarian Prime Minister Mr Franz Josef Strauss that it wanted a negotiated settlement in Angola.

He said South African troops would have to withdraw from Angola and the US would have to halt military aid to Unita before the Soviet Union would consider edging its MPLA allies into a negotiated peace settlement.

SA military chiefs in turn would have to be satisfied the Swapo threat had been neutralized before SA would be prepared to co-operate in an Angolan peace initiative.

Dr Nel said the Soviet Union had committed about \$2bn (R4bn) to its MPLA allies in 1986 and 1987.

Defence Correspondent

FOREIGN newsmen in Luanda have been shown a TV film depicting Angolan troops holding positions last weekend at the besieged air base of Cuito Cuanavale, which Unita insurgents claimed to have captured on Friday after it had been abandoned.

However, there was no physical evidence as to when the film was taken. There was also no sequence showing the runways, which the Angolans claim to be using, although reliable sources say they have been out of action for months.

Sapa-Reuter's correspondent in Luanda, Pascal Fletcher, said Angolan officials claimed the film had been shot between Thursday and Sunday. Angolan officials say it is further evidence disproving claims by Angola's Unita rebels that government forces evacuated Cuito Cuanavale on Friday.

Buildings hit by SA fire

The film, shot by TV journalist Carlos Henriques, shows the Angolan Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Antonio dos Santos Franca, visiting Angolan positions at the town, which has been under attack for more than two weeks.

It shows damaged buildings hit by South African long-range artillery fire. MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters equipped with missiles are shown taking off, an Angolan gun crew fires a 120mm gun and a heavily armed Mi-25 helicopter gunship flies low over the countryside around Cuito Cuanavale.

The commander of the Sixth Military Region, Domingos Batista, said the fighting in southern Cuando-Cubango province since October had been the "heaviest seen in Africa since World War II".

Informed South African sources said yesterday that while they believed Cuito Cuanavale was still in Angolan hands, its garrison was gradually dwindling as more and more of its defenders slipped away into the bush.

Much change in SA, says Strauss

CME Times 30/1/88

BONN. — The Bavarian Prime Minister, Mr Franz Josef Strauss, said at the end of his 10-day tour of Southern Africa that "much has changed for the better in South Africa".

Mr Strauss, whose trip provoked protests from black South Africans and from politicians in West Germany, said in an interview released here that he remained a firm opponent of sanctions against South Africa.

"I believe it is politically mistaken and morally irresponsible that those who demand sanctions from the safe position of European and American excess fail to consider the consequences," Mr Strauss had told journalists in Windhoek.

But Mr Gerhart Baum, deputy leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), junior partner in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition, said in a radio interview that Mr Strauss's tour had been

"wholly negative".

Mr Strauss, who is the leader of the rightist Christian Social Union, said that what had most impressed him on his trip through Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia were his encounters with "those blacks who ... say a clear 'no' to violence and are ready to build a peaceful future for South Africa, together with the whites".

Mr Baum said Mr Strauss, who went to the region at Mr Kohl's request, had "completely failed to distance himself from the South African government".

From Windhoek it is reported that Mr Strauss ended his tour with attacks on the United States and European media.

He singled out German television, accusing it of adopting a negative attitude towards South Africa and of twisting facts to mislead European public opinion.

Meanwhile, hopes for Namibian independence were de-

creased by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

Mr Botha, accompanying Mr Strauss, dismissed a visit by US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker to neighbouring Angola for fresh talks on the complex independence issue.

"As far as the South African government is concerned, nothing much is going on. According to my information, nothing substantially new has been proposed regarding Cuban withdrawal," Mr Botha told reporters.

● Swapo yesterday claimed responsibility for the bomb blast in Windhoek this week, saying it was timed to coincide with Mr Strauss's visit to Namibia.

A statement released through the organization's office in London said the supermarket inside the Suiderhof military base served exclusively "the South African occupation troops and their families". — Sapa-Reuters and Own Correspondent

CPM Times 30/1/88
SADF made 40 attacks
on towns, says Angola

LUANDA. — Angola said yesterday that South African planes and artillery carried out more than 40 separate attacks in southern Angola between January 14 and 26, threatening government positions around three towns.

An SADF spokesman rejected these and other Angolan claims, describing them as an effort to divert attention from military successes scored by the Unita insurgents.

An Angolan Defence Ministry spokesman said South African forces, backed by Mirage fighters, AML-90, Buffalo and Casspir armoured cars and equipped with G-5 and G-6 long-range howitzers, had kept Angolan troops under pressure in the provinces of Cuando Cubango, Huila and Cunene.

They had attacked Cuito Cuanavale, Chibemba and Ondjiva, three towns that form part of Angola's front line of defence against invading South African forces in the south.

The spokesman gave no details of casualties on either side. — Sapa-Reuter

'We'll force MPLA to talk'

3/11/88
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By DRIES VAN HEERDEN
in Jamba and
KEN POTTINGER in Lisbon
AS Luanda tried to get
a new diplomatic initiative
on the road this week,
Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi
vowed to take his jungle battle
to the Angolan government's
strongholds.

"We will attack them on all fronts and will not rest until we have forced them to the negotiating table," he said at his headquarters in Jamba.

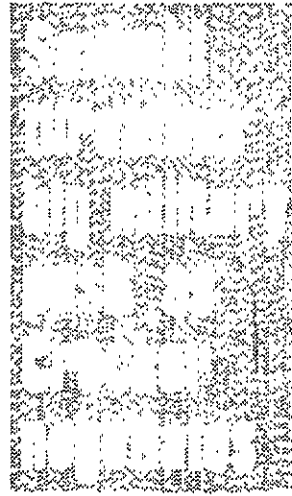
Dr Savimbi's call for 1988 to be The Year Of The Big Military Push came while US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker was in Luanda for talks with the MPLA government.

At the end of the talks, he called for all parties to the conflict — Angola, South Africa, the US and Swapo — to meet and hammer out a solution to the civil war in Angola and the related problem of Namibian independence.

Demoralised

At the same time, Dr Savimbi said: "We want to put such military pressure on Luanda that they are forced to start talking."

Unita's decision to extend the war into areas traditionally controlled by the MPLA forces, FAPLA, was prompted by its wish to capitalise on its recent military success. Unita believes the govern-



ment troops are demoralised and is seeking to press home its advantage before the Cuban-backed FAPLA armies can regroup.

Dr Savimbi dismissed Angolan claims that FAPLA was still in control of the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale in the south-east.

"There is nobody in Cuito at the moment," he said.

FAPLA had been driven out on December 22 and Unita had since destroyed the vital airstrip and a number of strategic bridges leading into the town, he added.

Unita is occupying strategic positions about 7km south of Cuito.

"We are not interested in taking the town. We want to destroy it and drive FAPLA and the Cubans back to Menongue," Dr Savimbi said.

Menongue — about 300km

east of Cuito — is the southernmost headquarters of the Angolan army.

The bulk of FAPLA forces are presently holed up in the small village of Nancova, 23km north-east of Cuito.

The Angolan 28th Brigade is there, desperately trying to keep the logistical lines to Menongue open.

According to the Unita leader, about 5 000 FAPLA soldiers died in the battle for Cuito and about \$2-billion worth of military hardware was captured. Unita losses are estimated at 1 000 men.

For the first time, Dr Savimbi revealed how Unita had outwitted and outflanked the Angolan forces, resulting in the fall of Cuito.

Unita first attacked several strategic towns on the Benguela railroad. Munhango, Catabola and Camacupa were taken and the important Cuanza bridge was destroyed.

The trap was sprung.

In a desperate attempt to counter the Unita push, the FAPLA 16th brigade — the pride of the Angolan army — was withdrawn from Cuito and rushed northwards. This made Cuito an easier target for Unita.

Revealed: Cubans using killer chemicals in shock bid to halt advance of Savimbi's troops

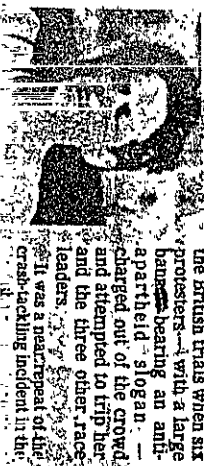
ANGOLA WAR CUBANS THOROR

ST
3/11/88

Mud spoils Zola's run, but demos again fail

By IAN HOBBS: London

ZOLA BUDD yesterday survived a violent bid by demonstrators at Gateshead to sabotage her return to athletics — and ran boldly on to win a place in Britain's world cross-country champions team to compete in New Zealand in March.



The failed attack came near the end of the first lap of the British trials when six protesters — with a large banner bearing an anti-partfield slogan — charged out of the crowd and attempted to trip her and the three other race leaders. It was a near-repeat of the crash-landing incident in the

WHY I WALKED OUT ON MY BLACK LOVER



By NELL HOOPER
and JEREMY BROOKS

THE war in Angola has taken an horrific turn, with MPLA troops using chemical weapons in a desperate bid to halt the march of Dr Jonas Savimbi's army.

A special camp has already been established at Jamba, Unita's headquarters, to treat victims.

However an SADF spokesman yesterday emphasised that no South African troops had at any time been affected by the shocking new weapons.

He confirmed that a team of South African medical specialists had been to Angola to investigate.

Other highly-placed sources confirmed that Cuban-led units were deploying toxic devices which could kill or disable troops over a wide area.

They, too, said that South African soldiers — who are mainly confined to support roles well behind the battlefield — were not involved.

Outcry

It was learned that a high-level team from an unspecified foreign embassy had visited southern Angola to verify the Unita government's introduction of chemical warfare — a device they likely to cause an international outcry.

The use of chemical weapons in the world conflicts has increased in recent years. A steady stream of injured men and women, including civilians mainly from the G-11 area, and Afghans, are flown to British

Strauss detainee plea is turned down

By DRIES VAN HEERDEN

AN attempt by Bavarian Prime Minister Franz-Josef Strauss to secure the release of high-profile political detainees has failed — but 14 other detainees will be released within the week.

A further 99 — it has been revealed — were released earlier this month.

The contents of a letter from Mr Strauss on his return to Munich after his two weeks tour of Southern Africa was released yesterday by Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

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The use of chemical weapons in third world conflicts has increased in recent years.

A steady stream of injured men and women, including civilians mainly from the Gulf areas and Afghanistan, are flown to Britain and West Germany for treatment of the deadly effects of nerve gas.

First reports of chemical weapons in the Angolan conflict emerged two years ago when Dr Savimbi said his troops were being blinded or killed by chemical grenades or bombs — almost certainly provided from the Soviet stockpile.

Their increasing use, and reports that Russia has embarked on a massive programme to develop more effective weapons, led to the US's announcement before Christmas that it would begin production of chemical and biological weapons following an 18-year moratorium.

An Arkansas plant is producing a new generation of "binary" bombs, with the key component, the nerve agent, DF.

Accounts of Afghanistan attacks tell of gas canisters being dropped into tunnels used by guerrillas as shelter.

People were said to have emerged vomiting and with blue hands — indicating cyanide poisoning.

Afghan rebels hospitalised in London have described canisters, dropped by MiG jets and suspended from parachutes, descending slowly on their camps as they emitted poison gas.

The Hague Convention of 1899 and the Geneva Protocol (Chemical Biological) of 1925 prohibit chemical or biological warfare.

The introduction of chemical weapons in Angola is seen as a desperate measure by the MPLA government.

Desperate

Yesterday intelligence sources also said that the Luanda regime, desperate to prevent Dr Savimbi attaining a position that compels the MPLA to bargain with him, had asked Cuba for 5 000 more troops.

The request, which follows Unita's latest success in chasing Luanda's Fapla army from the strategic base of Cuito Cuanavale, would boost the Cuban presence to 46 000.

Additional Cuban troops, including an armoured brigade, have already arrived in Angola.

Toxic chemicals or deadly biological agents are usually disseminated through the air or by means of ground contamination.

turned down

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AN attempt by Bavarian Prime Minister Franz-Josef Strauss to secure the release of high-profile political detainees has failed — but 14 other detainees will be released within the week.

A further 99 — it has been revealed — were released earlier this month.

The contents of a letter given to Mr Strauss on his return to Munich after his two weeks tour of Southern Africa was released yesterday by Foreign Minister Pk Botha.

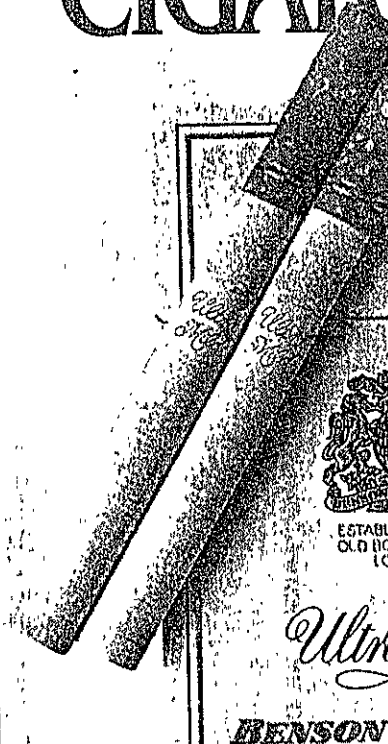
Dr Strauss — on a Southern African tour at the request of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl — appealed for the release of a number of community leaders, United Democratic Front members and trade unionists.

It could not be confirmed that Dr Strauss also asked for the release of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other prominent figures in the banned organisations.

The 14 detainees who will be released within a week

□ To Page 2

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BENSON & HEDGES

Unita pushes closer to Luanda

CAPL Times
27/1/88

but in Luanda an Angolan defence spokesman, Major Carlos Dias, said: "You can be sure that Cuito Cuanavale has not been taken."

He claimed that in fact Angolan troops were strengthening their positions and battling attacking "SA forces" 30 km east of Cuito Cuanavale, which is situated 300 km from the Namibian border.

The Angolan defence ministry has reported heavy fighting around the town since South African troops, backed by aircraft and long-range artillery, launched a major attack on January 12.

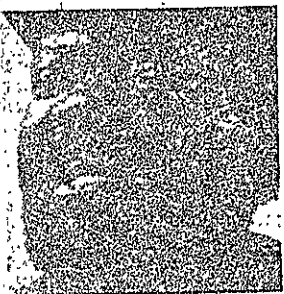
Angolan spokesmen say South Africa has massed motorized infantry battalions along the Namibian frontier in preparation for bigger attacks.

© In Brussels the monthly International Defence Review said in its latest issue that Angolan government forces apparently used an unidentified chemical agent — air-dropped from Soviet-built Hind helicopters — in recent fighting against the insurgents in remote areas of the country.

Quoting unidentified sources, the IDR said about a dozen survivors of the attack had been filmed by a South African film crew before being sent to South Africa for treatment. Most of the survivors shown in the film had been "in a paralyzed state and seemed to be completely demented in some cases."

© The Post-Tribune, Cape Town, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, yesterday demanded the government withdraw its troops from Angola.

Plot to kill Savimbi alleged



Dr. Jonas Savimbi

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON — Western intelligence sources say they have uncovered a plot to kill Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

According to information from security circles in London, Lisbon and Stockholm and published here yesterday, two Swedes and a Portuguese planned to infiltrate Dr Savimbi's base camp and kill him.

The Portuguese newsletter Informafica said the plot was one of several attempts on the life of Dr Savimbi.

The Angolan government has made it clear that a negotiated deal with Unita to end the war would be easier if the rebel leadership and especially Dr Savimbi, were eliminated.

In January last year, it was alleged that South African secret services uncovered Soviet-installed electronic listening devices along the Zambian frontier near the Jamba camp, linked to others planted around the Cuito-Cuanavale and apparently designed to pinpoint Dr Savimbi's whereabouts.

Defence Correspondent

THE war in Angola is moving deeper inland and closer to Luanda. This became clear last night as the Angolan government strongly denied claims by the Unita insurgents that its forces had abandoned the forward air base of Cuito Cuanavale.

The spokesmen revealed that heavy fighting was taking place near the Benguela railway town of Munhango, 300km to the north of the base and only 700km as the crow flies from Luanda.

The spokesmen also admitted the economically important line was operating at 10% capacity.

According to Angolan spokesmen the Luanda government fears South Africa and Unita are trying to split the southern half of the country by driving a corridor of control deep into central Angola.

'Airfield destroyed'

SA military observers in Cape Town and Pretoria were stunned last night by Unita claims that Cuito Cuanavale had been abandoned.

"I don't believe it," one said. Another said that when all considerations were taken into account it was "highly unlikely", adding it was possible the besiegers had occupied an abandoned forward defensive position rather than the base itself.

However, in a statement released in Lisbon last night a Unita spokesman stated flatly: "The Angolan government troops and their Cuban allies evacuated Cuito Cuanavale on Friday after their airfield was destroyed."

W/news 29/11-4/2/88

Reading between the lines of those sparse Angola dispatches

There's not much common ground between the conflicting accounts of the Angola war. But reading between the lines, a pattern emerges. **PATRICK LAURENCE reports**

THE battle for the strategic fortress-town of Cuito Cuanavale may well mark a turning point in the protracted Angolan civil war.

One of a string of fortresses built by the Angolan government across southern Angola, Cuito Cuanavale, the most westerly of the fortresses, has been the focus of fierce battle for over a week now.

Pitted against one another are attacking Unita rebels backed, diplomats say, by the South African Defence Force, and defending Angolan Fapla forces, supported by Cubans and advised by Soviet officers.

There have been conflicting claims by Unita and Angolan government representatives.

Unita has proclaimed that Fapla forces have withdrawn and that its besieging fighters are poised to enter Cuito Cuanavale and destroy "all their installations". The Angolan Defence Ministry has denied these claims, saying that its MiG 21 and 23 aircraft will counter the threat posed by South African heavy artillery and "6 000 South African soldiers".

Western diplomats interviewed by *Weekly Mail* believe that Unita's claims are closer to the truth and that the fall of Cuito Cuanavale may be imminent. The airstrip on which Fapla is dependent for fresh supplies has, they believe, been destroyed by SA artillery, with the G5 cannon inflicting the main damage.

The extent and nature of South African involvement is, as always, a matter of conjecture. The absence of acknowledged casualties suggests that white national servicemen are not on the frontline. The SADF, diplomats deduce, has previously been unable to hide white fatalities, implying that they are fulfilling a logistical and supportive role — they may be helping to man the G5 cannons — rather than a directly combative one at the cutting edge.

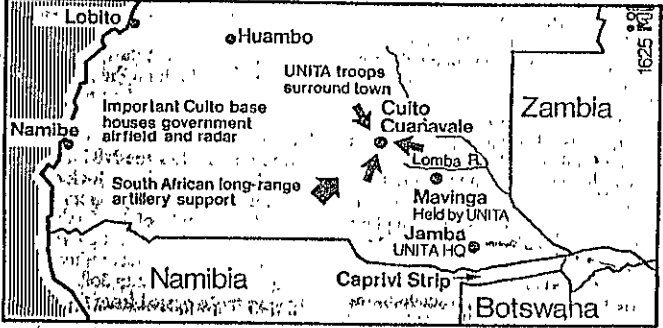
But that does not mean that black troops from SADF battalions such as 32, 101 and 202 — which are made up, respectively, of former Angolan FNLA rebels, recruits from Kaokoland in Namibia and Kavango in Namibia — are not on the outskirts of Cuito Cuanavale with Unita fighters.

Whatever the precise position, a major battle is clearly raging, the outcome of which is critical to the fate of the Angolan war.

Its reverberations will be felt in neighbouring SA-administered Namibia and even in the corridors of power in South Africa itself. The alliance between Angolan-based Swapo guerrillas seeking to "liberate" Namibia and the Angolan government underline the interconnection between events in the two territories.

A Unita-SADF victory at Cuito Cuanavale will have several consequences. It will strengthen Unita markedly, giving it untrammelled control of the south-east corner of Angola and eliminating the immediate threat of yet another Fapla offensive against Unita.

Cuito Cuanavale served as the



launching pad for Fapla's bid in September and October last year to capture Mavinga to the south-east as the first step in a thrust aimed at the destruction of Unita's headquarters at Jamba. That offensive was repulsed, with the help of the SADF, which reportedly brought its G5 guns and its Mirage jet fighters into the fray.

The fall of Cuito Cuanavale will bring at least temporary relief to the SA Air Force, whose air supremacy of southern Angola was increasingly threatened by MiG aircraft based at the fortress town.

But the fall of Cuito Cuanavale may have another important consequence: it could persuade the Soviet Union to reduce its heavy military commitment to Angola's MPLA government and, instead, to seek a political solution.

The Soviet Union's willingness to consider a political settlement — and, clearly, Unita will have to be a party to it — is one of the messages with the visiting Bavarian Prime Minister, Franz Josef Strauss, brought to South Africa. Strauss visited Moscow late last month before leaving for South Africa. While there he had talks with both the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and his foreign minister, Eduard Shverdnadze. John Barratt, of the SA Institute of International Affairs, believes the Soviet Union is genuinely ready to consider a political settlement in Angola.

But, he adds, it is not prepared to negotiate a settlement at any cost.

That poses the question of how the South African government will respond to the prospects of a settlement in Angola. As Barratt points out, Defence Minister Magnus Malan has justified SADF intervention in the civil war as necessary to protect South Africa against the Soviet Union's regional ambitions.

According to Malan, Soviet expansionism is aimed, ultimately, at the installation of a communist regime in South Africa and not merely at the destruction of Unita in Angola.

The prospects of a settlement in Angola were given additional topicality by the presence in Luanda yesterday of Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State. He is seeking to revitalise his plan to synchronise a Cuban withdrawal from Angola with an SADF exit from Namibia (and Angola).

But a Unita-SADF defeat at Cuito Cuanavale would change the picture completely. While that does not seem likely — Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos has admitted his forces are in a difficult position — it cannot be eliminated. To surround a city and to shell its main installations is not itself a decisive victory. The besiegers can themselves become besieged. The 1942-43 battle of Stalingrad is a reminder of that.

FOR THE RECORD

UNITED Democratic Front president Albertina Sisulu told an executive businessmen's lunch in Rosebank this week that the UDF would be forced to reconsider its strategy of non-violence if apartheid continued.

Sisulu was speaking on the role of the UDF in present and post-apartheid society. She said the role of the UDF would be determined by a national convention of all liberation movements and individuals who defied apartheid.

THE regional secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, in Southern Transvaal, Thami Mhlomi, was detained this week at the Cosatu Durban office.

In a statement the organisation said Mhlomi was being detained under the Emergency regulations. Cosatu condemned his detention "at a time when Cosatu in this region is working to restore peace in Pietermaritzburg and other parts of Natal".

THE general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Reverend Frank Chikane, called on the government to withdraw South African forces from Angola. Chikane said this week that SADF's involvement in Angola was an act of aggression against a neighbouring country.

TEN members of the South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union who have been in detention for over nine months, were released this week without being charged.

The 10 had been detained under section 29 of the Internal Security Act in the aftermath of a violent railway strike. Seven other union members were released last week.

THE landmine trial in Messina was this week

postponed to next week to give the defence time to consult with the accused before one of them is to give evidence in a trial-within-a-trial concerning the admissibility of confessions made after both accused were arrested early last year.

Mzondeleli Nondula and Mthetheli Mncube are facing 41 charges arising from a series of landmine discoveries and blasts in the Messina border area in late 1985.

AN explosion last year at Highveld Steel at Witbank which caused the death of two employees, was probably caused by the chlorine being near a bottle of lubricating oil, the Johannesburg inquest court was told this week.

Cornelius Johannes du Preez Bruwer, 43, died on March 2 last year from septicaemia following extensive burns. Johannes Lubbe died on January 28 from extensive burns. Tests done on the residue in the cabinet revealed the presence of something similar to chlorine which was used for water purification treatment.

Inquest magistrate G van Wyk found no one criminally liable for the deaths of the two men.

MATHILDA MOTHLAPING of Kwa-Thema Springs, this week became the first woman to be elected as a mayor in the Transvaal.

She replaces Sam Ngema who was mayor of Kwa-Thema for the past two years.

Mothlaping said in a statement that her first priority would be to build houses for the residents of Kwa-Thema. "I intend to involve the Kwa-Thema community in all the projects I undertake," she said. — Sapa



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terday.

In the meantime, he said, the country's most pressing needs were not so much for food as for logistic support, essential agricultural inputs, basic health care, drinking water and what he termed "relief and survival items."

Dr Perez de Cuellar appealed for R50 million to cover this aid. Without it, he said, it would be impossible to ensure the movement and distribution of emergency supplies and the authorities would be unable to cope with the critical needs of about 1,5 million people.

The Secretary-General, who was recently in Angola, referred to the effects of war and what he termed "externally supported acts of destabilisation".

No talks SM Angola ^{29/3/88}

The Star's Africa
News Service

LUSAKA — Angola's ambassador to Zambia, Mr Luis Kiambata, has denied that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is ready to negotiate with Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

He was reacting to a statement by Egyptian Minister of State, Mr Boutros Ghali, who said yesterday that Mr dos Santos had agreed to negotiate with Dr Savimbi as long as South Africa and the United States did not interfere.

Mr Kiambata accused Egypt of interfering in Angola's internal affairs.

Councillors' Harare tour motion defeated

By Sven Forssman

A motion to send the Mayor of Sandton, Mr Peter Gardiner, and three councillors on a study tour of Harare and Windhoek to see how black and whites live together in "desegregated" areas was defeated at the town council's monthly meeting last night.

Mr Ricky Valente, chairman of the management committee, said Sandton officials had been invited by the town treasurers of Harare and Windhoek.

Councillor Jo Marais said the trip would be a waste of ratepayers' money and expressed concern for the safety of the mayor and councillors in Harare.

Councillor Willem Hefer said this "fact-finding operation" was another case of councillors trying to do the work of officials.

"I can't see how councillors can do a better job than the town clerk and head of planning," he said.

UN chief acts to ease plight of Angolans

Special Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar will convene an international conference in May to review and respond to Angola's relief needs, particularly of food, he announced yesterday.

In the meantime, he said, the country's most pressing needs were not so much for food as for logistic support, essential agricultural inputs, basic health care, drinking water and what he termed "relief and survival items."

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Angola claims SA involved in siege

D/D 29/1/88

LUANDA — An Angolan television film shown to foreign reporters yesterday shows Angolan troops holding positions last weekend at the besieged southeastern town of Cuito Cuanavale.

Angolan officials said the film, shot between Thursday and Sunday, is further evidence disproving claims by Angola's Unita rebels that government forces evacuated Cuito Cuanavale on Friday.

The film shows the Angolan Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Antonio dos Santos Franca "Nдалу" visiting Angolan positions at the town, which has been under attack from South African troops for more than two weeks.

It shows damaged buildings hit by South African long-range artillery fire, a broken name sign at the entrance of the town and an apparently undamaged water tower.

MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters equipped with missiles are shown taking off, an Angolan gun crew fires a 120 mm gun and a heavily armed Mi-25 "Hind" helicopter gunship flies low over the scrub-covered countryside around Cuito Cuanavale.

There are also shots of the nearby Cuito River bridge, revealing damage caused by a remote-controlled South African pilotless "drone" which struck the bridge earlier this year.

But there were no pictures of the town's airstrip which Angolan officials say is the key to the strategic importance of Cuito Cuanavale in the war in southern Angola.

Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) says the Angolan army abandoned the town when the airstrip was destroyed. But Angola says its military engineers repaired shell holes and the airstrip is operational.

Military commanders interviewed in the film gave no details of casualties on either side but the commander of the sixth military region, Col Domingos Batista "Ngueto" said the fighting in southern Cuando Cubango province since October had been the "heaviest seen in Africa since the Second World War".

"We have the situation under control. We have to defend this position, whatever the cost, whatever the price," he told the Angolan television crew.

He said that on January 12 and 13, several battalions of South African forces, including black Namibian troops, had launched an all-out attack on Cuito Cuanavale, backed by long-range G-5 and G-6 howitzers equipped with sophisticated sonar

range finders.

After very heavy fighting, which forced the Angolans to withdraw from some of their positions to regroup, the Angolan commanders called in a big air strike of MiG-21s and MiG-23s, from the airbase at Menongue, 100 km to the west.

The aircraft, piloted by Angolan and Cuban airmen, pounded the South African forces on two successive days, January 14 and 15, forcing them to pull back from the town, Col Batista said.

"They stopped the advance of the South Africans and we re-established our defensive positions."

The second-in-command of the sixth military region, Major Fernando Amandio Mateus, said that since then the South Africans had kept up an almost daily artillery barrage on the town, aiming at both military and civilian targets.

Maj Mateus said they appeared to be trying to stop Angolan forces from carrying supplies across the Cuito river to the east bank.

Minutes after the Angolan TV crew left the Cuito River bridge, they filmed South African shells falling on the area.

Maj Mateus said South Africa's 201 battalion, consisting of black Namibians, was involved in the operation.

"They want to try to make the world believe that it is Unita fighting," he said.

He said the South African attack on Cuito Cuanavale was intended to give Unita time to regroup and recover from the losses suffered during a government offensive in October.

He said the South African-backed rebels were carrying out reconnaissance and sabotage operations for the South Africans, leaving the bulk of the real fighting to the regular South African troops.

Explaining the importance of Cuito Cuanavale, they said that if the South Africans took the town, they would be able to block government offensives against Unita in the south.

Using the town's airfield, they could also fly in arms and equipment to drive deeper into Angola to the north and the west.

Maj Mateus said the Angolan army's own batteries of 120 mm guns were gradually increasing their effectiveness against the South Africans.

"We have had our own little victories," he said. —Sapa-RNS

Peace remote says academic

JOHANNESBURG — South African troops would have to withdraw from Angola and the US would have to halt military aid to Unita before the Soviet Union would consider edging its MPLA allies into a negotiated peace settlement.

South African military chiefs in turn would have to be satisfied the Swapo threat had been neutralised before South Africa would be prepared to co-operate in an Angolan peace initiative.

For these reasons the prospects of peace in Angola remain remote, says Dr Philip Nel, director of Stellenbosch University's Institute for Soviet Studies.

Dr Nel gave his assessment yesterday after reports that the Soviet Union had indicated through Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss that it

wanted a negotiated settlement in Angola.

Dr Nel said the Soviet Union had committed about \$2-billion to its MPLA allies in 1986 and 1987.

"The Soviets must be feeling insecure about their investment in the Angolan conflict.

"As long as the war continues there is no guarantee they will be repaid," he said.

So far, however, the Soviets had given no concrete indication of an intention to disengage from Angola.

"In Angola they have not given any real indication they want a settlement. So far it has been only rhetoric on their part."

Dr Nel said these considerations had to be borne in mind when assessing Dr Strauss' interpretation of Soviet intentions on

the sub-continent.

"Clearly they do want some settlement. Things have not been going well for them there. They might, however, feel the time is inopportune," he said.

Dr Nel emphasised any Angolan settlement involving the Russians would have to be made acceptable to the white electorate in South Africa.

South African government propaganda identifying communism as the prime enemy may make an accommodation with the Soviet Union politically unacceptable.

South Africa could get around this obstacle by informing the public about negotiations, and possibly pointing out that talks with the Soviet Union could counter emerging negative trends in its ties with the West.

Cubans back move for SA to join peace negotiations

Let's talk, says Angola

88/1/16
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LUANDA — Angola wants South Africa to join negotiations to end the war in southern Angola and secure independence for Namibia, highly placed Angolan government sources said yesterday.

This move followed what Angolan sources described as a fierce 13-day air and artillery bombardment of southern Angolan towns by South African forces.

The sources said Angola's peace proposal had the full support of Cuba, which "had no wish to prolong its military presence" in Angola.

That has been a sticking point in past efforts to settle the interrelated Angolan and Namibian conflicts.

Speaking on the second day of talks between Angolan and US officials on Namibia, the sources said Angola was hoping the United States could act as an intermediary to persuade the South Africans to negotiate.

"Our objective is to bring all the directly interested parties to the negotiating table," one source said.

He said these parties were South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo).

The source's list excluded Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement.

At a press conference in Jamba yesterday, Dr Savimbi said his forces had destroyed Cuito Cuanavale's vital airstrip and storage facilities but had not occupied the town.

Dr Savimbi told West German, South African and Namibian journalists that his army was positioned seven to 12 kilometres outside the town while MPLA brigades backed by Cuban forces had withdrawn to Longa with logistic support coming from Menongue.

The press group which also included several members of Dr Franz Josef Strauss's fact-finding mission who flew in from Windhoek using a new landing strip a 30-minute drive from Unita's provisional capital, Jamba.

Other Angolan sources claimed yesterday

To Page 2.

Angola peace talks

From Page 1.

day that South Africans had carried out 40 separate attacks during the 13-day bombardment, at one point forcing the military command at Cuito Canavale to withdraw temporarily to safety.

Unita launched a counter-offensive in the area three months ago after the failure of an MPLA-Russian-Cuban two-front offensive against Unita.

Those combined forces lost between four and five thousand men in heavy fighting while Unita suffered losses of about 1 000 men, Dr Savimbi said.

He also disclosed that Unita had stepped up its activity in at least five other regions in Angola.

In an interview with the Mozambique News Agency, AIM, in Maputo, a journalist who works for the Angolan government TV service, Carlos Henriques, provided the first details of the battle for the strategic Cuito Canavale.

Henriques told AIM he had been at Cuito Cuanavale until Sunday morning and confirmed the air strip in the town was "somewhat damaged".

Henriques said that on January 13, South African forces massively bombarded the government's 21st Brigade which was occupying the front line positions. This brigade withdrew and on January 14 and 15 "there were signs that the South Africans intended to advance and seize the town".

On January 15, said Henriques, the Angolan air force was sent into battle attacking SADF positions.

Previous reports said the planes were Cuban piloted and had taken off from the main Cuban Angolan base in southern Angola at Menongue — Saturday Star Africa News Service and Sapa-Reuters.

'Recorder find unlikely'

From Page 1.

the search would continue.

Early in the new year the search for the flight recorders was called off after the guaranteed 30-day lifespan of the beepers ended.

However, the DCA acquired the services of the Omega 1 to traverse the search area, while towing a 9 km cable with a sidescan sonar at a depth of 20 m.

The original search area, covering 1 000 square miles, was narrowed down to three areas of high probability.

The Omega's sidescan, which provided an image of the seabed, found the wreck in search area number 1.

The Boeing 747 went down about 10 minutes before it was due to land at Mauritius on a refuelling stop during the flight from Taiwan to Johannesburg on November 28.

The pilot, Captain Dawie Uys, had radioed the Mauritius control tower to say that there was smoke in the aircraft and that he believed there was a fire.

The condition of the human bodies recovered and debris found during a five-nation search of the sea after the crash indicated there had been an explosion, but the missing flight data and cockpit voice recorders are believed to hold important clues to the cause of the crash.

The Saturday Star's Mauritius correspondent reports from Port Louis that the Nautile is the only remaining option, if the flight recorders are to be recovered from the Helderberg.

Given the depth at which the aircraft is lying, the recovery team at the crash site have confirmed there is no other way in which the so-called "black boxes" can be recovered.

"There is no better vessel for investigations at depths up to 6 km," the skipper of the Nautile, Captain Bartholomew, said in an interview in Port Louis last month.

The Nautile is a mini-sub belonging to Ifremer (the French Institute of Marine Research).

It can descend to a depth of 6 000 m. It has two articulated arms equipped with hoops, baskets and scoopers.

It also has a 135 kg robot camera linked to a 70 m cable which allows it to film the ocean floor.

But the Nautile cannot come to Mauritius without its mother ship, the Nadir, which costs about 200 000 French francs (about R60 000) to hire a day.



Mr Justice Margo

Angolan move for peace talks with SA

500 30/1/88

Debris may be Helderberg's

Daily Dispatch Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — Wreckage of the Helderberg, spread out along 400 metres of ocean floor off Mauritius at a depth of 4 400 metres, will be brought to the surface "wherever this may help the inquiry", an SAA spokesman said here yesterday.

SAA's public relations officer, Mr Francois Louw, was expanding on a statement yesterday by the Department of Transport that debris believed to be the remains of the jet had been discovered.

According to the statement, issued in Pretoria, the wreckage was located in the primary search area, a region about 130 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius.

The Department of Transport's Directorate of Civil Aviation does not yet know whether the "black box" flight recorders are in the new debris field, but the search is continuing.

"It should be noted," the statement said, "that this may not be the only debris field to be found."

Whether all the wreckage is in this field will depend on the extent to which the aircraft broke up on impact, the statement added.

The discovery was made early yesterday morning, a week after side-scan sonar equipment on a vessel called Omega I was brought into operation.

A reporter on the Mauritian newspaper, Le Mauricien, said the Omega had left the island four days ago to begin the second phase of the search and was due back in port in two days time.

The first phase ended in December, he said. In the second phase, a side-scan sonar was used for the first time.

An SAA spokesman in Mauritius, Mr Edouard Nairac, described the second phase as "a complete success".

Phase three of the search comprises the recovery of "selected items from the sea-bed", and this will take place in May or June.

See also page 9

Lords vote against boycotts

LONDON — The sanctions lobby in the United Kingdom has suffered its worst defeat yet.

As a result of a vote in the House of Lords, South African exporters will again have access to a R14 billion a year local authority market from which they have been excluded.

In a poorly attended debate which has received scant publicity here, the House of Lords rejected an attempt to remove from the Local Government Bill clauses which forbid councils from boycotting South African products or companies with links to the Republic.

The organising secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Mr Mike Terry, who described the vote as a "severe setback" for the sanctions campaign, estimated that until now 80 per cent of people in Britain lived in areas where councils operated boycott policies against South Africa.

Local authorities are the largest bulk buyers in Britain.

While Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has been staunchly opposed to sanctions, agreeing only to a few largely ineffective measures which it regards as signals to South Africa to end apartheid, local authorities have implemented tough boycott policies.

The largest and richest metropolitan councils in cities such as Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Birmingham are Labour-controlled and all have operated purchasing bans on South African products.

The Environment Minister, the Earl of Caithness, said the government condemned apartheid but believed that sanctions served only to harden attitudes and risk the jobs of those whom they were intended to help. — Sapa-RNS

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They said Angola's efforts had the full support of Cuba, which had no wish to prolong its military presence in Angola — a sticking point in past efforts to settle the interrelated Angolan and Namibian conflicts.

Speaking on the second day of talks between Angolan and US officials on Namibia, the sources said Angola was hoping the United States could act as an intermediary to persuade the South Africans to negotiate.

"Our objective is to bring all the directly interested parties to the negotiating table," one source said. These parties were South Africa, Angola, Cuba and Swapo. The source's list excluded the anti-government Unita guerilla group.

It was said that once direct negotiations between the four had begun, they could discuss an overall solution that could eventually be endorsed by the international community.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, making his third visit to Luanda in six months, held talks on Thursday and yesterday with an Angolan delegation headed by the Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso Van-Dunem, and including the armed forces chief of staff, Gen Antonio dos Santos Franca.

Strict secrecy has shrouded the talks and US officials declined to speak to reporters. Dr Crocker was expected to travel to Kinshasa yesterday on his way back to the United States.

The sources said that the Angolan Government, in an attempt to unblock long stalled negotiations on Namibia's independence, was proposing a partial withdrawal over a two-year period of the estimated 35 000 Cuban troops stationed in Angola.

The Angolan sources stressed the importance of the talks, which took place at a time when the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-eastern Angola was still being threatened by an attacking force.

An Angolan Defence Ministry spokesman claimed yesterday that South African planes and artillery had carried out more than 40 separate attacks in southern Angola between January 14 and 26, threatening government positions around three towns.

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force rejected these and other Angolan claims, describing them as an effort to divert attention from military successes scored by Unita. South Africa's position on Angola had been clearly stated and the Defence Force had nothing to add to this stated position, he said.

The Angolan spokesman said that South African forces, backed by Mirage fighters, AML 90, Buffalo and Casspir armoured cars and equipped with G 5 and G-6 long range howitzers, had kept Angolan troops under pressure in the three southern provinces of Cuando Cubango, Huila and Cunene.

They had attacked Cuito Cuanavale in Cuando Cubango, Chibemba in Huila and Ondjiva in Cunene three towns that form part of Angola's front line of defence the south.

The spokesman gave no details of casualties on either side.

He claimed that South African troops, acting in support of Unita, were carrying out raids "over a wide area deep inside Angola" with the intention of surrounding and capturing several positions.

The Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, told a press conference at his Jamba headquarters yesterday that his forces had destroyed Cuito Cuanavale's airstrip, a major bridge-link to the outside world, and storage facilities but they had not occupied the town.

At this stage there were no military engagements and few encounters around Cuito Cuanavale. Positions were changing constantly, he added. — Sapa-RNS

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CUITO IS STILL OURS SAYS

FAPLA LEADER

c/pres
31/1/88
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Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos

A TOP officer of the Angolan armed forces, Fapla has denied that the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale has fallen into Unita or South African hands.

This follows reports from Unita in Lisbon that it had captured Cuito Cuanavale in the southern Angolan province of Cuando Cubango, according to the Mozambican News Agency, Aim.

Considerable international interest was sparked because the small town has been under heavy attack from South African artillery and airforce in the last three months. South African media heightened

the interest recently by reporting that Cuito was about to fall.

Aim was also told that Francisco Tuta, Comisar for Cuando Cubango, held a rally in Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday. He spoke to Fapla and the civilian population still living there.

The town's hospital is destroyed. The school is also badly damaged. The local airstrip is partially damaged.

The town was visited on Friday by Fapla's Chief of Staff, Lt-Gen Antonio Dos Santos Franca "Ndalú" who headed a politico-military delegation there.

A team from the locally renowned TV program *Opcao* came back from Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday. The report on Cuito is to be shown on Angolan Television soon.

Aim reported earlier this week that up to 6 000 South African motorised infantry troops, backed by armoured cars, tanks and long-range G-5 and G-6 cannons, were being used in the bloody battle for Cuito Cuanavale.

An Angolan defence ministry spokesman, Maj Mario Placido, told foreign reporters in the Angolan capital that the town of Munhango, on the very strategic Benguela railway line linking Zaire and Zambia with the Angolan Port of Benguela, had fallen to Unita. He said the situation in Cuito Cuanavale was "very difficult".

Placido also said that Russian built MIG-21 and MIG-23 jet fighters were operating against South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale.

He admitted that the South African Defence Force's artillery gave the South African troops superior firepower and that these long-range cannons were being used to bombard the town's airstrip

and a nearby bridge.

Angolan military leaders are of the opinion that South Africa has tried to take Cuito with such strenuous efforts because it must justify to South Africa's whites the big material and human losses it has suffered since entering the fight massively in September last year.

American Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, Chester Crocker, arrived in Luanda this week for further talks with the Angolan authorities on implementation of US Security Council resolution 435 for Namibia and Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

And this only a few days after US President Ronald Reagan gave a ringing commitment to continue American military support for the Unita bandits fighting the Angolan government.

Jorge Risquet, a member of the politbureau of the Cuban Communist Party, arrived in Luanda on Monday. He was received by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos

Risquet is the leading Cuban official dealing with the whole negotiation process, involving Angola, South Africa, the US and Namibia. - Ano



US President Ronald Reagan recently pledged support for Unita.

SA team probes Angola ^(S) poison warfare claim

D/Do-pu-ech
1/04/88

Zola to visit sick dad

LONDON — Zola Budd is preparing to fly to South Africa after being told that her father, Frank, is seriously ill.

It is another emotional crisis for the athlete who has not spoken to her father since a bitter family feud over her career and earnings in 1984.

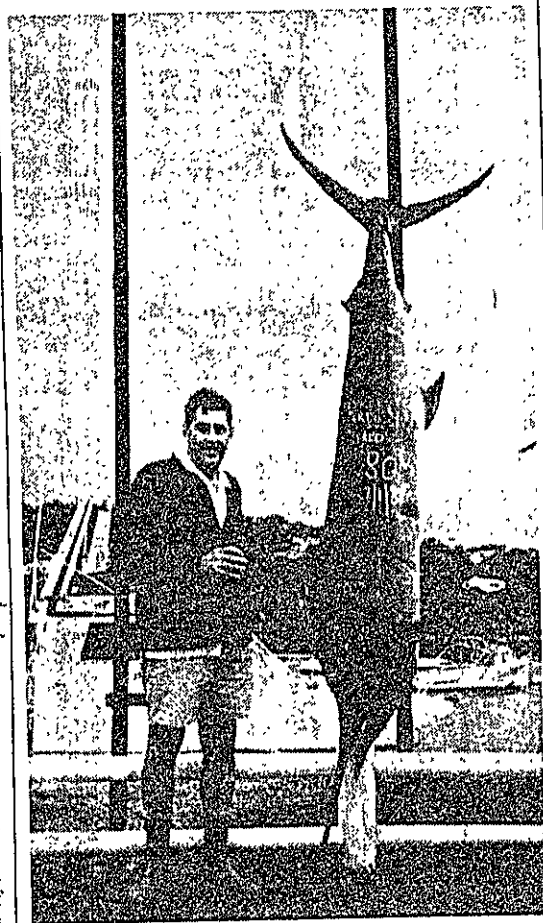
There were no details of the condition of Mr Budd, who has lived alone since divorcing Zola's mother.

While a compassionate trip to South Africa would not cause political problems for Zola, it is a new worry for her.

In Gateshead on Saturday, only tight security saved Zola from an ambush by six demonstrators who tried to stop her racing in the British trials for the world cross-country championship.

The protesters were tackled and hurled off the track. Zola finish fourth, qualifying her for the British team. — DDC

See also page 16



Mr Fred Jackson of Port Alfred with the 80 kg black marlin he landed last week after a two-hour battle using light tackle. The marlin was the first ever caught off the resort.

PRETORIA — South African medical specialists have been sent to Angola to investigate reports that Angolan Government forces are using chemical weapons against Unita forces.

This was confirmed yesterday by a South African Defence Force spokesman, who emphasised that no South African troops had been affected.

He said the call had come from Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement, but no further information could be given at this stage as evidence was still being studied.

The spokesman said a special camp had already been established at Jamba, Unita's headquarters, for the treatment of victims.

The statement followed a report in a Sunday newspaper that Angolan troops had adopted chemical weapons in a desperate attempt to halt the advance of Unita forces.

Quoting unnamed highly-placed sources, the report said Cuban-led Angolan units were deploying toxic devices which could kill or disable troops over a wide area.

It was also learned

that a team from an unspecified country had visited southern Angola to investigate the deployment of toxic warfare, an investigation which is likely to cause an international outcry.

The spokesman said the use of chemical weapons in Third World conflicts had increased in recent years.

First reports of the chemical weapons in the Angolan conflict emerged two years ago when Dr Savimbi said his troops were being blinded or killed by chemical grenades or bombs — almost certainly supplied by the Soviet stockpile.

A radio report yesterday quoted the Geneva-based International Defence Review as saying that survivors of chemical attacks had been examined by US advisers and some were in a paralysed state.

The chemical agent was reported to have been dropped from Soviet Hind helicopters — Sapa-RNS

'New element' in Angola talks

LISBON. — US mediator Dr Chester Crocker left Luanda at the end of two days of talks with Angolan leaders with hope for new talks, but no solution for a regional peace settlement, the Portuguese Lusa news agency reported at the weekend.

Quoting a Foreign Ministry statement released in Luanda, the agency said both parties ended the meeting on Friday to "analyze new elements brought up in the talks in preparation for future negotiations". Lusa did not specify what the new elements were. Luanda has said it is willing to send the 40 000 Cuban troops home within

two years after Pretoria begins implementing a UN plan for Namibia's independence and both Washington and Pretoria stop backing Unita.

The Luanda talks coincided with reports of fierce fighting in central Angola between the Cuban-supported army and Unita troops, apparently backed by large numbers of South African troops.

In a statement released in Lisbon on Saturday, the Angolan government accused Pretoria of having 6 000 soldiers in Angola.

Dr Jonas Savimbi has denied Angolan reports that his forces have direct ground and air support from South Africa, but military sources in Pre-

toria last week confirmed it was backing Unita in its battle for the strategic southern Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale.

South Africa, meanwhile, has sent a medical team to Angola to investigate reports that government forces are using chemical weapons against Unita, Defence Headquarters in Pretoria said yesterday.

The statement followed a report in the Sunday Times that Angolan troops had adopted chemical weapons in a desperate bid to halt Unita's advance.

"We have sent a medical team and are investigating the whole matter," defence spokesman Brigadier Tim Krynauw said.

Quoting unnamed highly-placed sources, the Times said Cuban-led Angolan units were deploying toxic devices which could kill or disable troops. Unita had set up a special camp at its southern Angolan headquarters of Jamba to treat victims, it said.

South African soldiers in Angola have not been affected by the weapons, the defence spokesman said.

Radio South Africa reported that survivors of chemical attacks had been examined by US advisers and some were in a "paralysed state". The chemical agent was reported to have been dropped from Soviet Hind helicopters, the report said. — UPI, Sapa-
Reuter

SADF claims 'chemical weapons' in use in Angola

Star 1/2/88

By Craig Kotze

South African doctors in Angola have gathered evidence on the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Angolan government, a Defence Force spokesman said last night.

The evidence gathered by the team of SADF doctors was still being studied and the spokesman refused to elaborate.

The SADF medical group was sent after the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, invited an international team of experts to see victims of chemical weapons allegedly used by Cuban-led MPLA forces against him.

An international outcry is likely to ensue if the reports are verified. Chemical weapons are outlawed by the Geneva Convention to which the Soviet Union, which supplies weaponry to Angola, is a signatory.

A camp has reportedly been set up outside Unita's Jamba headquarters to treat victims.

The SADF spokesman said no South African troops had been affected by chemical weapons.

A Sunday newspaper quoted unnamed, highly placed sources as saying MPLA forces were using "toxic devices" that could kill or disable troops and civilians over a wide area.

Radio South Africa quoted the *International Defence Review* as saying survivors of chemical attacks had been examined by US advisers and some were paralysed.

The chemical agent was reported to have been dropped from Soviet helicopter gunships, Radio South Africa said.

First reports of chemical weapons in Angola came two years ago, when Dr Savimbi said his troops were blinded or killed by chemical grenades.

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Unita tightens iron fist on strategic Angolan town

AKGUS
2/2/88
5

From ANDREW TORCHIA
Associated Press Correspondent
in Cuemba, Angola

UNITA rebels are tightening a siege around the town of Cuemba, seeking a victory that would place the strategic Benguela railroad in their hands and set the stage for a military drive to the north.

Unita Brigadier Abilio Jose Augusto Numa said his fighters were on the verge of victory in one of the rebels' largest offensives.

Brigadier Numa spoke last week to me and a three-man crew from Worldwide Television News, a London-based agency.

In the battle zone we stood on a hill northeast of Cuemba, watching Unita gunners demonstrate their shelling skill at government forces dug in near a bridge a kilometre away, and an airstrip two kilometres away.

Truck ride

After meeting Brigadier Numa, the group of journalists began a four-day, 500km truck ride along bush trails south to Mavinga and a flight out of Angola to file their stories. Unita commanders said it was the first time during the 12-year civil war that reporters had witnessed a major rebel military operation.

Cuemba, on the Benguela line, is 640km southeast of Luanda and is closer to the capital than to Jamba, Unita's bush headquarters in the southeast corner of Angola.

General Altino Bango Sapalalo, Unita's logistics chief, said at Mavinga on Sunday that the Cuemba siege was the second-largest campaign mounted by the movement. The fight for Cuito Cuanavale, a town of 50 000 about 360km to the south, was the largest.

General Sapalalo said Unita was on the verge of victory at both towns. He said Unita's infantry had penetrated two of the three defensive lines around Cuemba, and had destroyed government reinforcements from Huambo who tried to cross the Cuemba River in two rubber boats.

Government troops had abandoned Cuito Cuanavale. General

Sapalalo said but 700 m... remnants of two brigades. Still faced Unita east of the town

sburg

Taking the two towns would mean significant military and political gains for Unita. Cuito Cuanavale has been the starting point for annual government dry-season offensives against the Mavinga stronghold, and was the site of a sophisticated air-defense system that monitored South African flights from neighboring South-West Africa — Namibia.

The Angolan government accuses South African air, artillery and infantry forces of taking a major role at Cuito Cuanavale. South Africa said in November it was fighting alongside Unita. But Sapalalo repeated denials that Unita received anything more than logistical help from South Africa.

"If we had South African men in here, we'd have the same problem as Angola has now with the Cubans," he said, referring to the 40 000 Cuban soldiers and technicians with MPLA units.

When the reporters' light plane flew low over Mavinga on Sunday night, they saw two white soldiers in South African uniforms, standing in a Buffel, a South African armored troop carrier, as it drove into the bombed-out town.

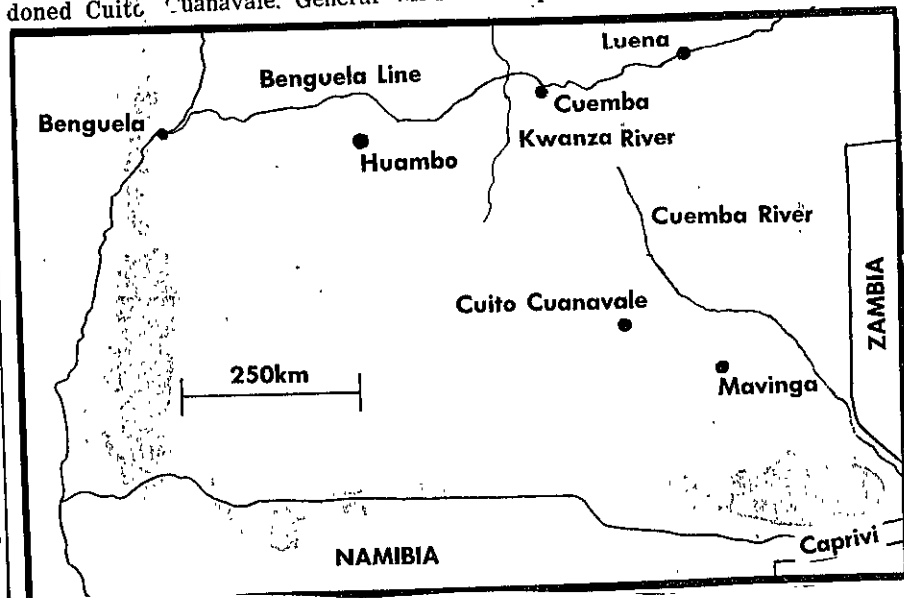
Sapalalo said the capture of Cuemba would open a 280-kilometre-wide corridor from the Kwanza River to Luena through which Unita fighters could move north to their next targets in Lunda Province. He said it meant Unita could for the first time safely use trucks to transport men and materials beyond the Benguela railroad.

The general said Unita's advances would influence the continuing negotiations toward an Angolan settlement. US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker conferred with MPLA and Cuban representatives in Luanda last week on the possible departure of the Cuban advisers, in an agreement that could lead to the independence of neighboring Namibia from South African control.

Sapalalo said Unita believes that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is virtually the only holdout in the Angolan government against direct talks with the rebels. Unita leader Jonas Savimbi has said he does not envision a military victory but aims for a share of power in a postwar government that would include the MPLA. — Sapa-AP.

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ON 2/2/88
Cuba, Angola accept pull-out

WASHINGTON. — The State Department said yesterday that Cuban and Angolan officials had affirmed for the first time their acceptance of a plan to remove all Cuban troops from Angola.

Spokesman Mr Charles Redman said the acceptance came last week at a Luanda meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker, Angolan Foreign Minister Mr Afonso Van-Dunem and Cuban Politburo members.

The Cubans took part in the talks at the Angolans' request for the first time since the negotiations with Dr Crocker began almost a year ago.

The US agreed to Cuban participation on the understanding that it would lead to progress in the stalled talks, which revolve around a United Nations-sponsored plan for the pull-out of the Cubans and independence for Namibia.

The Angolan delegation for the first time affirmed its acceptance of the necessity of the withdrawal of all Cuban troops from Angola in the context of a settlement, Mr Redman said.

The next step is for the Angolans to come forward with specific ways to close the gap on a Cuban troop withdrawal schedule, he said. He declined to say whether the latest US moves had been co-ordinated with South Africa or the Soviet Union. — Sapa-AP

● Unita siege on new town, page 7

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DADGAINO

CAPE TIMES 2/2/88 (5)

Unita siege on new town

CUEMBA, Angola. — Unita is tightening a siege around the town of Cuemba, seeking a victory that would place the strategic Benguela railroad firmly in its hands and set the stage for a military drive to the north.

Brig Abilio Jose Augusto Numa of Unita said his fighters were on the verge of victory in one of the rebels' largest offensives.

Brig Numa spoke to a Sapa-AP correspondent and a crew from Worldwide Television News, a London-based agency, on a 13-day visit to Unita territory.

After meeting Brig Numa, the journalists began a four-day 500km truck ride

south to Mavinga and a flight out of Angola to file their stories.

Unita commanders said it was the first time during the 12-year civil war that reporters had witnessed a major rebel military operation.

Cuemba, on the Benguela line, lies north-west of Cuito Cuanevale and 640km south-east of Luanda — closer to the MPLA's capital than to Jamba, Unita's bush headquarters in the south-east.

Unita logistics chief Gen Altino Bango Sapalalo said at Mavinga on Sunday that the Cuemba siege was the second-largest campaign mounted by the movement.

The fight for Cuito Cuanavale, a town of 50 000 about 360km to the south, was the largest.

At the weekend, Gen Sapalalo said Unita was on the verge of victory at both towns. Taking them would mean significant military and political gains for Unita.

Cuito Cuanavale has been the starting point for annual government dry-season offensives against the Mavinga stronghold, and was the site of a sophisticated air-defence system that monitored South African flights from neighbouring Namibia.

The Angolan government accuses South African air, artillery and infantry forces of taking a major role at Cuito Cuanavale.

When the reporters' light plane flew low over Mavinga on Sunday night, they saw two white soldiers in South African uniforms standing in a Buffel as it drove into the bombed-out town. — Sapa-AP

SA officials say announcement 'creates false impression'

Cubans ready to quit Angola, say Americans

Star 7/2/88. (5)

Washington
Angola and Cuba have agreed, for the first time, to the principle of a total Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola as part of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia, the US State Department said yesterday.

By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

Until now, Angola's MPLA government was prepared to negotiate a Cuban military withdrawal from only the southern part of the country — below the 13th parallel — leaving the Cuban troops in the north to protect government interests.

US negotiators are now urging the Angolans to come forward with specific proposals to effect a full withdrawal in a timetable that would be negotiated in conjunction with a timetable for South African withdrawal.

"It is an important step. There is no doubt about that," US State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman told reporters here yesterday.

He said the acceptance came last week at a meeting in Luanda between Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and Ian Foreign Minister Mr Afonso van Dunem and several Cuban withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola have again ended in acrimony.

It says the Americans are claiming that Angola has for the first time accepted that Cuban troops, stationed in Angola in varying numbers since 1975, must leave, but the Angolans point out that they first affirmed this in 1982 and have consistently been prepared to negotiate a timetable for Cuban withdrawal.

Mr Elisio de Figueiredo, the Angolan ambassador in London, said last night that Mr Redman seemed to be forgetting that Angola had agreed to that principle as long ago as 1982, and had been trying to negotiate a timetable ever since.

In return for the withdrawal of the 40,000 Cuban troops, the Angolans insist on an end to US and South African support to the rebel Unita movement, the implementation of UN Resolution 435 bringing Namibia to independence, and the withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory.

Mr de Figueiredo said he did not think the Luanda talks had made much progress. Both sides had agreed to meet again, but no date had been set, he added.

According to Mr Redman, the Americans, led by Dr Crocker and the National Security Council's Africa adviser, Mr Herman Cohen, agreed to the presence of the Cubans on the understanding that it would lead to progress in the effort to develop concrete proposals on the withdrawal of the Cuban forces.

Mr Botha said: "I find it strange that Dr Chester Crocker should conduct important matters of this nature in which the South African Government is directly involved, through the media instead of consulting the South African Government."

Some senior South African Foreign Affairs officials de-

D/PD 02/02/88

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Cubans Willing to Leave Angola — US

WASHINGTON — Cuban and Angolan officials had affirmed for the first time their acceptance of a plan to remove all Cuban troops from Angola, the US State Department said yesterday.

Angolans were willing to accept, saying only that the US timetable was shorter than theirs. The United States reportedly wants a one-year pullout, while Angola has offered a two-to-three-year period.

No date had been set for the next meeting, the spokesman said.

"It is an important step; there's no doubt about that," he added. "The principle of complete withdrawal of all Cuban troops is something that has been an important missing element until now."

The spokesman said the United States was not insisting on a Cuban pullout before South Africa agreed to relinquish control over SWA/Namibia.

"It all fits together" in an overall settlement, he said.

He declined to say whether the latest US moves had been co-ordinated with South Africa or the Soviet Union.

However, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said last night the South African Government had received nothing official from the US Government concerning reports of the Cuban and Angolan acceptance of the plan.

He added: "I find it strange that Dr Crocker should conduct important matters of this nature, in which the South African Government is directly involved, through the media instead of consulting with the South African Government."

● Unita guerillas are reported to be tightening a siege around the town of Cuemba, seeking a victory that would place the strategic Benguela railway firmly in their hands and set the stage for a military drive to the north.

Unita's Brigadier Abilio José Numa said his fighters were on the verge of victory in one of the rebels' largest offensives ever.

Brig Numa spoke last week to foreign journalists on a 13-day visit to Unita territory.

While in the battle zone, the journalists stood on a hill northeast of Cuemba, watching Unita gunners demonstrate their ability to shell government forces dug in near a bridge a kilometre away and an airstrip 2 kilometres away.

After meeting Brig Numa, the journalists began a four-day, 500-km truck ride along bush trails south to Mavinga and a flight out of Angola. Unita commanders said it was the first time during the 12-year civil war that reporters had witnessed a major rebel military operation. — Sapa-AP

A US spokesman said the acceptance came last week at a meeting in Luanda attended by the US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, the Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso Van-Dunem, and several Cuban politburo members.

The Cubans took part in the talks last Thursday and Friday at the Angolans' request for the first time since the negotiations with Dr Crocker began almost a year ago, the spokesman said.

The United States agreed to Cuban participation on the understanding that it would lead to progress in the stalled talks, which revolve around a United Nations-sponsored plan for the pullout of the Cubans and independence for SWA/Namibia.

"The Angolan delegation for the first time affirmed its acceptance of the necessity of the withdrawal of all Cuban troops from Angola in the context of a settlement," the spokesman said. "Cuban officials concurred in this decision."

The next step is for the Angolans "to come forward with specific ways to close the gap on a Cuban troop withdrawal schedule," he said.

He declined to say what schedule the An-

CAT TMS 2/2/88 (5)

Opinion

ECC viewpoint: The call-up and the war in Angola

By DR DAVID GREEN

IN its 1987 invasion of Angola, the SADF announced the deaths of more than 30 soldiers. These men died in a foreign country which doesn't border on South Africa.

Recently there have been reports of bloody battles around the town of Cuito Cuanavale. The Angolans claim to have inflicted high casualties against the South African forces. Based on previous experience we can expect that at least some of them will be confirmed by the SADF in the coming weeks.

South African soldiers are serving and dying in Angola without choice. Many of those reporting for service this February will do so with uneasy minds. They should be allowed to exercise freedom of conscience. South Africa must make alternative forms of service available to them.

The new conscripts have little knowledge of what

is really going on. There is an urgent need for all the facts to become public knowledge. ECC echoes the calls, made last year, for public debate. When a country goes to war with a foreign state it should hear the feelings of its people on the matter.

Why did these young men die in Angola?

Many observers agree that the SADF would like to see Jonas Savimbi's Unita in power in Luanda. Through this the government hopes to extend its control over the subcontinent. To this end the SADF has involved itself in the Angolan civil war for over a decade. There has been an increasing commitment of South African resources and youth to the internal affairs of another country.

What role is the SADF playing in southern Africa?

The South African government has shown no intention to negotiate a political settlement with

credible leaders inside South Africa in Namibia it is delaying an internationally accepted resolution of the conflict. These ends are achieved by South African military involvement in Angola and elsewhere in southern Africa. The people who do the fighting are conscripts. Many of them feel morally uncomfortable about being used in this way.

The ECC believes that the SADF should withdraw from Angola immediately. It should also withdraw from Namibia and allow the implementation of UN-supervised elections. It is also our belief that there are changes to the present system of conscription (short of actually abolishing the system) which would go a long way to alleviating the crisis of conscience faced by many who are called up. These are:

1. Those men who do serve in the army should be allowed to refuse to serve in Angola, Namibia or in the townships.

2. That all objectors be recognized, and not simply those who are religious universal pacifists. Anyone who in good conscience cannot serve in the SADF should be allowed to do community service.

3. The community service should be the same length as army service.

4. The community service should be allowed in non-state organizations such as church and religious bodies.

Alan Paton on attending the funeral of a young soldier killed on the border asks: "Did he die for the continuance of the Group Areas Act? Did he die for detention without charge or access? ... Did he die for a system of education that has sent thousands of children into the streets burning, stoning, cursing?"

This soldier and those dying in Angola are doing so without a choice. The ECC says give conscripts the choice.

(S) B/don 3/2/88

CAPE TOWN — There was nothing new in Angola's acceptance of the principle that the Cuban troops should be withdrawn as part of a settlement of the Namibian situation, Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

However, he said the most important element of Angola's recent acceptance, was the admission that there were 40 000 Cuban troops in the country.

"You can rest assured that there

must be a couple of thousand more than that," he said.

Botha said he could not see anything positive, or constructive, in the announcement, unless it was accompanied by a time schedule for the withdrawal of the troops.

"That is the crucial factor."

Angolan settlement no closer says Pik

He believed the US had invited Angola to suggest a time schedule and that the US would like to negotiate this in the near future.

The SA government was not interested in a token withdrawal of Cuban troops which merely re-arranged the forces in the area, while effectively

putting a Swapo government in Windhoek and destroying the Unita movement in Angola.

"We want a withdrawal in good faith, so that the Cubans are no threat through force of arms or intimidation."

— Sapa.

● See Comment Page 6

Americans insist important phase has been reached in Angola

By Neil Larsen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States government has repeated its claim that the most recent round of US-Angolan negotiations has produced a new and promising development — recognition by Angola that all Cuban troops must leave if there is to be a chance of a peace settlement.

In London on Monday night, the Angolan ambassador Mr Eliso de

Figueiredo reportedly disputed Washington's assertion that an important step had been reached in the two days of talks in Luanda last week — Angola's acceptance, with Cuban concurrence, of complete Cuban withdrawal in the context of a peace settlement including independence for Namibia.

Mr Figueiredo was reported to have said the Americans seemed to forget that his government had agreed to that principle as long ago as 1982.

But in Washington yesterday, US

Secretary of State Mr George Shultz said that earlier Angolan proposals were for a partial Cuban withdrawal.

Mr Shultz was testifying to the US House of Representatives foreign affairs committee on America's foreign policy agenda for 1988.

He told the congressmen that the US was continuing its efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement involving the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Angola and Namibia, and Namibian independence under United Nations Security

Council Resolution 435.

Noting that the Angolans last week had recognised the need for a total withdrawal of the Cubans, Mr Shultz said that Cuban representatives had joined the talks briefly to confirm this development.

"This is an important development that holds out the promise of a settlement of the Angola/Namibia tangle," the Secretary of State said.

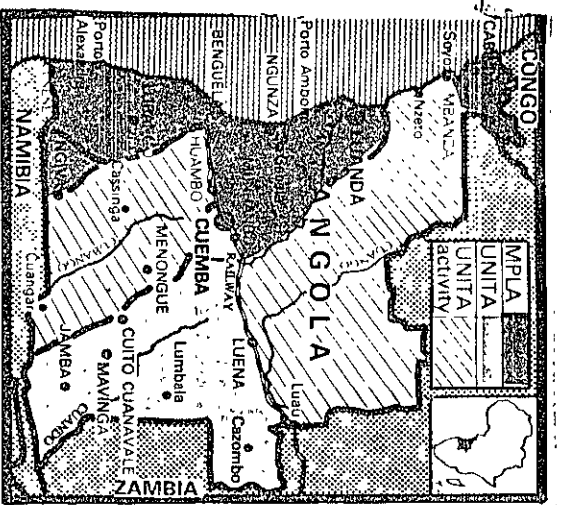
"We now look to the Angolans to table concrete and realistic schedules for a phased withdrawal of Cuban forces, so that we can take

this proposal to the South Africans."

Analysts here believe the Reagan administration is anxious to achieve a diplomatic success in southern Africa during its final year before a new president takes over in 1989.

The Angolan civil war has dragged on for 13 years, devastating the country's economy and adding to the region's tensions.

President Ronald Reagan has placed the Angolan war high on his list of regional conflicts where he has pledged to help rebel forces withstand communist intervention.



US SEES TOURISM WAR

CPT. 7715 3/2/88

WASHINGTON. — After 12 years the civil war in Angola seems to be coming to a head, with the American, Angolan and Cuban governments finally nearing agreement on a Cuban troop withdrawal.

The United States Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, yesterday told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that US talks in Angola last week on ending the 12-year Cuban presence were "an important development that holds the promise of a settlement" in the region.

He said he hoped Angola would put together a comprehensive plan for the pullout of all Cuban troops as a first step towards ending regional conflicts in Angola and Namibia.

"We now look to the Angolans to table concrete and realistic schedules for a phased withdrawal of Cuban forces so that we can take this proposal to the South Africans," Mr. Shultz said.

The South African government yesterday reacted coolly to the diplomatic initiatives.

At a press conference the Foreign Minister, Mr. Pik Botha, said South Africa was not interested in a token withdrawal of Cuban troops which merely rearranged the forces in the area while effectively putting a Swazip government in Windhoek and destroying the rebel Unita movement in Angola.

Mr Botha described the Angolan and Cuban acceptance in principle of a Cuban troop withdrawal linked to independence for Namibia as "nothing new".

He said the most important element of Angola's recent acceptance was the admission that there were 49,000 Cuban troops in the country.

"You can rest assured there must be a couple of thousand more than

Folk dancers get Dias Festival going



2 dead; trial for dog owner



... Dias Festival at Mossel Bay harbour yesterday. Navy
acer — Page 2.

Picture: ROB KAMHOOT

MBABANE. — A 41-year-old white South African man was found shot dead in his car at a remote spot on the Mbabane-Pigg's Peak road on Monday night, according to a police spokesman on Swaziland TV news last night.

AK 47 cartridges were found at the scene. The man had two bullet wounds in the forehead and a number in the chest, said Swaziland's police public relations officer, Mr Norman Mkhwanazi.

Police have so far declined to identify the victim as his next of kin have not been informed.

The spokesman said it was unlikely that robbery could have been the motive for the killing. The man's belongings, mainly clothing, were still in the car.

SA man dies in mystery Swazi killing

Last month it was reported that an ANC hit-squad was in Swaziland to eliminate those suspected of selling out ANC members in Swaziland to South Africa. — Sapa-Reuter

Govt Sasol sale urged

THE government has been asked to sell off its final stake in Sasol. It holds 30% in the issued share capital of Sasol 1.

The request came from the important parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Govt asked to sell stake in Sasol — Page 5

troops as a first step...

...Angola and Namibia. "We now look to the Angolans to table concrete and realistic schedules for a phased withdrawal of Cuban forces so that we can take this proposal to the South Africans," Mr Shultz said.

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Mr Botha described the Angolan and Cuban acceptance in principle of a Cuban troop withdrawal linked to independence for Namibia as "nothing new".

He said the most important element of Angola's recent acceptance was the admission that there were 40 000 Cuban troops in the country.

"You can rest assured there must be a couple of thousand more than that," he said.

Mr Botha said he could not see anything positive or constructive in the announcement, unless it was accompanied by the "crucial factor" of a time schedule for the troop withdrawal.

He believed the US had invited Angola to suggest a time schedule and that the US would like to negotiate this in the near future.

"We want a withdrawal in good faith so that the Cubans are no threat through force of arms or intimidation."

In Lusaka, Swapo politburo member Mr Hage Geingob said he did not think the Angolans would allow the Cubans to withdraw without the South Africans withdrawing as well.

"There is no way they would risk that," he said.

However, he said Swapo was ready to talk to the South African government about independence for Namibia.

Meanwhile, reports from Western journalists who recently witnessed the war at first hand show that Unita has MPLA forces in the south-eastern part of the country on the run.

The movement exercises military and administrative control over vast rural areas — perhaps as much as 35% of the country.

Unita's Brigadier Abilio Jose Augusto Numa said it intended seizing and holding Cuemba, scene of a six-week Unita siege. — Sapa-Reuter-AP

2 dead: Trial for dog owner

Own Correspondent

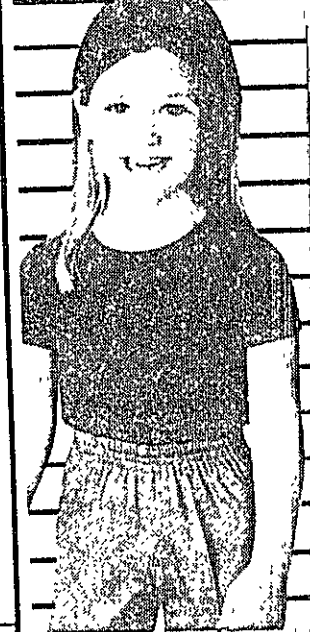
PAARL. — The Attorney-General has decided to prosecute a local farmer whose dogs allegedly bit to death a 67-year-old man, Mr Johannes Pekeur, and his 15-year-old grandson, Booi Pekeur, last year.

The farmer faces, among others, charges of culpable homicide.

The decision to prosecute was confirmed yesterday by an official of the Magistrate's Court here.

A domestic servant, Miss Sarah Maart, 27, has also alleged that she had been attacked by the dogs.

NEW LO PR CARN



Unita holdings vast areas

From ANDREW TORCHIA in Mavinga

THE fighting in central Angola demonstrates that the Unita rebels, blending guerrilla raids and conventional tactics, can in some areas fight mechanized battles on even terms with government forces.

The evidence of a 13-day bush trip by four Western journalists with soldiers of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola is that the movement exercises military control and administers basic social services over vast rural areas, as much as 35 percent of the country.

The trip covered 960 kilometres from Mavinga in the south to the Benguela railway and back again. The rail line, which spans Angola from east to west, has been rendered inoperative by rebel attacks.

In spite of its successes, Unita is not capable of moving from the bush and directly threatening the cities controlled by Angola's Marxist government.

Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, lacking an air force and depending on captured armour, has long said he cannot win militarily and seeks a negotiated settlement leading to power-sharing with the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

But the journalists' trip, lifting the curtain on one of Africa's hidden conflicts, produced independent confirmation of Unita claims that it should no longer be classified simply as a guerrilla movement capable only of harassing government units.

Unita lists 28 000 regular troops among a 65 000-man fighting force. It puts government forces at more than 80 000 plus 1 500 Soviet and 40 000 Cuban advisers, technicians and soldiers.

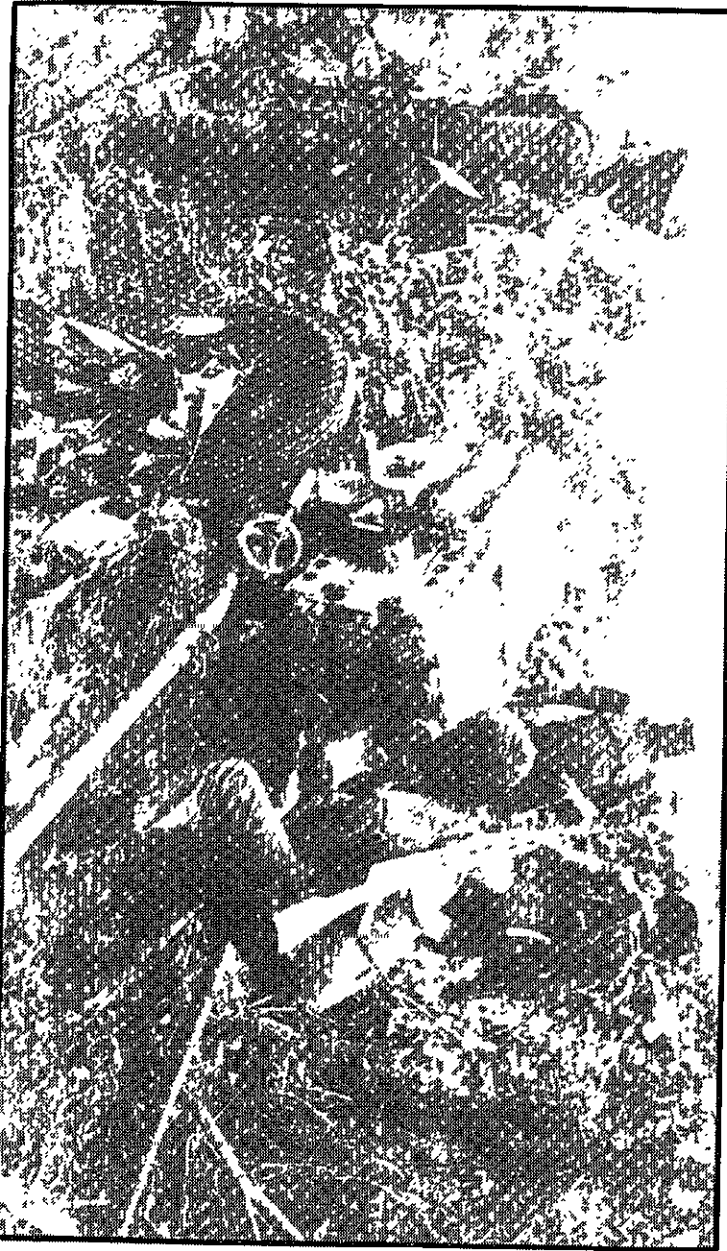
On Monday, the American State Department said Cuban and Angolan officials affirmed acceptance of a plan to remove all Cuban troops, although no timetable was

announced. However, Angola has yet to indicate any willingness to negotiate with Unita.

The six-week battle for the railway town of Cuemba reflected Unita's preference for slow sieges rather than all-out assaults that would entail far higher casualties.

Late in December, Unita captured the railway village of Munhango, east of Cuemba. A week later it destroyed a rail bridge west of Cuemba, thus isolating the target.

These preliminary guerrilla raids paved the way for Unita armour and artillery to take on government forces in a



ROCKETS: Unita troops north-east of Cuemba load a rocket launcher as they prepare to bombard Angolan government troops dug in near a bridge 1km away.

conventional face-off at Cuemba. While the two sides shelled each other daily, Unita infantry began picking off government defences just outside the town.

Brigadier Abilio Jose Augusto Numa said Unita, in another departure from guerrilla tactics, intended to seize and hold Cuemba. With 10 000 residents, it would be the largest civilian settlement in the rebels' hands.

The situation is different farther south, at the larger town of Cuito Cuanavale, where the government says Unita is prevailing only with extensive air and ground support from South Africa.

General Altino Bango Sapalalo, Unita's logistics chief, said in an interview that he expected the rebels to oust the last government troops near Cuito Cuanavale, then move into the bush beyond the town without occupying it.

The present rainy season favours Unita because its men are used to marching with mortar shells carried on their heads when trucks bog down in south-eastern Angola's soft sand.

The dry season favours the government, which annually sends its mechanized units toward Mavinga, where Unita has an airstrip capable of

handling large transport aircraft.

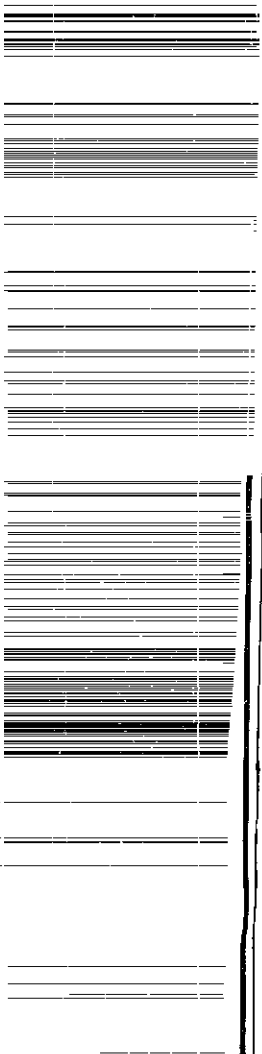
Angola's acceptance of the principle that the Cuban troops should be withdrawn as part of a settlement of the SWA/Namibian solution was nothing new, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Cape Town.

Mr Botha said, however, that the most important element of Angola's recent acceptance was the admission that there were 40 000 Cuban troops in the country.

"You can rest assured that there must be a couple of thousand more than that."



BOMBS: In the bush somewhere near Cuemba Unita troops unload 120mm mortar bombs.



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US treads softly as SA voices anger

(S)

Sp 4/24/88

(237)

By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States government appears anxious to ease the South African Government's irritation over the timing of a US announcement about the outcome of last week's American-Angolan talks in Luanda.

The mini-rumpus arose when a senior US spokesman, Mr Charles Redman told reporters here on Monday that there had been an important development during the Luanda talks — the first acceptance by the Angolans, with Cuban concurrence, of the principle of a total Cuban troop withdrawal.

This provoked an annoyed comment from SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha that it was strange that the US should conduct important matters in which the SA Government was directly involved, through the media instead of consulting the SA Government.

On Tuesday, the day after the announcement, Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker spent 90 minutes with SA Ambassador Dr Piet Koornhof, briefing him on the details of the talks.

US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Mr

Eduard Shevardnadze are likely to discuss the Angolan civil war when they meet in Moscow this month, the State Department said.

In what appeared to be an attempt to placate the South Africans, a US official said yesterday that the US suspected the South African statements resulted from its frustration over the failure of the Angolans to put forward a concrete and realistic schedule for the withdrawal of the Cubans.

"We share South Africa's frustration in this regard," the official added.

"Luanda's acceptance of a total Cuban troop withdrawal is an important step forward. But Foreign Minister Botha is correct in noting that what is needed now are specific Angolan proposals on how the withdrawal would be implemented.

"Once we get such proposals from the Angolans, we will take them to the South Africans."

● The Angolan ambassador to Britain, Mr Elisao de Figaroa, says there has been no change in his country's position concerning the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

In a BBC news broadcast, Mr de Figaroa said the Cuban troops would leave Angola only once South Africa had ended its support for Unita.

He said South African forces would have to withdraw from southern Angola and that United Nations Resolution 435 on independence for Namibia would have to be implemented before a Cuban withdrawal could take place.

● In Havana, Cuba remained silent on the new Angola peace move.

Passtoors in court

BLOEMFONTEIN — Helene Passtoors, currently serving 10 years in jail for high treason, appeared in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday on charges of attempting to escape from custody.

It was said she attempted to escape in December last year.

She was not asked to plead and the case was remanded to March 17. — Sapa.

Another activist

Curbs on

4/2/88

Chemical weapon use claim by SA^(S) denied by Angola

LISBON — Angola yesterday denied reports that it had used chemical weapons against rebels and accused South Africa of waging a campaign of disinformation.

week it had sent a medical team to check newspaper reports that Angola was using chemical weapons in battles with rebels around the key southeastern town of Cuito Cuanavale.

In a commentary received in Lisbon the official Angolan news agency, Angop, accused South Africa of inventing the reports "as part of a campaign of disinformation aimed at fooling the more sensationalist sectors of the media".

Angola's Marxist government, supported by more than 30 000 Cuban troops, has fought the South African-backed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) guerillas since independence from Portugal 13 years ago. — Sapa-RNS

South Africa said last

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a list or a table of data.]

Soviet offer to back SA peace

Own Correspondent

MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union is prepared to act as a co-guarantor of any regional peace agreement which may emerge from the current negotiations between South Africa and Angola to end the conflict between them, according to a senior Soviet official.

Mr Vladilen Vasey, head of the Southern Africa Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, spelt out several stumbling blocks.

He said the Angolan government would not accept any involvement of Unita, the South African- and US-backed guerilla movement led by Dr Jonas Savimbi, in an international settlement. "They consider this as an internal affair," he said.

In Washington, the Under-secretary of State, Mr Michael Armacost, said the Soviets recognized the need to include Unita in the political process and no longer saw the group as "a creature of South Africa, with no routes in Angolan politics or Angolan society".

And the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, said on Thursday: "We believe Unita has nationalist legitimacy and an important base and needs to be taken into account."

But in Luanda yesterday, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos took a hard line, saying that his government rejected negotiations with Unita, with or without Dr Savimbi, Angop reported.

He also argued that the build-up of Cuban forces in Angola was a direct response to an increase in military aggression by South Africa.

"We had no alternative but to ask Cuba to strengthen its forces in the face of an intensification of South African attacks since September," Mr Dos Santos said.

Mr Dos Santos's rejection of talks with Unita followed indications that both the United States and the Soviet Union were trying to bring the Angolan government to the negotiating table with the rebels.

On a warm afternoon in this leafy village of grass houses, men sing softly to a distant drum. It's easy to forget the world, everyone uses for the war in Angola — micafalima.

After swimming and washing your socks in the river, the miseries recede from memory. You might forget that you're stuck in a place marked on no map, waiting 21 hours for a spare part for a truck.

Once the part arrives and repairs are made, you'll clamber again onto the flat-bed truck you share with three other Western journalists, 20 armed Unita soldiers, several dozen 120mm mortar bombs and two live chickens.

Then — micafalima — you'll careen and clang over some bone-crunching trails for four days and nights, in rain and heat, crashing against trees whose branches rake the truck at head level, bogging down in soft sand where it can take two hours to change a flat tyre.

At the end of the journey is a dirt airstrip and a flight out of the vast southern territory controlled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in its fight against the Soviet-supported government.

In colonial times, the Portuguese considered this flat and thinly populated bush country so remote that they called it Mungo-mundo, end of the world.

Chokwe tribal language, surfaced early in the journalists' 13-day tour with Unita, which ended this week. A cannon-carrying vehicle lay overturned beside the trail, the driver having misjudged a sharp bend.

"Micafalima," said Venny Louembe of Unita's public relations section at Mavinga. He pronounced it carefully, mike-ah-fah-LEE-mah, accenting the next-to-last syllable.

"It means something is not going well," Louembe said. That turned out to be a sanitised translation. It gradually became clear that micafalima covers a wide emotional range from irritation to disgust, appropriate for a variety of setbacks from annoyances to catastrophes.

Mostly, the word relates to the daily miseries of fighting a war over inhospitable terrain, where getting to the battle may be more difficult than winning it.

When it rained through holes in the tarpaulin under which we slept on the truck — micafalima.

When a convoy took nine hours to move eight kilometres through the mud to a command post near Cuemba on the

Benguela railroad, Louembe remarked, "This is the military. It must move fast. Micafalima."

When soldiers at a bush depot unloaded U.S. and Chinese-made mortar shells from our truck, and immediately got orders to reload them — many micafalimas, slowly and with feeling.

We walked fast through waist-high bush under the midday sun toward a Unita artillery position to watch the bombardment of Cuemba. Enemy shelling and a cluster bomb dropped by one of six Migs high overhead forced us to walk even faster back to camp.

Louembe, 25, and Njele, 31, belong to a generation of Unita fighters who were students when the war began 12 years ago. One day, they left their classes, walked into the bush and joined up.

Planning for a political or military breakthrough that is nowhere in sight, the black states of southern Africa have drawn up a blueprint of how Angola's long-closed Benguela Railway could be revived, writes Andrew Rusinga from Arusha, in Tanzania.

It would cost R228 million to get trains rolling again to the heart of Africa, and R1150 million to develop the full potential of the line and its outlet to the sea, according to Swedish consultants who drafted the plan.

the copper mines of Zaire and Zambia, but as been reduced by war to a dead-end line. The few trains that do run serve only western Angola and stop far short of the Zaire border.

The Swedish study was put to Western donors by the Southern African Development Conference (SADCC) at its annual conference in Arusha this week.

"It is a marvellous plan if it can be done, but one has to consider that the political and military problem in Angola is more complicated than that in Mozambique," one US aid official said.

Conference sources said African enthusiasm for a scheme to revive Benguela Railway was fired by Mozambique's success in reviving the Beira road and rail corridor linking Zimbabwe to the Indian Ocean, despite a continuing rebellion by guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance.

International traffic on the Benguela line ended shortly after Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975 as a result of fighting between the Marxist government in Luanda and Unita.

Last year, Unita offered to allow the line to reopen if it was not used for military purposes. But the Angolan government failed to reach an agreement with Unita that would have guaranteed its freedom from attack.

SADCC was formed in 1980 to reduce the dependence of its nine black-ruled member states on South Africa. Its blueprint for a reopened Benguela line was prepared by the Swedish consulting firm Sweco.

According to this document the line could be re-opened to limited international traffic after a R228 million crash programme of repairs lasting 18 months.

The second four-year phase of the rehabilitation programme would involve upgrading the port of Lobito, improving railway maintenance and restoring infrastructure such as roads and electricity supplies.

This would cost an estimated R610 million.

The final five-year phase of the project would see the building of a container terminal in Lobito, and further improvements to bring the port and railway up to international standards at a cost of R312 million.

The ultimate aim is to give the Benguela railway a freight carrying capacity of three million tons per year by the year 2000 and Lobito port the capacity to cope with it.

Lobito handled only 250 000 tons of cargo in 1986. — Sapa-RNS-AP

Micafalima: the word that tells all in Angola

Andrew Torchia: Esanjo, Angola

Louembe fought as an infantryman in five battles. He became a medic, skilled enough to perform minor surgery to remove shrapnel.

His father, once a car-penter, works for Unita's Central Committee at headquarters in Jamba. His mother and three sisters are in Jamba and three brothers are in Unita's army.

Making his first tour of the war zones as an escort for journalists, Louembe read an Old Testament in his spare time. He said he hoped some day to open a transport business in his native Luanda province but, "meanwhile, the situation is just fine. I like this life because I am fighting for something."

"It's fun, not too hard," Louembe said of the trip.

P/D 5/2/88 (5)

Planning for a political or military breakthrough that is nowhere in sight, the black states of southern Africa have drawn up a blueprint of how Angola's long-closed Benguela Railway could be revived, writes Andrew Rusinga from Arusha, in Tanzania.

It would cost R228 million to get trains rolling again to the heart of Africa, and R1150 million to develop the full potential of the line and its outlet to the sea, according to Swedish consultants who drafted the plan.

But any such hopes depend on the course of Angola's civil war. "Some things are possible, but it remains to be seen whether reopening the Benguela Railway is one of them," a Western diplomat commented.

The 1 328 km route once linked Lobito on the Atlantic Ocean with

the copper mines of Zaire and Zambia, but as been reduced by war to a dead-end line. The few trains that do run serve only western Angola and stop far short of the Zaire border.

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UNION PRESS COLONIALS AND AFRICA THE MAGAZINE ALL CLASSES WITH CORRECTION

Cuba to withdraw troops if...

(5)

NO 5/21/88

HAVANA — Cuba said on yesterday it would begin withdrawing its troops from Angola only after South Africa pulled out its soldiers and ended its rule of SWA/Namibia.

A front-page article in the official Communist Party newspaper Granma ended days of silence on a new Angola peace move that, if agreed by all parties, could result in a pullout of 40 000 Cuban

troops from the Marxist-ruled African country.

The conditions put forward by Angola, Granma said, were announced by the Luanda Government last Saturday and were the following:

- An end to South African and US support for Angolan Unita rebels.

- Withdrawal of South African troops from southern and south-eastern Angola.

- Implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling for independence of Namibia.

- International guarantees to avoid further aggression against Angola.

"If an agreement under those conditions can be achieved, Angola and Cuba would be ready to start a phased withdrawal of the Cuban military contingent," Granma wrote. — Sapa-RNS

ANGOLA

Shaping up for peace

⑤ FM 5/2/88

At first glance, Foreign Minister Pik Botha's initial reaction to reports that Cuban and Angolan officials had affirmed their acceptance of a plan to remove all Cuban troops from Angola is disturbing. SA's credibility — often questioned by Western allies — is also at stake and any official comment to

lومات — point to at least some breakthrough. It would, therefore, be irresponsible to cast a shadow over any progress.

SA is, of course, directly involved as far as the presence of Cubans in Angola is concerned. US efforts to get them out should instead be encouraged. There are signs that Angola's Marxist government, plagued by

serious military setbacks in its 13-year-old war against Unita rebels, is moving hesitantly towards dealing for peace, reports the FM's special correspondent in Lisbon.

Pressured in the field, at the negotiating table and, most crucially, in the Treasury's coffers, the government is casting around for alternatives.

Analysts in Lisbon say the biggest stumbling block is the need for a face-saving formula that will not

make Luanda appear to be capitulating to Unita.

Meanwhile, a major obstacle to such a solution remains the figure of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, who, reports here last week suggest, is the target of an assassination plot designed to clear the way for a Unita-MPLA peace.

The turning point in the conflict may well be the current battle between government and rebel forces for the strategic command post of Cuito Cuanavale.

Military and diplomatic sources in Lisbon say the Angolan high command and the party leadership are deeply concerned about the negative impact which military failures are having on national morale and the fighting spirit of the Angolan forces.

Reports in Lisbon also indicate that Luanda is under growing pressure from Moscow — whose military advisers have been closely identified with some of the spectacular failures of government military strategy over the past nine months — to reach a deal with the rebels.

Urge Pretoria

Luanda has called on the US to urge Pretoria to join round-table talks to end the conflict, as well as the related problem of Namibian independence. The Angolan call came at the end of the three days of talks in Luanda with Crocker at which a senior Cuban official, Jorge Risquet, was present.

Unita's spokesman in Lisbon, Alcides Sakhala, said on Sunday that the call was more than two-thirds of the way towards a real settlement of the problem.

Luanda now has only to amend the list of participants in the suggested negotiation to include them and they would have a deal, Sakhala said.

Both Pretoria and Washington have previously indicated that round-table peace talks must include the rebels, in one form or another, and this position does not appear to have changed.

Meanwhile, it seems that Portugal is preparing a mediation offer for the conflict, involving a plan to fuse Unita and the ruling MPLA party. The Portuguese government believes it could successfully act as intermediary between the interests that both the Soviets and the US have built up in the region and help defuse an increasingly explosive situation.

If there is to be an end to the bloodshed in the region and a possible peace settlement in Namibia, it will require a high calibre of statesmanship from all the players. As for Pretoria, it will be expected to put national interests before by-elections.



strengthen fears that Pretoria will not honour its commitments may only upset the delicate negotiations.

US spokesman Charles Redman said the acceptance came last week at a meeting in Luanda between Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, Angolan Foreign Minister Alfonso Van-Dunem and several Cuban Politburo members. Botha, when approached for comment, said he had received nothing official from the US government and he could, therefore, not react to press reports on the issue.

That is acceptable. But then Botha added the ominous paragraph to his statement, which was issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs — and was thus not an off-the-cuff remark.

"I find it strange that Dr Crocker should conduct important matters of this nature, in which the South African government is directly involved, through the media instead of consulting with the South African government," he said.

A negotiated withdrawal of Cubans from Angola will certainly affect a settlement in Namibia. While both Pretoria and Washington have previously accepted UN resolution 435 for the region's independence, the presence of Cubans in Angola has been a stumbling block ever since.

Latest reports — and one cannot help but detect some feeling of optimism among dip-

Cuban pull-out 'when SA goes'

HAVANA. — Cuba yesterday said it would begin withdrawing its troops from Angola only after South Africa pulled out its soldiers and ended its rule of Namibia.

A front-page article in the official Communist Party newspaper Granma ended days of silence on a new Angolan peace move that, if agreed on by all parties, could result in a pull-out of 40 000 Cuban troops from the Marxist-ruled country.

The article said Angola and Cuba took a joint negotiating stance at last week's talks in Luanda. It referred to Angola's reported acceptance, for the first time, of the withdrawal of Cuban troops under certain conditions.

Granma said the conditions put forward by Angola and announced by the Luanda government last Saturday were:

- An end to South African and US support for Unita.
 - Withdrawal of South African troops from southern and south-eastern Angola.
 - Implementation of UN Resolution 435, calling for Namibia's independence.
 - International guarantees to avoid further aggression against Angola.
- "If an agreement under those condi-

Unita takes frontier town: Controls Zambian border

LISBON. — Angola's pro-Western Unita rebels said yesterday that the fall of the frontier town of Caripande meant they now controlled the entire 1 000km border with Zambia.

"The fall of Caripande gives Unita control over the entire Zambian border, as we had already captured the other main frontier posts," said a rebel spokesman here.

Unita said it seized Caripande after killing 57 government troops and forcing about 100 to flee into Zambia.

But the rebel spokesman acknowledged that strict frontier control is not practical because of the length of the border and the wild, largely uninhabited terrain it crosses. — Sapa-Reuter

tions can be achieved, Angola and Cuba would be ready to start a phased withdrawal of the Cuban military contingent," Granma wrote.

It said a solution now depended on the attitude of the United States.

"A solution, in a relatively short time, is objectively possible," it concluded. — Sapa-Reuter

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US moves to soothe SA after leak on Angola

Star. 5/21/88



Chester Crocker ... briefed SA ambassador, Piet Koornhof

The Star Bureau
WASHINGTON — The United States government appears anxious to placate the South African Government's irritation over the timing of an announcement about the outcome of last week's American-Angolan talks in Luanda.

A rumpus occurred when a senior US spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, told reporters in Washington on Monday that there had been an important development during talks in Luanda — the first acceptance by the Angolans, with Cuban concurrence, of the principle of a total Cuban troop withdrawal.

This provoked an annoyed comment from

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha who said it was strange that the United States should conduct important matters, in which the SA Government was directly involved, through the media instead of consulting the SA Government.

BRIEFING

On Tuesday, the day after the announcement, Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker spent 90 minutes with SA Ambassador Dr Piet Koornhof, briefing him on the details of the talks.

The civil war in Angola is likely to be discussed when US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze meet in Moscow this month.

In what appeared to be an attempt to placate South African, a US official said on Wednesday that the United States suspected the South African statements resulted from its frustration over the failure of the Angolans to put forward a concrete and realistic schedule for the withdrawal.

STEP FORWARD

"We share South Africa's frustration in this regard," the official added.

"Luanda's acceptance of a total Cuban troop withdrawal is an important step forward. But Foreign Minister Botha is correct in noting that what is needed now are specific Angolan proposals on how the withdrawal would be implemented.

"Once we get such proposals from the Angolans, we will take them to the South Africans."

● The Angolan ambassador to Britain, Mr Elias de Figaroa, said after the US announcement that there had been no change in his country's position.

He said Cuban troops would leave Angola only after South Africa had ended its support for Unita, had withdrawn its troops from southern Angola and implemented United Nations Resolution 435 on independence for Namibia.

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Wounded soldiers die on long trip from the front

MAVINGA, Angola — Current fighting in central Angola demonstrates that the Unita rebels, blending guerilla raids and conventional tactics, can in some areas fight mechanised battles on even terms with government forces.

The evidence of a 13-day bush trip by four Western journalists with soldiers of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, is that the movement exercises military control and administers basic social services over vast rural areas — as much as 35 percent of the country.

The trip covered 960 km from Mavinga in the south to the Benguela railroad and back again. The rail line, which spans Angola from east to west, has been made inoperable by rebel attacks.

But despite its successes Unita is not capable of moving from the bush and directly threatening the cities controlled by Angola's Marxist government.

Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, lacking an air force and depending on captured armour, has long said he cannot win militarily. He seeks a negotiated settlement leading to power-sharing with the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

The journalists' trip, lifting the curtain on one of Africa's hidden conflicts, produced independent confirmation of Unita claims that it should no longer be classified simply as a guerilla movement capable only of harassing government units.

Unita lists 28 000 regular troops among a 65 000-man fighting force. It puts government forces at more than 80 000, plus 1 500 Soviet and 40 000 Cuban advisers, technicians and soldiers.

On Monday, the US State Department said Cuban and Angolan officials have affirmed acceptance of a plan to remove all Cuban troops, though no timetable was announced. However, Angola has yet to indicate any willingness to negotiate with Unita.

The six-week battle for the railway town of Cuemba reflected Unita's preference for slow sieges rather than all-out assaults that would entail far higher casualties.

Late in December Unita captured the railroad village of Munhango, east of Cuemba. A week later, it destroyed a rail bridge west of Cuemba, thus isolating the target.

Conventional face-off

These preliminary guerilla raids paved the way for Unita armour and artillery to take on government forces in a conventional face-off at Cuemba.

While the two sides shelled each other daily, Unita infantry began picking off government defences just outside the town.

Brigadier Abilio Jose Augusto Numa said that Unita, in another departure from guerilla tactics, intends to seize and hold Cuemba. With 10 000 residents, it would be the largest civilian settlement in rebel hands.

The situation is different farther south at the larger town of Cuito Cuanavale, where the Angolan government says Unita is prevailing only with extensive air and ground support from South African troops.

General Altino Bango Sapalalo, Unita's logistics chief, said he expected the rebels to oust the last government troops near Cuito Cuanavale, then move into the bush beyond the town without occupying it.

The present rainy season favours Unita because its men are used to marching with weapons and supplies carried on their heads when trucks bog down in south-eastern Angola's mud.

The dry season favours the government which annually sends its mechanised units toward Mavinga, where Unita has an airstrip capable of handling large transport planes.

Colonel Alberto Njele said at Cuemba: "There could still be a government offensive later this year. But they will have to re-take Cuemba and Cuito, and that will be a big, difficult project."

Unita claims an extensive network of schools and clinics serving more than 1 million civilians.

Savimbi seeks power-sharing settlement

Steve 5/2/88.



Unita rebels stand on the Benguela railroad near Cuemba which is 640 km south-east of Luanda.

A letter placed aboard a supply truck leaving Cuemba can reach a destination in the south four days later.

There's a lending library in Jamba, Unita's headquarters, and a soccer league around Mavinga. Cenfin, a boys' boarding school, is the current league champion.

But the trip revealed how thinly Unita is stretched in providing back-up services for its troops.

The field hospital at Esanjo is the closest such facility to the Benguela front. Its commander, Major Manuel Domingos Catombela, said the wounded face a jolting, 12-hour truck ride over bush trails to get there. The nearest medical laboratory is four hours farther down the track.

The journalists saw 36 patients in three grass-hut wards at Esanjo, most with fractures and shrapnel wounds. Catombela said each 300-man battalion at the railroad had 25 medics, but Esanjo had the only surgical team serving the front.

The five-man team has no x-ray equipment

but performs major abdominal surgery, including excision of damaged intestinal sections. The operating area was lit by a 100-watt bulb powered by the only portable generator the journalists saw.

The ceiling was covered with black plastic sheeting to prevent thatch falling on to the operating table.

The table was supported on tree limbs pounded into the sandy floor. Intravenous drip bags hung on a smooth branch from which the bark had been stripped. Instruments were sterilised in an autoclave and stored in wooden mortar cases.

The journalists witnessed the start of an operation to patch up an abdominal shrapnel wound in a teenaged soldier.

Catombela said patients needing chest and head surgery had to be transferred to another hospital 20 hours from Esanjo.

He said one of his regrets was that some soldiers died during the long trip from the front to Esanjo. — Sapa-AP.

Angola pact 'a red herring'

Star 6/2/88

SATURDAY STAR AFRI NEWS SERVICE

An agreement on a Cuban withdrawal and Namibia's independence appears to be as remote as ever — despite American announcements that a breakthrough has been achieved in negotiations with Angola.

has shown it is unwilling to follow an American lead in negotiations and would rather negotiate directly with Angola.

South African Foreign Minister Mr. P. Botha told a group of visiting Portuguese politicians this week South Africa was ready to negotiate if there was a genuine desire to do so on the part of Angolan authorities.

"We still believe there can be no solution unless all parties involved get together ... without superpower interference," Mr. Botha said.

Shortly before Dr. Crocker had gone to Luanda Mr. Botha had been quoted as saying the United States influence in southern Africa's affairs had been reduced because of the sanctions it imposed against South Africa.

Observers say Mr. Botha's words reflect a growing tendency in Pretoria to seek its own negotiations and agreements with black Africa rather than counting on the United States to mediate in the regional conflicts.



KINGPINS IN THE ANGOLA IMPASSE: South African Foreign Minister Mr. P. Botha, American Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr. Chester Crocker and Unita leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi.

At the same time, it is clear (because of Unita's successes), Pretoria has now raised its stakes in the negotiation process with Angola.

South Africa was, however, ready to talk to Swapo about Namibia's independence. Mr. Botha told the Portuguese politicians, but any talks would also have to include pro-western rebels of Unita. "I would be prepared to

Angola has now accepted the principle of a total Cuban withdrawal, the conditions are almost impossible to meet.

A front-page article in the Cuban Communist Party daily *Granma* said Angola and Cuba took a joint negotiating stance at last week's talks in Luanda and referred to Angola's reported acceptance, for the first time, of the withdrawal of Cuban troops under certain conditions.

The conditions put forward by Angola, *Granma* said, were announced by the Luanda government last Saturday and were:

- An end to South African and US support for Angolan Unita rebels.
 - Withdrawal of South African troops from southern and southeastern Angola.
 - Implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling for independence of Namibia.
 - International guarantees to avoid further aggression against Angola.
- "If an agreement under those conditions can be

achieved, Angola and Cuba would be ready to start a phased withdrawal of the Cuban military contingent," *Granma* wrote.

Unless the Reagan administration drops its support for Unita, convinces South Africa to do the same and manages to convince both Pretoria and Luanda of a joint withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and Cuban troops from Angola, an agreement cannot be reached.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has denied reports that the Angolan army is using Soviet chemical weapons against Unita. A statement by the Soviet defence ministry said the USSR had "stopped production of chemical weapons, never used them, never gave them to other countries, and has not deployed them beyond its borders."

From Harare it was reported that the Cuban Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr. Fraga, said Cubans were ready to stay in Angola as long as its government required their help.

Angola: no agreement on Cuban troops

PARIS — Angola's government said it had not reached an agreement with the United States on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the south-western Africa.

"When the State Department announced the Angolan government had for the first time accepted the principle of withdrawing the troops it was not correct," the Angolan ambassador to France, Mr Luis de Al-

meida, said. "We have always accepted the issue of withdrawing the Cuban troops, but the conditions of this withdrawal must be negotiated," he said.

Mr De Almeida said Angola's basic position remained unchanged. There would be no Cuban pullout before South African forces quit the south of the country, and Pretoria ended support for An-

gola's Unitarrebels. The US State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman said on Monday that Angola's Marxist government had outlined what he called a "new position" on the withdrawal of the 40 000 Cuban soldiers, at a meeting with a top-level US delegation in Luanda last week.

He hailed Angola's alleged new stance as "an important step" which he said had been endorsed by Cuban offi-

cials attending the talks with the State Department's top official for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Mr De Almeida said he could not account for the State Department announcement.

"We cannot understand it."

He admitted only that recent negotiations aimed at finding a peace settlement in south-western Africa contained certain "new ele-

ments".

The government of the Angolan President, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, would hold further talks with US representatives in the future, but a date had not yet been fixed, Mr De Almeida said.

It remained to be seen whether or not Cuban officials would also be invited to attend this meeting, but he ruled out the presence of Unita representatives.

This followed a television interview by the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, on Wednesday in which he said Pretoria was ready to sit down with Angola's government if Unita was allowed to join the talks.

Mr De Almeida cited logistical problems in moving the Cubans from Angola, and said his government saw it taking place in two years time, while Washington was pressing for a 12-month deadline. — Sapa-RNS

Two SA soldiers die in Angolan fighting

Staff Reporter

TWO South African soldiers, including a second-lieutenant, formerly of Camps Bay, and nine Swapo guerillas died in a skirmish in Angola yesterday.

A spokesman for the Defence Force said last night that the skirmish occurred "north of Ovambo during a follow-up operation".

The soldiers who died were: Second-Lieutenant Michael Sean McCann, 21, who is survived by his father, Major D E McCann, of Sandown, and his mother, Mrs M T McCann, of Sea Point, and Corporal Michael Collin Suter, 19, who is survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs S M Suter, of Florida.

A grieving Major McCann, who last week moved to Johannesburg from Welgemoed, last night said his son had been "one of the top junior leaders" and had volunteered for one of the most active battalions.

He had commissioned his son and "met him in the bush last November".

Major McCann said his son had grown up in Camps Bay and Sea Point. Lieutenant McCann had matriculated in 1985 from Franschoek High, where he had been a prefect and captain of the first rugby team.

Mrs McCann could not be contacted last night.

CMC Times 6/2/88

(S)

Angola's 'chemical war' in spotlight

By GARY DIXON

EXPERTS in chemical warfare from five Western nations are involved in a major investigation into allegations that MPLA government forces in Angola are using chemicals in the country's civil war. Several teams from these countries have been deployed in specific areas of Angola where chemicals are alleged to have been used recently, intelligence sources said this week. They confirmed that the attacks which are alleged to have taken place so far have been isolated, but that there was a danger of escalation as the MPLA forces were placed under more and more pressure by Unita. Several victims of the as yet unnamed chemical substances, all of them members of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita resistance movement, are undergoing tests to identify the substances.

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Angola peace in a-ba-ba

7/2/88

A MAJOR peace initiative in Angola is expected within months, with President Botha's call this week for a regional peace conference as the possible peg for new moves.

There is strong speculation that a Lisbon conference of the main Angolan combatants is being arranged for mid-year. Behind the new moves lie several complex factors.

The US wants to get some movement in Angola after years of fruitless effort and the Soviets have become disenchanted with the war. The major setbacks to the Cuban and Angolan forces against the rebel-

held south and south-east parts of the country is held largely responsible for the new moves towards peace.

Mr Gorbachev is believed to have decided firmly against continuing to pour in Mig jets, tanks, missiles and other military aid, running at \$2 billion a year, to prop up the shaky administration of President Dos Santos in his conflict with rightwing guerrillas.

As a result, Washington is stepping up a diplomatic offensive to push Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita guerrilla movement and his South African backers to accept peace negotiations, which are likely to be backed by Mrs Thatcher.

Washington envisages that teams from the Dos Santos government and Unita will negotiate, perhaps under the chairmanship of Portugal as the ex-colonial power. Lisbon is the most likely

Lisbon

conference possible this year

By LESTER VENTER in Cape Town and NORMAN KIRKHAM in London

choice of venue because a capital in southern Africa would be particularly unattractive to the rightwing Unita leadership.

Mr Dos Santos has already responded favourably to the American overtures.

US Assistant Under-Secretary for African Affairs Chester Crocker, who visited Luanda last weekend, won Angolan government approval for the withdrawal of 30 000 Cuban troops who have been helping his army.

In Havana, Dr Castro has not yet confirmed acceptance of this proposal. But he will have little choice but to do so at the behest of his masters in Moscow if Washington's plans for a peace package go ahead.

Withdrawal

A phased plan put forward by Mr Crocker balances peace for Angola on South African troop withdrawal from both that country and neighbouring Namibia, a cause dear to the hearts of the Eastern bloc and UN Third World countries.

With the MPLA government's most important anti-Unita operations base besides Luanda, Cuito

1987 was designated in Luanda as the year of the hawks.

A South African diplomat said: "Chester is desperate to prove he hasn't wasted eight years of his life."

A more familiar note of scepticism took over by the end of the week after South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha poured cold water on the Luanda initiative, calling it "nothing new".

Independence

And in Havana it was stated that a Cuban pull-out could follow only a similar action by South African forces currently in Angola and Namibia.

All round, diplomats conceded that the manoeuvres were underpinned by the question of whether South Africa had the political will genuinely to put SWA/Namibia on the road to independence.

And that is a likelihood that is not yet taken seriously in any of the camps involved in the decades-old quagmire.

— and apparently close to falling — the MPLA's hopes of a present or future military success are shattered. The South African strategy has taken advantage of the fact that there are two major factions in the MPLA government. The hawks, who are determined to crush the Unita rebels, and the doves, who believe the realities of their torn land demand a settlement negotiated with the rebels.

Western diplomats and intelligence sources agree that

Angolan peace talks likely, says newspaper

STAR 8/2/88 (5)

The Star Bureau

LONDON — A peace conference to try to end the 12-year-old Angolan civil war could be held in Lisbon later this year after clear indications that the Soviet Union wants to withdraw.

According to a report in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev has decided "firmly" against continuing to pour in MiG aircraft, tanks, missiles and other military aid — at about R2 billion a year — to support the Angolan government.

As a result, adds the report, Washington is stepping up a diplomatic offensive to push Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement and his South African backers to accept peace negotiations, which are likely to be helped by Britain's Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Although Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to jeopardise her personal prestige with direct involvement in a conference or

protracted bargaining, both America and Angola will ask her to influence Pretoria to allow Whitehall to serve as a communications channel.

The claim coincided with other reports that South African forces had stepped up operations 640 km inside Angola.

Angop, the Angolan news agency, said Mirage jets had bombed Angolan government positions and populated areas near the strategic southern garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale.

The Angolans claim to have hit two South African planes.

However, a Defence Force spokesman yesterday denied that any "South African Air Force aircraft had been shot down in Angola as is claimed".

"South Africa's position on Angola is well known and the SADF has nothing to add to the stated position."

Angola has repeatedly said the attack on Cuito Cuanavale has been carried out by South African forces and not by Unita.

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Angola peace talks plan

Cape Times 8/2/88

talks plan

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — A Lisbon peace conference to try to end the Angolan war is expected to begin within a few months after clear signals that Russia wants to pull out of heavy investment in Angola.

The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, is believed to have decided firmly against pouring in more MiG jets, tanks, missiles and other military aid running at \$1,000 million (R2 000m) a year to prop up the shaky administration of President Eduardo dos Santos in his conflict with Unita.

As a result, the United States is stepping up a diplomatic offensive to push Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement and his South African backers to accept peace negotiations which are likely to be helped by the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Although she is not expected to risk personal prestige with direct involvement in a peace conference

or protracted bargaining, both the US and Angola will ask her to use influence in South Africa and allow Britain to serve as a communications channel.

The US envisages that teams from the Angolan government and Unita will negotiate.

Portugal is the most likely choice of venue because a capital in Southern Africa would be particularly unattractive to the Unita leadership.

Mr Dos Santos has already responded favourably to the US overtures.

The US Assistant Under-Secretary for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, who visited Luanda last week, won Angolan government approval for the withdrawal of 30 000 Cuban troops.

In Havana, Dr Fidel Castro has not yet confirmed acceptance of this proposal but he will have little choice but to do so at the behest of his masters in Moscow if Washington's plans for a peace package go ahead.

A phased plan put forward by Dr

LISBON. — Angola's armed forces shot down two South African war planes as South African troops pushed 600km into southern Angola, the official Angolan news agency, Angop, said on Saturday.

Two South African Mirage jets were shot down on January 27 as they bombed positions close to Cuito Cuanavale, an Angolan military official told Angop.

In response to the allegations, an SADF spokesman denied yesterday that any South African aircraft had been shot down.

"South Africa's position on Angola is well known and the Defence Force has nothing to add to this stated position." — Sapa

Crocker balances peace for Angola on South African troop withdrawal from both that country and neighbouring Namibia, a cause dear to the hearts of the Eastern bloc and UN Third World countries.

If Cuban troops leave southern Angola, so will a South African force which was estimated at 1500

last week

When the remaining Cubans in Angola fly home to Havana, South Africa's army will also quit Namibia. American and British diplomats are forecasting that such an ambitious project would take at least two years to complete if peace talks get off to a successful start this summer.

But the present moves offer the first real hope of peace for Angola for more than a generation and along with prospects for a Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan indicate a toning down of aggressive foreign policy by Moscow.

Senior Unita sources commented last week that Dr Savimbi, who depends on South African and Western arms for his guerillas, would be compelled to agree to peace talks if this was decided in Pretoria under American pressure.

He would prefer, however, a full-scale international conference attended not only by the Luanda government but America, Cuba, Britain and West Germany.

Dr Savimbi would also agree to a


peace settlement dividing Angola leaving at least half under Unita control, an idea unlikely to find favour in Luanda.

Moscow's decision to cut losses in Angola has taken root as President Dos Santos has turned away from Marxist thinking to Western policies, freeing markets from price controls and approving private farm enterprise. His government has applied to join the International Monetary Fund.

Last year he had to fly to Moscow to plead for resupply of vital military equipment, and Mr Gorbachev agreed only with the greatest reluctance. Since then, Russia has been dismayed by a series of reversals for Angolan forces at the hands of Unita.

During the last government offensive across the savannah bush and thorn scrub of Southern Angola, a top Russian general took control and 450 Soviet advisers were moved in. They could not prevent 24 000 Angolan troops being driven back by a Unita force half the size.

SADF rejects Angolan claims over poison gas ^{Star} 9/2/88 5

 PARIS — Angolan ambassador Mr Luis de Almeida on Monday accused South Africa of using poison gas against government troops in the battle for Cuito Cuanavale.

In a statement released by the Angolan Embassy in Paris, the ambassador called on the international community to condemn the "new racist South African crime".

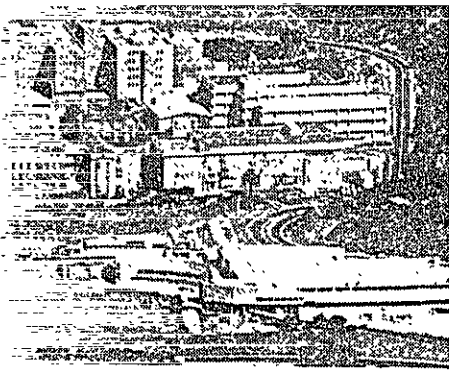
Commenting on the Angolan ambassador's claim, a spokesman for the SADF's media liaison division in Pretoria said it was predictable Angola would accuse South Africa of using chemical weapons, "especially after the Defence Force has already confirmed that an SA team of medical experts has been invited by Unita to investigate Angola's use of this kind of substance".

The ambassador said South Africa resorted to toxic gas after failing to win the battle for the strategic town through other means. He did not provide details.

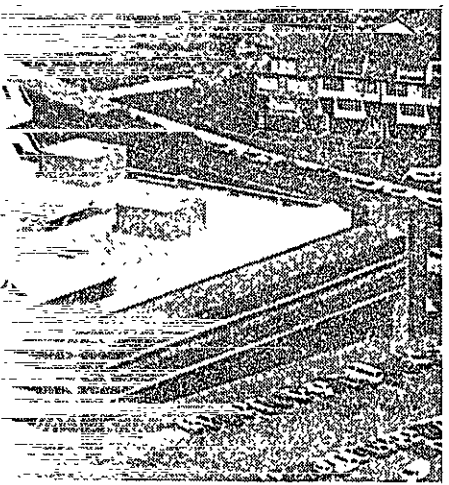
Fighting for control of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola's southeastern Cuando-Cubango province has been raging for three weeks between troops of the ruling MPLA and Unita rebels.

President dos Santos of Angola has repeatedly charged that South African forces are in Angola helping Unita in the siege of Cuito Cuanavale. — Associated Press.

ARGUS 9/2/88 (5) (3) (SS)



ikon, below.



Parents urged to lower sights on child's education

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — There will have to be a serious re-think by parents about their children's post-school education. That is the thrust of findings of two important investigations.

Central to the findings is that all pupils cannot and should not seek to obtain university degrees and that there should be far greater emphasis on technikon education.

A study commissioned by the Committee of University Principals (CUP) urges that a disproportionate growth in the number of university students should be halted, while a study by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on behalf of the Committee of Technikon Principals points to parental prejudice in favour of a university education for their children.

Figure quadrupled
Professor P J de Lange, former Rand Afrikaans University principal who chaired the year-long CUP investigation into university education, emphasised the need to channel students to other tertiary institutions such as technikons.

The report on the study, which involved the 17 universities represented in the CUP and five universities in the independent homelands and SWA/Namibia, was released at the end of last month.

It stated that university population had quadrupled in 20 years, a growth rate exceeding the total population and the economic growth rate. If this trend continued it would lead to the impoverishment of universities, said the report.

Three ways
At the Press conference where the findings were released Professor de Lange elaborated on three ways to slow the growth of the university population.

- Raising admission requirements of universities. On this, Professor de Lange said that admission criteria should not be based solely on scholastic performance as this could preclude many educationally-disadvantaged students.
- There would have to be research, he said, on the identification of low-achieving students with the required potential for university education.
- Channelling students to other tertiary institutions such as technikons.

based on a two-year study and involved prospective and first-year technikon students of all population groups.

"It is generally believed that anyone in possession of a university qualification is more likely to earn a good salary and be appointed in a senior position than a person trained at a technikon," the report said.

"Furthermore, people tend to believe that university graduates enjoy higher status than those holding diplomas from technikons or other educational institutions."

About 60 percent of white parents involved in the HSRC inquiry preferred a university education for their children, believing that the type of institution would to a large extent determine their eventual status.

This preference for university education was far more prevalent among Afrikaans-speaking parents, the study found.

"English-speaking whites, on the other hand, are far less prejudiced against technical training in general."

Must change

Die Vaderland, commenting on this attitude, said the country could not afford this: "South Africa desperately needs technical skills. Presently there are more university than technikon students. The country's manpower needs actually demand that the position be reversed."

This is a message that black parents will also have to take to heart. Even if effective programmes for educationally-disadvantaged students with potential can be introduced at universities it is not feasible to give everyone this kind of education.

There is also the fact that black universities, by and large, don't have the academic standing that would make their degrees competitive on the open market.



Presently, 73 of every 100 tertiary students were at universities, 15 were at technikons and 12 at teacher training colleges. Professor de Lange said technikon education in South Africa had not developed as had been hoped.

• Developing distance education such as correspondence study, thereby relieving pressure on financially-burdened residential universities.

Professor P Smit of the University of Pretoria, who helped to set the terms of reference for the CUP investigation, said there had already been a significant increase in the percentage of students studying "by post", from 26,8 percent in 1965 to 38,4 percent in 1985.

The HSRC report on "The Image of Technikons" was

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SA experts went abroad — UK publication

The Star's Africa
News Service

South Africa is negotiating the purchase of technology to counter enemy use of chemical weapons or nerve gas, according to the latest issue of the British publication *Africa Confidential*.

The claim comes amid allegations by the Unita rebels in Angola that MPLA government forces have used chemical weapons against the guerillas in recent fighting. The SADF has sent medical teams to Angola to investigate the claims.

Warfare

Africa Confidential reports that two South African specialists — Colonel Willie Basson, an SADF medical officer, and a pharmacologist from the University of the Orange Free State, a Dr van der Merwe — visited Europe in 1986 to investigate available methods of defence against chemical-gas warfare.

However, Dr Pieter van der Merwe, a pharmacologist at the Free State university, yesterday denied that he had ever been involved in investigations into chemical weapons and knew of no other pharmacologist by the same name. No comment was immediately available from the SADF.

Evidence

Colonel Basson is said by *Africa Confidential* to have attended the Second World Congress on Chemical and Biological Warfare at Ghent in Belgium in August 1986.

According to the London publication, South African fears about the possible use of nerve gas in Angola were sparked by the discovery that chemical weapons had arrived in Luanda on an East German ship.

Colonel Basson is said to have



In what may have been the first use of chemical weapons in Africa, guerillas fighting for the independence of Eritrea from Ethiopia wore these home-made gas masks against what they said was Soviet-bloc nerve gas used by Ethiopian government forces.

'Defence against nerve gas sought'

Star 10/21/88 (5)

attended a follow-up meeting at Armscor's Pretoria headquarters to discuss the cost of counter technology against chemical weapons.

The South African experts who recently went to Angola gathered evidence on the use of chemical weapons by the MPLA forces, an SADF spokesman said last week, and this was still being studied.

The SADF has emphasised that no South African troops have been affected by chemical weapons in Angola.

Unita is reported to have set

up a special camp for the treatment of chemical-weapon victims at its headquarters at Jamba and to have invited international observers to Angola to see the evidence that the weapons have been used.

Angola's ambassador in Paris this week accused South Africa of using poison gas against Angolan government troops in the battle for Cuito Cuanavale, a claim the SADF has denied.

The use of chemical weapons in Angola was first alleged two years ago when Unita said some of its troops had been killed or

blinded by them.

The first use of the weapons in Africa was reported from Eritrea in 1982 by the Argus Africa News Service, whose reporter, Mr Henry Reuter, spoke to guerillas of the Ethiopian Peoples' Liberation Front who described how Ethiopian government forces had fired nerve gas shells at their positions.

The guerillas used home-made gas masks and injected themselves with atropine as an antidote to the gas, which they said had been emitted from shells made in East Germany.

Angola Bouto-wo

CMB Tm 15 2/18/88 (S) 11/2/88

REPORTS of massive Cuban reinforcements and Unita disarray dominated jockeying for position on the eve of the London peace talks on Angola.

While regarded as "significant", because of the number of countries involved and South Africa's exclusion from multi-lateral international talks over the past few years, the US and Angola have been characterized as "technical rather than decisive".

According to a Washington report, Cuba has quietly expanded its troop commitment to Angola by up to 10 000 over the past five months while taking an increasingly active role in Southern African peace negotiations, according to US officials.

The US officials, who asked not to be identified, said that Cuba is believed to have had between 35 000 and 37 000 troops in Angola as of last November. Since then 8 000 to 10 000 Cuban troops have been sent to Angola, bringing the total to between 43 000 and 45 000, the officials said.

This is believed to be the largest number of Cuban troops deployed in Angola since they were first sent there in 1975 when Angola won its independence from Portugal.

Dr Jonas Savimbi



South Africa was aware of the moves, according to a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs who said they would "not have a significant effect on the talks".

According to a report from Lisbon, Unita is wracked by internal dissension posing a challenge to the charismatic and monolithic leadership of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The dissension, reports of which have recurred frequently over the past year, apparently centres on divided opinions over Unita's close links to South Africa.

Observers pointed to the fact that a senior Soviet official recently in Lisbon had drawn parallels between the solution found in Afghanistan and proposals for Angola and had admitted that peace talks would need to involve the Unita rebels.

The South African delegation, led by the director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Nieman Heerden, is expected in London today tomorrow. — Political Staff, Own Correspondent and Sapa-AP

Adamashin will be on the sidelines during the London talks, are pushing their Angolan allies to reach a negotiated settlement of the 13-year-old civil war.

Angola is considered eager for an end to the alleged South African presence as well as a suspension of US aid to Unita.

The highest priority for the United States and South Africa is an agreement for the early withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

South Africa has said that once that hurdle is cleared, it will implement a United Nations resolution calling for independence and black majority rule in Namibia, Angola's southern neighbour which has been ruled by Pretoria since early in the century.

The South African delegation, led by the director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Nieman Heerden, is expected in London today tomorrow. — Political Staff, Own Correspondent and Sapa-AP

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Dec 11/21/85

Cuba's friendly gestures 'puzzling'

WASHINGTON — Cuba has made a series of gestures in recent months that indicate a fundamental decision to pursue less hostile relations with the United States, according to American officials.

The Cuban moves involve not only bilateral matters, but also other issues that have strained relations for years, including human rights and Cuba's military presence in Angola.

"Cuba has made a clear decision to treat us more pragmatically, less hysterically," said one US official. "Cuba has decided to co-operate when there is a mutual interest."

TROOP WITHDRAWAL

The Cuban actions go well beyond the November decision to revive an agreement that, among other provisions, calls for the repatriation of about 2 700 Cubans, who are ineligible to remain in the US.

Cuba also has:

- Indicated for the first time a willingness to withdraw, under certain conditions, all 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola, a high-priority objective of President Reagan's administration. Previously, Cuba had said its troops would remain in Angola until South African apartheid was dismantled.

- Dealt more respectfully with the new head of the US diplomatic mission, Mr John Taylor, than it did his predecessors. Mr Taylor has been allowed to visit a nuclear power plant construction site and, in a break with previous practice, has been receiving government invitations to attend diplomatic functions in Havana.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Allowed a US human rights delegation to visit a group of long-term political prisoners. In another first, unrelated to Cuba's ties with the US, a private human rights group in Cuba presented 18 witnesses at a Havana news conference on January 31. They spoke of a variety of abuses alleged to have been committed by the government.

Several administration officials who were asked were unable to agree on why Cuba has become more accommodating after an extended period of acrimony toward the US. — Associated Press.



THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, scoffed at Angolan proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal yesterday, saying he was tired of Luanda's "deceitful little games".

Mr Botha also accused the US Congress of reneging on its Washington risky and unreliable by thwarting White House foreign policy.

Pik scorns plans for Cuban troops

"On Nicaragua, on South Africa, and there are other issues, I do not believe that the White House has the support of the US Congress on important foreign policy ventures," Mr Botha told foreign reporters at a briefing coinciding with the opening sessions of Parliament.

"That makes it risky for my government, or any government, to rely on agreements with the US.

"This truth is filtering through to quite a large number of countries," Mr Botha said. "It has the potential of harming the US very far into the future because they will not be able to amend this perception."

Mr Botha said the South African government "draws a distinction between the White House, President Reagan and his foreign policy objectives and the foreign policy objectives of the US Congress".

He cited the congressional override in October 1986 of President Reagan's veto of sanctions legislation.

The US State Department said last week that the Angolan government had accepted the principle for the first time of a total withdrawal of 40 000 Cuban troops from the country as part of a southern Africa peace plan.

Mr Botha told reporters that South Africa would welcome progress by US African affairs expert Dr Chester Crocker on breaking the deadlock on Angola and neighbouring Namibia.

But proposals put forward so far by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos were "nothing but a rearrangement of the war theatre".

"A man like President Dos Santos would be the least inclined to let go the only force that keeps him in power," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha said Angola must give a time schedule and a withdrawal programme for a Cuban pullout.

"This South African government will not

accept any plan which does not ensure there is genuine withdrawal, with systems to monitor that withdrawal," he said.

South Africa has refused to implement United Nations resolution 435, a blueprint for independence and elections in Namibia, until the Cuban troops leave Angola, where they are supporting the government against Unita rebels.

"They (the Angolans) tried to crawl out of Cuban withdrawal by saying they would withdraw a year after the date of implementation of resolution 435," Mr Botha said.

"That means they are all there during implementation of resolution 435 presenting a source of intimidation and hoping they will put Swapo in power in Namibia," Mr Botha said.

"We're just a bit tired of these deceitful little games and we trust our American friends will also become tired of them," he added. — Sapa-Reuter, UPI

Pik ridicules Angolan proposals

CAPE TOWN — Foreign Minister Pik Botha yesterday scoffed at Angolan proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal, saying he was tired of Luanda's "deceitful little games".

The US State Department said last week the Angolan government had for the first time accepted the principle of a total withdrawal of 40 000 Cuban troops from the country as part of a southern Africa peace plan.

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"That means they are all there during implementation of resolution 435 presenting a source of intimidation and hoping they will put Swapo in power in Namibia," Mr Botha added. — Sapa-Reuter.

Angola rejects SA call for conference

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LISBON — Angola has rejected a South African call for a regional peace conference that would include the Angolan rebel movement, Unita, and rebels fighting for the independence of South-West Africa, the official Angolan news agency Angop reported yesterday.

A government statement said Angola was prepared to hold direct peace talks with South Africa if the South African Government rejected the United States as a mediator in the negotiations, Angop said.

The Marxist government flatly rejected any negotiations with Unita.

"The reference to the participation of Unita removes all creditability from the South African Government's proposal," the statement said.

The statement said the South African proposal was a manoeuvre aimed at gaining time to increase South African military pressure against Angolan Government forces in southern Angola.

The Angolan Government appeared to be responding to remarks

made last month by South African President P. W. Botha that he was willing to meet with any regional leaders in a bid to resolve conflict in southern Africa.

Mr Botha has not specifically proposed a peace conference or put forward any concrete proposals.

Angola said it would be "coherent and logical" to include in such talks the South-West African People's Organisation, which is fighting for Namibian independence, and the African National Congress, the main black movement seeking majority rule in South Africa.

It said these were internationally recognised organisations. But Angola said Unita was a puppet group without international juridical standing.

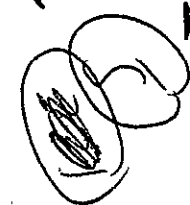
The United States envoy, Dr Chester Crocker, said that Angola had agreed for the first time to the principle of a total withdrawal of the estimated 40 000 Cuban soldiers stationed in Angola as part of a regional peace accord. — Sapa-AP

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WORLD

No seat at talks for Swapo and Angola, says Angop

13/2/88 Steel



LISBON — Angola has rejected a South African call for a regional peace conference that would include the Angolan rebel movement, Unita, and the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo), the official Angolan news agency, Angop, reported yesterday.

Angola was prepared to hold direct peace talks with South Africa if Pretoria rejected the United States as a mediator in the negotiations, Angop said. But the Angolans flatly rejected any negotiations with

Unita, according to the Angop report, which was monitored in Lisbon.

"The reference to the participation of Unita removes all credibility from the South African Government's proposal," the agency quoted the statement as saying.

Unita, which is backed by South Africa and the United States, has been fighting since 1975 to force the Cuban- and Soviet-backed Angolan Government to accept a power-sharing agreement.

The statement said the South African proposal was a manoeuvre aimed at gaining time to increase South African military

pressure on Angolan government forces in southern Angola. Angola has accused South African military incursions into southern Angola from Namibia.

The Angolan government appeared to be responding to remarks made last month by State President P W Botha, that he was willing to meet any regional leaders in a bid to resolve conflict in Southern Africa.

Mr Botha has not specifically proposed a peace conference or put forward concrete proposals.

Angola said it would be "coherent and logical" to include Swapo and the African National Congress (ANC) in such talks.

It said these were internationally recognised organisations.

But it described Unita as a puppet group without international standing, according to the Angop report.

The statement added that South Africa's "illegal occupation" of Namibia, attacks against black-ruled neighbouring states, the creation of armed groups to carry out allegedly terrorist activities in those countries and the denial of political rights to the black majority in South Africa were the main causes of conflict in the region.

United States envoy Mr Chester Crocker said earlier this

month that Angola had agreed for the first time to the principle of a total withdrawal of the estimated 40 000 Cuban soldiers stationed in Angola as part of a regional peace accord.

The agreement also envisages independence for Namibia, which South Africa rules despite a United Nations resolution, and an end to US and South African support for Unita.

Yesterday, the Angolan Embassy in Lisbon issued a statement denying reports that representatives of the Angolan government and Unita would hold peace talks this summer in the Portuguese capital — Sapa-AP.

Angola 'ready for Cuban withdrawal'

The Argus Foreign Service

LISBON. — Angola has reaffirmed its readiness to send home 40 000 Cuban troops but links the move to a US and South African commitment to stop all support to the Unita guerrilla movement and action on independence for SWA/Namibia.

The official Angolan news agency Angop quoted Foreign Minister Afonso "M'binda" Van-Dunem as saying a calendar for the withdrawal depended on Washington and Pretoria agreeing to cease aiding Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Angola had informed Washington of its "disposition to accept a total withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola," Mr Van-Dunem said.

Meanwhile, Unita guerrillas said yesterday they shot down a MiG-21 jet fighter in central Bie province and provoked the crash of a MiG-23 in south-eastern Kuando Kubango through sabotage last week.

In other operations across the oil-producing country, the rebels said they killed 80 soldiers, including eight Cubans.

Angola spells out peace conditions

15/2/88
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The Star's Foreign News Service

LISBON — Angola has reaffirmed its readiness to send home 40 000 Cuban troops, but links the move to a United States and South African commitment to stop all support to the Unita guerilla movement and action on independence for SWA/Namibia, the official Angolan news agency Angop said yesterday.

The agency, in a dispatch received in Lisbon, quoted Foreign Minister Mr Afonso "M'binda" van-Dunem as saying a calendar for the withdrawal depended on Washington and Pretoria agree-

ing to cease aiding Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement.

Since 1981 Washington has tried to broker a regional peace accord under which the 40 000 Cubans would leave Angola and South Africa would grant independence to SWA/Namibia.

CALENDAR

Angola had informed Washington of its "disposition to accept a total withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola," the agency cited Mr van-Dunem as telling the foreign diplomatic corps in Luanda on Saturday.

"The presentation of a calendar" for the withdrawal, however, depended "above all" on Washington, Pretoria and "other

countries" ceasing support to the 12-year Unita insurgency, he reportedly said.

Mr van-Dunem said "other conditions" for a Cuban exit were South African agreement on withdrawing its troops from southern Angola and implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling on Pretoria to grant SWA/Namibia independence under UN-supervised elections.

Mr van-Dunem was briefing diplomats on his latest round of talks in Luanda with Dr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Angop said.

● Unita guerillas said yesterday they had shot down a MiG-21 jet fighter in central Bie province and caused the crash of a MiG-23 in south-eastern Cuando Cubango through sabotage last week.

In other operations across the country, the rebels said they killed 80 soldiers, including eight Cubans.

Unita has fought Luanda and its Cuban allies since the country gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

'Pull-out depends on US, SA' 16/2/88

(S) The Star's Foreign News Service

LISBON — Angola has reaffirmed its readiness to send home 40 000 Cuban troops, but links the move to a United States and South African commitment to stop all support to the Unita guerilla movement and action on independence for SWA/Namibia, the official Angolan news agency, Angop, said on Sunday.

The agency, in a dispatch received in Lisbon, quoted Foreign Minister Mr Afonso "M'binda" van-Dunem as saying that a calendar for the withdrawal depended on Washington and Pretoria agreeing to cease aiding Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement.

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Star
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In other operations across the country, the rebels said they killed 80 soldiers, including eight Cubans.

SA accused of sending more men to Angola

Star 16/2/88 (S)

The Star's Foreign News Service

LISBON — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said yesterday South Africa had reinforced its five-month-old invasion force in southern Angola to more than 6 000 men during the past weekend, the official Angolan news agency Angop reported.

"The military situation which Angola experiences is grave," the agency quoted Mr dos Santos as saying on his arrival in the neighbouring island nation of Sao Tome and Principe for a 24-hour visit.

Angop quoted him as saying South Africa had increased its troop and material resources inside Angola to more than 6 000 men "during the past three days".

"War does not interest the peoples of southern Africa," Mr dos Santos said, adding that his Marxist government was ready to assume compromises to obtain peace in southern Africa.

His statement in Sao Tome, 1 300 km north-west of the Angolan capital,

Luanda, came two days after his government reaffirmed its readiness to present a calendar for the total withdrawal of 40 000 Cuban troops if Pretoria and Washington vowed to cease aiding Unita.

Luanda, in recent months, has repeatedly accused South Africa of having deployed about 6 000 soldiers, backed by long-range artillery, armoured cars and air support inside Angola to aid the rebels.

Pretoria acknowledged on November 11 that its forces had moved into southern Angola in September to help Unita repulse a Cuban and Soviet-backed Luanda offensive against Unita chief Jonas Savimbi's strongholds in south-eastern Cuando Cubango province.

Since 1981, Washington has tried to broker a regional peace settlement under which Cuba would end its 12-year presence in Angola and Pretoria would grant independence to Namibia under UN-supervised elections.

Unita has fought the Luanda government since Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

DID 17/2/88

Direct hit kills 4 SA soldiers

17/2/88 Daily Dispatch Correspondent (S)

PRETORIA — A direct hit by a Soviet anti-aircraft weapon claimed the lives of the four South Africans, killed in battle in south-eastern Angola at the weekend.

The weapon was being used in a ground role, the SADF's chief, General Jannie Geldenhuys announced yesterday.

He said it hit the vehicle in which the four were travelling.

The announcement of the deaths coincides with a statement by the Angolan Defence Ministry that South African forces had launched a new attack against Angolan army positions, east of the fortress town of Cuito Cuanavale, according to the Angolan news agency, Angop.

Angop said there had been "considerable casualties" on both sides.

An Angop dispatch monitored in Lisbon yesterday said an estimated 7 000 SADF troops remained in Angola's southern Cuando-Cubango province.

Gen Geldenhuys said the casualties occurred during a skirmish between Unita and Fapla government forces.

A counter attack by Fapla on SADF troops was repulsed.

The dead men are Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans, 19, of Bloemfontein; Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhuizen, 19, of Zastron in the Free State; Rifleman Pieter Heinrich Groenewald, 19, of George and Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald, 19, of Bloemfontein.

Gen Geldenhuys said the process of withdrawing SADF and SWA Territory Force troops was taking place under "operational conditions".

He said it was slower than originally expected because the operational advantages achieved in earlier operations supporting Unita could not be sacrificed merely to hasten the process.

It also necessitated limited offensive action by the SADF from time to time to safeguard the operational advantages.

NEWS 17/2/88

SA launches new attack in south, Angola claims

PRETORIA. — Angola claims South African forces launched a new attack against Angolan army positions east of the southern city of Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday.

The allegation follows the announcement yesterday that four SADF members were killed in a south-eastern Angola at the weekend. The South African soldiers

were killed when Fapla, the military wing of the MPLA, "employed highly-sophisticated Soviet equipment and anti-aircraft weapons during a counter-attack against South African troops".

"A direct hit by one of these guns struck the vehicle in which the four soldiers who died were travelling," said the chief of the Defence Force, General Janne Geldenhuis. The men killed were Corporal Jan Hendrik Klerghans, 19, Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhuizen, 19, Rifleman Pieter Heinrich Groenewald, 19, and Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald, 19.

In a dispatch monitored in Lisbon yesterday, the Angolan news agency Angop reported that an estimated 7 000 South African troops remained in Angola's southern Cuando-Cubango province after recent reinforcements to units sent last November to back the rebel movement Unita.

Angop quoted Angolan Defence Minister, General Pedro Maria Tonha, as saying that heavy fighting was still underway late yesterday 20km east of Cuito Cuanavale, scene of a combined South African-Unita siege last month. The Angop report came hours after General Geldenhuis announced the four South African deaths.

Condolences

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Wynand Breylenbach, yesterday expressed his condolences with the next of kin during a public meeting in the Western Transvaal.

He said the men made their sacrifice during the withdrawal of South African forces which were the target of "desperate attacks by combined Russian, Cuban and Fapla forces".

The SADF confirmed that fighting was taking place between Unita and Fapla and said that Unita had achieved great successes.

The spokesman said the SADF released details of its own operational casualties as it always did. — Sapa.

SADF ^(DSE) 'launch new ^{17/2/88} attack in Angola'

PRETORIA. — South African troops had launched a new attack against Angolan army positions east of the key southern garrison of Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday, Angola claimed yesterday.

The claim came after the Defence Force announced that four soldiers had died in action in south-east Angola at the weekend.

The chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said the South African soldiers were killed when the vehicle in which they were travelling was shelled.

The men killed were:

● Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans, 19, of Bloemfontein.

● Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhulzen, 19, of Zastron.

● Rifleman Pieter Heinrich Groenewald, 19, of George.

● Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald, 19, of Oudtshoorn.

Yesterday the Angolan news agency, Angop, claimed that about 7 000 South African troops were in Angola's southern Cuando-Cubango province after recently being reinforced.

According to General Geldenhuys, Unita had made significant advances at the weekend, and South African forces in the area were fighting "a guard action on the flank" in response to a counter-attack by Angolan government units.

A Defence Force spokesman described the latest Angolan claims of SA troop levels in Angola as "highly exaggerated" but confirmed that renewed fighting was taking place between Unita and Fapla forces. — Sapa

CAP 75MB 17/2/88 (5)

Ex-Swapo man's freedom trek

Argus Africa News Service

A FORMER Swapo insurgent has told of his 18-day, 300 km hike to freedom through the bush after escaping from one of the organisation's jails near the Angolan town of Lubango.

Simon Nuule, 31, told journalists at the Sector 10 headquarters of the South African Defence Force at Oshakati yesterday that he had avoided both Swapo and Angolan Government troop patrols in southern Angola on his walk south back to SWA/Namibia.

He was picked up by the SWA Police counter-insurgency unit within a day of his arrival.

He is being held in police cells but senior military officers said they believed he would be released "once the paper work was sorted out".

STORY CONFIRMED

Military intelligence analysts said they had confirmed parts of Mr Nuule's story and had no reason to believe he had lied about his escape.

Mr Nuule told journalists he

had joined Swapo in 1977, leaving his northern Namibian tribal home in the belief that "independence was only one or two years away".

After insurgency training at a Swapo camp in Angola, he worked for its logistics section for eight years.

During this time, he saw the aftermath of the South African raid on the Cassinga base in May 1978 and was also involved in a number of ambushes laid by Unita.

He said that by 1986 he had become disillusioned with Swapo and realised an insurgent's life was highly dangerous, although he himself had not fought against South Africans.

He and a friend had decided to desert in 1986, but they had been caught by Swapo and placed in one of its jails near Lubango. He had never been physically mistreated but had often been verbally abused.

Mr Nuule said he escaped in January by climbing through the jail's roof while it was being repaired. Although Swapo guards fired at him as he ran, he was not injured. Wearing a uniform of the Angolan Government forces, Papla, he began making his way back to Namibia from Lubango.

The former Swapo man said he believed Namibian people should sit down together and discuss the future of their country themselves. He did not think he would be joining the security forces after his release because he feared Swapo would take revenge.

Best friends died in the same battle

From CATHY HOOPER

OUITSHOORN.—Andre Schalk Groenewald and Pieter Heinrich Groenewald shared not only the same surname, the two best friends, both aged 19, died in the same attack on Sunday in south-eastern Angola. Andre, the oldest child of Sergeant Louisa Groenewald of 26 Watsonia Avenue, Ouidts-
hoorn, and Mr Petrus Johannes Groenewald of Bloemfontein, and Pieter, son of Mr and Mrs "Ponnie" Groenewald of the farm Uitkyk in the Great Brak River district, shared a further common interest.

In a letter received by his mother on Friday, Andre expressed exactly the same sentiment as did Pieter in a letter to his parents received last week.

Both loved army life, both were extremely positive about their terms on the border which started on November 20 last year, but both were longing for one thing: "Ma's home-cooked food". Civvy food and the prospect of being at home again were uppermost in both troops' minds.

Andre, quiet by nature, passed matric in 1986 at Voortrekker High School in Bethlehem.

where he was a member of the orchestra and choir. He moved to Oudtshoorn in December of the same year and started his army training in Bloemfontein on February 6, 1987 — as did Pieter.

His mother, Louisa, said he was a wonderful son and although quiet, was always loving and considerate. He will be buried in Oudtshoorn but no arrangements have yet been made. He leaves his mother, father, a brother Nardus, 16, and a sister Eizane, 12.

Pieter, the oldest son of four children, matric-

ulated from the P W Botha Technical High School, George, in 1986.

Pieter, who wanted to farm after his term in the army, was very popular among his peers, according to his mother. She added that he was looking forward to the end of March when he would be back from the border. She said he had an "extremely pleasant personality".

He leaves his mother and father, two sisters, Petro Lötter, 29, of Florida, Riette Hardey, 25, of Vryburg and a brother, Henry, 17.

4 SA soldiers died helping Unita

SM 19/5/88 (5)

The four South African soldiers who died when their vehicle was hit by an anti-aircraft gun in southern Angola at the weekend were fighting side-by-side with Unita troops.

The South African Defence Force acknowledged last night that the withdrawal of its forces was "slower than anticipated" and at times was converted into an offensive.

Angola claimed yesterday that South African forces launched a fresh attack against

Angolan army positions east of the southern city of Cuito Cuanavale on Sunday.

The Chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuis, said last night that the four men died when Angolan troops "employed highly-sophisticated Soviet equipment and anti-aircraft weapons in a ground role."

"A direct hit by one of these guns struck the vehicle in which the four soldiers were travelling," he said.

The withdrawal from Angola was slower than anticipated because "the operational advances which were achieved earlier in the limited operations supporting Unita, announced towards the end of last year, could

not be sacrificed merely to hasten this process", General Geldenhuis said.

"Since the weekend Unita has achieved resounding successes and Fapla is now retreating in disarray and trying to organise a desperate last stand. "During a skirmish between Unita and Fapla, a counter-attack by Fapla on South African

troops was successfully repulsed by a Defence Force element fighting a guard action on the flank. It was during this action that the deaths occurred."

The statement did not say where the battle took place, but there has been fierce fighting recently in and around Cuito Cuanavale. Angola has consistently claimed that up to 6 000 South African troops armed with long-range G-5 and G-6 cannons have been involved.

SM 17/2/88

Soldiers' families grieve

SADF criticised on role in Angola

By Duncan Guy
Families of four 19-year-old national servicemen were looking forward to their homecoming in six weeks' time — but on Monday night they were told the soldiers had been killed.

One of the mothers, Mrs E Nieuwenhuizen was treated for a mild heart attack in Zastron Hospital when she heard the news.
Her family said she was "not taking it well". The families of all four said they received letters in which their sons had said they expected to be home for leave at the end of next month.

Heartbroken Mrs Emsie Kleynhans of Bains Vlei near Bloemfontein said she was very confused after hearing that her son, Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans, had been killed.

Sergeant Louisa Groenewald of Oudtshoorn, the mother of Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald, said her son had a positive attitude to the army.

He matriculated at Hoërskool Voortrekker in Bethlehem.

The fourth soldier killed was Rifleman Pieter Heinrich Groenewald of Uitkyk farm, near George.

His mother, Mrs J Groenewald, said he had attended P W Botha Technical High School in George.

By Adele Baleta

The South African Defence Force (SADF) has been criticised for keeping the public in the dark about its involvement in the Angolan war, described last night as "strategically senseless".

Academics were reacting to yesterday's SADF statement announcing the deaths of four South African soldiers in a clash between Fapla and South African-backed Unita forces in south-east Angola at the weekend.

Professor Peter Vale, head of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, said "the tragic deaths of the four SADF soldiers is the price white South Africa is paying for continued involvement in a strategically senseless war".

NO DETAILED EXPLANATION

He said South Africans were continually asking why their children were dying on the border without being given a detailed explanation.

"South Africa had been involved in the Angolan war for 13 years and to say that the recent clash was a one-off incident is nonsense," he said.

The director of the South African Institute of International Affairs at Wits University, Professor John Barratt, said the SADF had not kept people informed of its activities in Angola.

The SADF statement did not explain to what extent the South African troops were helping Unita nor did it explain what it meant by "the process of with-

drawing" SADF and South West Africa Territorial Forces from Angola "under operational conditions".

"It does not say if the troops are withdrawing from the front where Unita is fighting or from further west in the south of Angola where action has been announced by the SADF against Swapo," Professor Barratt said.

He said the lack of information supplied made it difficult to analyse what was happening. "We only receive news when there are SADF deaths," he said.

Professor Barratt added it was not clear what the SADF's role was in relation to Unita.

"Recently Dr Jonas Savimibi claimed Unita gains in Angola were made without SADF support and the SADF denied claims by Angola that they are still assisting Unita. It seems as if Unita depends on South Africa's backing."

But Unisa's head of Strategic Studies, Professor Deon Fourie, said the SADF could not keep the public informed of its moves as it would jeopardise its operations, and advertising its process of withdrawal could invite a reaction from the other side.

Although the Government stated that it would withdraw its troops from Angola by December 9, this did not mean the SADF would abandon all it has put into Angola.

"Any withdrawals would be calculated so as not to let MPLA forces retrieve lost territory," he said.

Professor Fourie pointed out that all SADF large-scale losses occurred when men were concentrated in vehicles.

Dutch subsidiaries sold to local companies

HERTOGENBOSCH (Holland) — A Dutch manufacturer of industrial cooling equipment, Grasso, has sold its two South African subsidiaries to the local management, a company spokesman said yesterday.

Grasso's Dutch parent company

owns production and sales companies in Western Europe, the United States, and the Far East.

Grasso spokesman Mr Jaap den Daas said Grasso had "accepted a bid" by the management of Grasso (Pty) and Grenco (Pty), both of Cape Town.

D/D 18/2/88 (5)

Unita claims major victory in ongoing bush warfare

LISBON — Unita claimed yesterday its guerillas had killed 104 Angolan government regulars, and 17 Cuban support troops in fighting on Sunday, and vowed to continue their bush war until the MPLA government agreed to a negotiated settlement.

In a statement released in Lisbon, Unita said its forces "annihilated" the Angolan army's 59th brigade and a tank battalion, in a 10-hour battle in southern Cuando-Cubango province.

The note, signed by the Unita Chief of Staff, General Demostenes Amos Chilingutula, said 92 army regulars were killed in that action, along with 17 Cuban soldiers.

Gen Chilingutula said Unita units killed another 12 Angolan army soldiers on the same day, when they overran an army outpost at the town of Lukembo in north central Malanje province.

Unita casualties in the fighting included three dead and 13 wounded.

In a second Unita note, the rebels criticised an MPLA government offer last week to send home the estimated 40 000 Cubans in Angola, if South Africa and the United States halted all military aid to Unita.

"The intransigence and stalling manoeuvres of the MPLA merely reflect the government's total lack of freedom of action, given (the government's) dependence on Havanna and Moscow," said the statement, signed by the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Stating that Unita would continue to call for negotiations with the MPLA, Dr Savimbi said the rebels would continue to fight for the legitimate interests of the Angolan people.

In a third note the rebels announced the death on Tuesday of Dr Savimbi's mother, Mrs Helena Mbundo Sakato Savimbi, aged 87. The note did not list the cause of death. — Sapa-AP

By PASCAL FLETCHER

LOBITO — Several times a year a heavily guarded "super-convoy" of up to eight trains leaves Angola's Atlantic coast to travel a route that has become a battleground. It's called the Benguela Railway.

The journey inland to Huambo, a third of the way along the 85-year-old line's original 1 348 km, can take up to a month. On the winding route through the forested hills of Angola's central plateau passengers, train crews and an Angolan army escort must chance sabotage by US and South African-backed Unita rebels that have kept the once-lucrative line closed for more than a decade.

The long convoys are headed by a special wagon known in Portuguese as a "reventa-minas" (mine-blower).

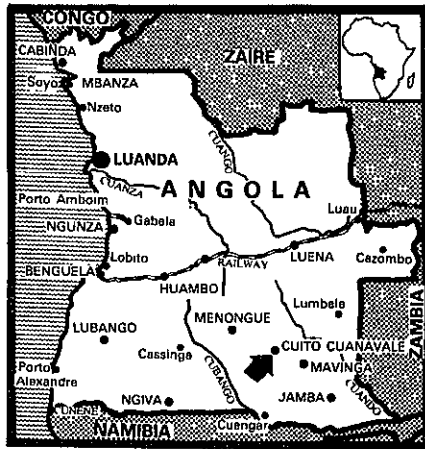
"It's like a huge travelling snake," Cleofas Silinge, director-general of the Benguela Railway Company, said in an interview at his Lobito HQ.

The line, built by British engineers between 1903 and 1929, is 90% owned by Societe Generale de Belgique, Belgium's largest company, now at the centre of a takeover battle in Brussels with Italian entrepreneur Carlo De Benedetti bidding for control. The Angolan government owns the rest.

Sabotage

Once the shortest route to the sea for copper from Zaire and Zambia, the railway which takes its name from the nearby port of Benguela could, if re-

Excursions rare along Benguela battleground



SPINAL CORD: The Benguela railway through Angola.

opened, reduce dependence of landlocked states on routes through South Africa.

But since taking up arms against Angola's Marxist government in 1975, Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) has made the railway a prime target. "Unita and South Africa declared an out-and-out war against the Benguela Railway," Silinge said.

Rebel sabotage attacks over the last 12 years have caused an estimated two \$2 bn damage to the line. In 1987 it carried a meagre 90 000 tonnes of goods compared with a capacity for four million tonnes in 1974, the year before Angola's independence from Portugal.

Passenger trains now run regularly only between Lobito

and Benguela on the coast, a safe route, but the diesel-electric "super-convoys" carrying food and machinery periodically make the hazardous journey to Huambo. From there some steam trains still manage to get through to the neighbouring province of Bie but from there to Luau (formerly Teixeira de Sousa) on the Zairean frontier, no train has passed for several years.

Engineers estimate that at least 12 bridges have been destroyed by Unita on the eastern section of the line through Moxico province.

The cutting of the railway has also meant the decline of Lobito, once a bustling international port and still Angola's third most important after Luanda and Cabinda.

Cranes and equipment stand idle and empty berths mirror the port's current fortunes. Its rail bays, tractors and electric generators are in urgent need of renewal.

"The Benguela Railway is the spinal column of the whole country... and the port of Lobito is its head," Jose Estima, director general of the port, said in an interview.

The 440 000 tonnes handled in 1987 are a far cry from the port's annual capacity of two million tonnes in 1974.

In April 1987 Angola, Zambia and Zaire announced a plan to rehabilitate the railway, reawakening international interest. Last month the nine nations of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) unveiled a \$575 million

scheme to revive the railway and Lobito but many diplomats in the region doubt the plans are viable, given the security problem.

Unita recently announced it had recaptured the railway town of Munhango, 550 km inland from Lobito. Angolan military sources said South African commandos took part in the assault.

Western diplomats in Luanda said Angola's attempts to persuade Zaire and Zambia to help protect the railway with troops had apparently met with a blunt refusal from Zaire. There was also disagreement over how ownership of the railway should be restructured

Civilians only

The diplomats said the Angolan government's insistence that it should be the majority shareholder greatly reduced the chances of persuading Unita leader Savimbi to stand by an earlier offer he made not to attack the line.

Savimbi made the offer last year but said the line must only carry civilian traffic.

The European Community has indicated it is willing to advance \$7.5 million to help rehabilitate the line as soon as the issues of security and ownership are resolved. Meanwhile, Unita attacks seem likely to continue.

"Unita and South Africa are waging a war against the Benguela railway because they know that once it starts working again their fight is over," Silinge said. — Sapa-Reuter

Can. Times 18/7/88

Soviets hope for SA revolt dropped

LONDON. — The Soviet Union has virtually abandoned hopes of revolutionary change in South Africa in the foreseeable future.

A study, written by Kurt Campbell, a director at Harvard University's centre for international affairs and released here yesterday, says the USSR has begun to explore political outcomes which underline the need for negotiations.

Mr Campbell says that following the coming to power of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the long-term future of the Soviet Union in the Southern African region has come under serious review.

The reassessment, he says, can be traced to a speech by Mr Gorbachev to the 27th Party Congress in which he said: "We are in favour of stepping up a collective search for ways of unblocking conflict situations in... Southern Africa and in all the hotbeds of the planet. This is what the interests of universal security demand insistently."

While not abandoning the traditional base of Soviet influence in the region, for the most part in Angola, the USSR's initiatives are no longer limited to the military arena.

It continues to provide the ANC with moderate military support but carefully avoids fanning the flames of revolution in South Africa, he says. Meanwhile, it retains secretive and lucrative commercial liaisons with the South African authorities in the sale of gold and diamonds.

SA offensive driven back after four-day battle claims Angola

LISBON — Angola said yesterday it had driven back a big South African offensive near the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, killing more than 70 troops and downing two planes in a four-day battle.

Armoured vehicles were also destroyed in the fighting, the Angolan Defence Ministry said.

Giving rare details of its own casualties, the ministry said 25 government soldiers had been killed and five tanks destroyed before the 7 000 South African troops were repulsed.

The offensive which began on Sunday was over but South Africa was putting in more reinforcements and fresh fighting could be expected, the report said.

Cuito Cuanavale, a key garrison town in Cuando Cubango province, has been the scene of heavy fighting recently.

Angola maintains that South Africa does most of the fighting, a charge disputed by the rebels who

said on Wednesday they killed 92 government troops and 17 Cubans in the same area.

South Africa, which admits its forces are still inside Angola, said this week four of its soldiers — all whites — were killed in recent fighting as the South African withdrawal continued.

Angola's Marxist government, which is supported by more than 30 000 Cuban troops, has fought the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels since the former Portuguese colony won independence almost 13 years ago.

● A South African Defence Force spokesman said from Pretoria yesterday that the SADF "has nothing to add" to the statement made by the chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, on February 16 "except to point out that Unita has already made a statement, which has been widely reported, on their victory in a 10-hour battle in southern Cuando Cubango province." — Sapa-RNS

SA's Harc Line on Neighbours

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Mr Pik Botha

Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA'S relations with Mozambique nose-dived dramatically last night as the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, signalled a new hard-line approach towards its immediate neighbours.

Mr Botha made it clear in a tough tit-for-tat statement that South Africa was no longer prepared to include Mozambique in a Southern African "summit" until it made fundamental political and socio-logical changes.

Up to now South Africa, through President P W Botha, has said it is prepared to talk to any leader in the region about peaceful co-operation.

This is the first time South Africa has deviated from this stand.

It comes shortly after a tough statement on Zimbabwe in the wake of a rocket attack on an isolated northern Transvaal farmstead and after the deaths of

four South African soldiers in Angola. It appears to signal a serious hardening of attitudes by the government towards its immediate black neighbours.

Angola earlier rejected President Botha's suggestion of a Southern Africa peace conference.

While the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, arrived in Luanda yesterday for talks with Angolan leaders, Angola claimed to have driven back a joint South African and Unita offensive near the strategic town of Cuito Cuavale, killing more than 60 troops, downing two aircraft and destroying more than 20 tanks and armoured cars in a four-day battle.

Diplomatic observers suggested last night that Mr Pik Botha's statement, taken in conjunction with other recent events, seemed to indicate that South Africa had "had enough" and that if its neighbours did not want to co-operate with her, they could go their own way.

If this speculation is correct it could have serious repercussions for neighbouring states as far as labour, transport and other issues are concerned.

Mr Botha's statement on Mozambique was prompted by remarks by President Joaquim Chissano after talks with the French Foreign Minister.

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From page 1

Mr Chissano said South Africa's offer to participate in a Southern African "summit" was pointless until there had been further changes in South Africa.

Mr Botha said: "In view of President Chissano's stand, the South African government has come to the conclusion that such a conference would indeed not have much hope of success before certain changes have taken place in Mozambique.

"For example, that country has never had an election and it is also becoming increasingly important that the Mozambique government should give attention to the security issue in Mozambique before such a conference can take place."

Reacting to remarks about South Africa's support for the MNR, he said it was known that

Mr Chissano told the Bavarian Prime Minister, Dr Frans Josef Strauss, that South African elements were not the prime source of support for the MNR.

He had listed support from Portugal, France, Brazil and other countries as the most important.

In a communiqué on the latest fighting in southern Angola, the Luanda Defence Ministry said Angolan casualties in the battle, begun last Sunday, were 25 dead and 36 wounded, with five Soviet-built Angolan army tanks destroyed.

The claims were dismissed by the SADF, though it was admitted that another captured South African soldier, Lance Corporal William Arthur Frederick Price, 19, had died in Angola, bringing to five the number of deaths of servicemen announced by the SADF this week.

SA corporal dies in accident in Angola

Another South African soldier, Lance-Corporal William Arthur Frederick Price (19), has been killed in Angola, this time apparently in an accident involving an "explosive device".

Corporal Price was killed on Wednesday in south-eastern Angola when an explosive device he was handling detonated, the Defence Force said yesterday. No further details were given and the type of device involved was not stated.

Corporal Price is the fifth South African soldier to die in Angola

since the start of the weekend. He is survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs A Price, of Meeu Street, East Lynn, Pretoria.

Angola claimed yesterday it had driven back a big South African offensive near Cuito Cuanavale, killing over 70 South African troops and downing two planes in a four-day battle, Sapa-Reuters reports.

It said 25 government soldiers had been killed and five tanks destroyed before the 7 000 South African troops were repulsed.

The SADF said it had nothing to add to Defence Force chief General Jannie Geldenhuys's statement on February 16 "except to point out that Unita has already made a statement... on their victory in a 10-hour battle in southern Cuando Cubango province".

● UN Secretary-General Mr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar arrived in Luanda yesterday for talks with Angolan leaders expected to centre on the presence of South African troops in Angola.

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UN reiterates plea for aid to Angola

LISBON — The United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, has issued a call for an international conference to provide aid for rural residents uprooted in Southern Angola by an ongoing South African military incursion.

The Angolan state-run news agency Angop, reported Dr De Cuellar announcing plans for the aid conference, after a day-long visit to the Angolan capital of Luanda and talks with the Angolan President, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, on the fighting in the provinces of Cuando-Cubango and Cunene.

According to the Angop report, Dr De Cuellar suggested that the conference be held after the upcoming release of a field report on the South African military presence in the area.

The information was gathered by a UN study group that travelled to the two troubled provinces last December.

Dr De Cuellar termed war-related hardship in the region as being

“quite severe”, and said primary aid efforts should centre on providing health care, farming and assuring a supply of fresh drinking water to the local population.

“Without these measures,” he said, “it will not be possible to distribute emergency aid, and the Angolan authorities will not be able to meet the critical necessities of the affected population.”

On Wednesday, the Angolan defense ministry issued a statement claiming that government forces had repelled a South African drive on the Cuando-Cubango city of Cuito Cuanavale earlier in the week. Angola claimed they killed over 60 South African soldiers, while losing 25 of their own in the four-day battle.

An Angop editorial then repeated earlier charges that South Africa had been sending troop reinforcements into the region, despite a United Nations Security Council resolution in December calling for a full South African withdrawal from Angolan territory.

Angola estimates that the present South African troop strength in the country is 7 000.

South African authorities admitted in November that they had sent their troops into the re-



DR JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

gion to help the Angolan rebel movement Unita, (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), fight off an offensive by government forces and Cuban support troops.

On December 5, Pretoria announced it had begun its withdrawal from Angola, but South African military sources

announced earlier this week that five South African soldiers had died in recent Angolan fighting.

Mr Dos Santos' Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government, has repeatedly accused the South Africans of pushing troops into east and north Angola since December, in an effort to create a Unita-run buffer state.

Regional peace talks brokered by the United States have been stalled for years by conflicting demands by South Africa and Angola.

South Africa has demanded that the Angolan government send home the 40 000 Cuban troops in the country and agree to negotiate a power-sharing accord with Unita.

Angola agreed last month to send home the Cubans, once South Africa and the United States halt aid to Unita, and once all South African attacks against Angola are stopped and South Africa agrees to grant independence to Namibia - Sapa AP

South Africa's patience wears

W/Argus

20/2/88

SA's long guns put pressure on Angolans

by JOAO SANTA RITA
Argus Africa News Service
JOHANNESBURG. — South African troops were this week involved in a major battle around the ghost town of Cuito Cuanavale as thousands of Angolan government troops tried to ease the pressure of the long-range G-5 and G-6 guns which have almost destroyed the strategic military post.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of soldiers have died since last year in the battle around the town, but informed sources said this week the irony was that neither South Africa nor the rebel movement Unita want to occupy it.

The sources said that three or possibly four Angolan army brigades, each with about 1 500 men, were fighting with their backs to the Cuito River facing South Africa's long-range artillery and thousands of Unita soldiers.

"Ghost town"

"The Unita and South African positions are about 20 kilometres from the Angolan defensive positions and from there they can easily shell Cuito Cuanavale with their G-5 and G-6 guns," the sources said.

"Cuito Cuanavale is now a ghost town and no one lives there."

The Angolan and Cuban command for the sixth military region, which includes Cuito Cuanavale, was withdrawn to a position about 20km to the north on the road between the town and the important military town of Menongue.

The sources said it seemed that Angolan government troops had tried to push the South African and Unita positions farther east.

"If they can push them eastwards then Cuito Cuanavale will be out of range of the guns," they said.

The sources said it was wrong to assume that South Africa and Unita wanted to take Cuito Cuanavale.

Pretoria and Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels were interested in keeping the town as "an abcess" to draw Angolan troops from other parts of the country.

"The strategic interest lies to the north along the Benguela railway and it is there that within the next few weeks there could be major developments," they said.

On Monday the Chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said Unita had achieved "resounding successes".

On Wednesday Unita said it had killed 92 Angolan government troops and 17 Cubans in a 10-hour battle near Cuito Cuanavale.

Angola's government also reported fierce fighting in the area this week, saying that both sides had heavy casualties.

Angola said on Thursday it had driven back a big South African offensive near Cuito Cuanavale in a four-day battle.

More than "70 South African soldiers were killed, two planes were shot down and more than 20 tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed in the fighting," the Angolan Defence Ministry said in a communiqué carried by the news agency Angop.

Giving rare details of its own casualties, the ministry said 25 government soldiers had been killed and five tanks destroyed before 7 000 South African troops were repulsed.

Fresh fighting

The offensive which began on Sunday was over but Pretoria was putting in more reinforcements and fresh fighting could be expected, said Angop in a report monitored in Lisbon.

In December General Geldenhuys said that South Africa was withdrawing its troops from Angola in a manner taking into account "operational circumstances".

This week he said the withdrawal was taking longer than expected and added that operational advantages announced last year could not be sacrificed.

He warned that to protect these advantages it was necessary to take "limited offensive action by the Defence Force from time to time to safeguard the operational advantages".

by GERALD L'ANGE
Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — The angry flare-up in the war of words across South Africa's borders in the past week indicates a significant hardening in Pretoria's attitude to the frontline states.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha's unusually sharp reaction to government rhetoric from Harare and Maputo suggests that Pretoria is losing patience with its unfriendly neighbours.

A skunk it might be in the eyes of the rest of the world — but in its own eyes South Africa is a regional power and it clearly is determined to act like one.

It is partly in this capacity that South Africa is sending its troops to fight in Angola — currently in the action around the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, in which the deaths of four SADF soldiers were announced this week.

And it is partly in its role of regional power that Pretoria has taken an increasingly nonsense stand towards the frontline states.

The harsh exchanges with Zimbabwe and Mozambique indicate a sharp deterioration in relations with South Africa, although it remains to be seen whether this will persist.

But the exchanges seem to signal a South African attitude that is becoming increasingly hard-nosed.

Thus when South Africa protested to Zimbabwe after ANC insurgents, allegedly from Zimbabwe, attacked a farmhouse near Messina on February 13 and Harare's Information Minister dismissed the allegation as "a pack of lies" Mr Botha responded strongly.

Offhandedness

"South Africa will not tolerate continued offhandedness on matters which profoundly affect the security of South Africa," he said.

He warned that in future the Republic "could be forced to take the necessary steps itself."

By this he clearly meant steps against ANC insurgents seen to be operating from Zimbabwe. It was strong language by any diplomatic measure.

Through the system of verbal semaphore that is understood in capitals around the world, Zimbabwe has clearly got the message: Next time we may — and almost certainly will — strike back across the border.

Pretoria has since made it clear that while it wants harmonious relations with Zimbabwe and all its neighbours it will not shrink from hostilities

against them if they invite action.

Mozambique received equally short shrift a few days later when President Joaquim Chissano rejected the offer of a regional conference by President Botha, saying there could be no such summit until there had been changes in the Republic's policies.

"The South African Government has had enough of this hypocrisy," Foreign Minister Botha stormed, and virtually withdrew the offer of a regional conference as far as Mozambique was concerned.

He said there was no point to such a meeting until Mozambique itself made changes within its own borders.

He obliquely pointed to the fact that the Frelimo government has never held a fully-democratic election and is unable to defeat the insurgent movement that is fighting a war to force it to respect democracy.

Saying that Maputo had privately contradicted its public claim that the Republic was the biggest backer of the Renamo rebels, Mr Botha warned that South Africa would in future "expose Mozambique's hypocrisy at every opportunity".

He thus appears to have told Maputo that the diplomatic gloves are now off and Pretoria will no longer keep a discreet silence when it thinks the Frelimo government is double-dealing.

Get respect

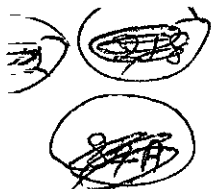
Mr Botha's outburst ignored the fact that the situation he slammed in Mozambique had existed when the offer of a regional conference was first made — and nothing had changed except that President Chissano had demanded reform in South Africa before the offer could be accepted.

What clearly angered Pretoria was Mozambique's refusal to accept Pretoria's policy of gradual reform and meanwhile negotiate regional issues of common concern.

Mozambique, like Zimbabwe, has refused to treat South Africa as the regional power. It obviously is Pretoria does not like it and obviously has decided that if it cannot get negotiation it will at least get some respect.

This does not mean that it will give up its efforts to improve relations with its neighbours. But it is doing so primarily as the regional power, a concept that is held not only by the politicians in Pretoria but also by the military leaders who influence their decisions.

It is as the regional power



Thin

SA will hit back, Malan warns after farm, bank blasts

that South Africa is approaching the issue of settlement in SWA/Namibia and Angola — and it is possibly encouraged in this approach by what it sees as the increasing irrelevance of the United States in this particular issue and in Southern Africa in general.

For more than six months South African forces have been engaged in fighting in Angola on a scale unprecedented since their first brief invasion and withdrawal in 1976.

The announcement of the death of the four soldiers in the Cuito Cuanavale action comes after Angolan claims that South African troops have long been fighting alongside the Unita rebels to deny government forces the use of the town and its strategic air base.

SADF chief General Jannie Geldenhuys has insisted that South African troops are withdrawing from Angola but under "operational" circumstances — ensuring that in the process Unitas lose none of the advantages gained in the recent fighting.

The South African involvement in the Cuito Cuanavale battle may have been substantial and certainly has been effective, with the ultra-long-range G5 guns apparently playing a decisive role.

The objective seems to be to prevent the Cuban and Soviet-backed MPLA forces from launching another offensive against Unita this year and to increase the pressure on the MPLA to negotiate a settlement with Unita.

by DAVID BRAUN
Weekend Argus Political Staff
MESSINA. — The South African Government yesterday shook a clenched fist at the African National Congress and the frontline states, saying: "Enough is enough, next time we send in our troops".

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, were reacting to last week's rocket attack on a farmhouse on the banks of the Limpopo river, and to yesterday's attack on First National Bank at Oshakati.

Mr Pik Botha effectively declared that South Africa's regional detente policy was dead.

And General Malan vowed to "eliminate" the ANC wherever it might be.

Follow-up

The next time terrorists crossed the border South Africa would take follow-up action, he said.

The Ministers were speaking on the swollen banks of the Limpopo at the scene of the attack on a farmhouse outside Messina.

They were accompanied by General Georg Meiring, Officer Commanding Northern Transvaal Command, farmers and a group of political and military correspondents.

They inspected the scene of the attack and walked to the river to look across the border at Zimbabwe.

News of the Oshakati attack reached them while they were there.

General Malan said that he and Mr Botha had come for the sake of the South African people. More than the lives of the farmers was at stake, he said.

"We are not against Zimbabwe as such. But I have made a public statement that wherever the ANC may be in Africa we will do the necessary.

"I'm afraid we'll have to

think in terms of crossing the river next time, and not withholding our troops," he said.

Given chance

Mr Botha said it was important to point out that Zimbabwe had been given a chance. South Africa had urged Zimbabwe to try to find those responsible for the rocket attack.

The response had been that South Africa was telling a pack of lies, and the whole matter had been treated as a joke, Mr Botha said.

"The SA Government has now had enough of this. We have just had enough."

Mr Botha said later there should be no mistake about the Government's feelings towards South Africa's neighbours.

"We have repeatedly invited them to talk to us to sort out our problems in peace. Now they have demonstrated that they are not interested. They think we are going to lean over backwards until we fall over," he said.

"As far as I'm concerned there'll be no more talk of a regional conference, not from our side. It's up to them to take the initiative."

"We are no longer interested in the neighbouring states. We are going to get on with our own business and stabilise our situation — and we will succeed."

"No peace"

Earlier Mr Botha said there would not be peace and prosperity in Southern Africa while there was violence such as the rocket attack and the Oshakati incident.

He said: "We will have to act against the violence, even if it means more boycotts and sanctions.

"If we have more boycotts and sanctions, which we do not want, it will hurt our economy and delay our economic recovery. But to give in to pressure of this kind (of violence), means

the whole of Southern Africa will be governed by violence," he said.

Mr Botha and General Malan made direct appeals to the ordinary people of Zimbabwe to resist terrorists using their territory to cross into South Africa.

Mr Botha said it was in these people's interests to stop such terrorists or they would have to pay the price.

General Malan said he had nothing against the people of Zimbabwe.

"But there is one thing I will do," he said. "Wherever the ANC is we will eliminate it. If Zimbabweans find themselves in between then I feel very sorry for them."

General Malan said he would investigate extending the bounty system, whereby rewards could also be paid to Zimbabweans for information which led to the capture of terrorists.

Bank
African
In the
Members

know him.

The Strangler is not believed to be "formally" mentally ill. His method of killing is too systematic and successful, his seductions too slick, say psychologists.

He fitted the psychological pattern of a homosexual paedophile, with bizarre and violent sexual fantasies

neral on an inauspicious day," said a Tokyo local government spokesman. "Even though nobody really believes in it, we still try to respect tradition."

But the press protested, and yesterday the city spokesman said three women would be able to cover the March 5 competition

lands and in West Germany.

Among the other items on show were ergonomically designed personal load-carrying equipment with webbing 15 percent lighter when wet; a helmet of ballistic bylon giving twice the protection of the steel model, and a bayonet which incorporates a bottle

years occur
In the first 40 days of year, 44 murders took place, the District of Columbia, diamond-shaped heart of Washington which has a population of only 620 000. This was a per cent increase over same period last year. All the killings were in the city

Am. Trip 20/2/88

UN calls for aid to war-torn Angolan residents



Mr Perez de Cuellar

LISBON. — United Nations Secretary-General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar has called for an international conference to provide aid for rural residents uprooted in southern Angola by an ongoing war, the Angolan state-run news agency Angop reported.

Mr Perez de Cuellar announced plans for the aid conference at the end of a day-long visit to Luanda on Thursday, where he had talks with Angolan President Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos on the fighting in southern Cuando-Cubango and Cunene provinces.

Mr Perez de Cuellar suggested the conference be held after the release of a UN report on the South African military presence in the area, Angop said.

The UN secretary-general said war-related hardship in the region was "quite severe", and that primary aid efforts should centre on providing health care, farming and assuring a supply of fresh drinking water to the local population.

"Without these measures," Mr Perez de Cuellar said, "it will not be possible to distribute emergency aid, and the Angolan authorities will not be able to meet the critical needs of the affected population."

— Sapa-AP

[The following text is a very faint and illegible scan of a document, possibly a list or a set of data, with some faint words like 'RECEIVED' and 'DATE' visible.]

SA jets blast Swapo's camps deep in Angola



Malan terror warning as bank bomb kills 18

REVENGE!

by DE WET POTGIETER and DRIES VAN HEERDEN

SAAF fighter jets on a revenge mission yesterday blasted Swapo bases deep in Angola. And neighbouring states have been warned: More strikes may follow.

Two waves of Mirages and Impalas struck at targets near Lubango and Ongiva only hours after the Oshakati bank bomb carnage.

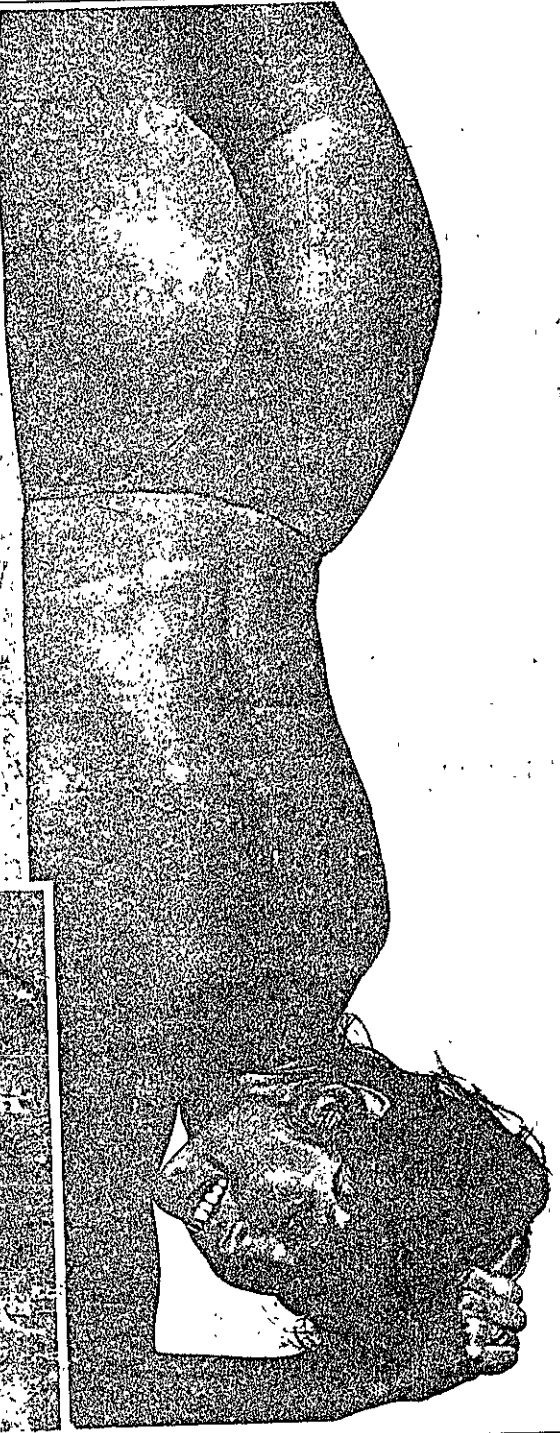
The attack — one of the bloodiest revenge air raids in the bitter bush war — followed hard on Defence Minister Magnus Malan's grim-faced warning in a snap visit to the Zimbabwean border that "enough is enough".

At the same time he hinted at hot pursuit raids against insurgents operating out of neighbouring countries. General Malan said yesterday that the Government was determined to cut out the cancer of terrorism at its roots — in training camps and bases.

"We hold nothing against the people of the neighbouring countries but they, too, should be alert to the danger to which they expose themselves should they assist terrorists in any way."

The Angolan raids top a week of plinking regional relations which has seen the Foreign Minister Pk Bohara engage in a war of words with Harare, come in a rocket attack on an isolated farm house in South Africa by guerrillas allegedly operating out of Zimbabwe.

Sharon van Zanten, whose body offended SAA and 'right, how it appears in the ad



Sharon's bottom is too much for SAA

Pictorial: HORACE POTTER

THE first salve in the Government's war on "permissiveness" were fired last week. SAA dumped a national advertisement for its Rio flight which showed the pert posterior of a beautiful model — because it was "too suggest-

ever its insistence that it will take part in a regional peace conference only when South Africa changes offices

Drugs king

THE KING



training camps and bases.
 "We hold nothing against the people of the neighbouring countries but they, too, should be alert to the danger to which they expose themselves should they assist terrorists in any way."

The Angolan raids top a week of plunging regional relations which has seen:

- Foreign Minister Pik Botha engaged in a war of words with Harare over a rocket attack on an isolated farmhouse in South Africa by guerrillas allegedly operating out of Zimbabwe.

- Mozambique slammed by Pretoria over its insistence that it will take part in a regional peace conference only when South Africa changes its domestic policies.

- Angolan charges that South African forces are again locked in combat over the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-central Angola and confirmation by the SADF that another five soldiers have died in fighting.

Bombed

Defence Chief Janjie Geldenhuys yesterday announced that eight Mirage strike aircraft successfully bombed terrorist bases in and around Lubango, a key stronghold of the MPLA on the Benguela railway line.

A second wave of attacks was launched with five Impala fighters against Ongiva, just north of the Namibian border. It was from here that Swapo initiated a number of attacks on the civilian population in Namibia. Gen Geldenhuys claimed.

All South African fighters returned safely.

OSHAKATI HORROR

Picture special: P11

Lubango is more than 300km north of the Namibian border and houses, according to the Defence Force, some of the most important Swapo training bases in Angola.

The prime targets were the Tobias Hainyeko Training Centre and a Swapo holding area about 10km west of the town. Here Swapo terrorists receive training in, among other things, the handling of explosives, Gen Geldenhuys said.

The attacks were reprisals for the biggest bomb blast in Namibian history which rocked the small border town of Oshakati at lunch on Friday.

The bomb, which ripped through a crowded First National Bank building, left 18 people dead and 31 severely injured.

Rushed

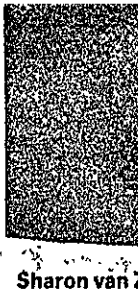
Three victims rushed to H F Verwoerd hospital in Pretoria - Mrs W Carstens, 41, Mr Lionel Dempers, 30, and Mrs E Lamprecht, 49 - are "satisfactory".

Mr Dempers' left leg was amputated below the knee. Mrs Carstens is being treated for burns and shrapnel wounds, and Mrs Lamprecht has a laceration of the skull.

Two victims admitted to 1 Military Hospital at Voortrekkerhoogte - Mrs C Teutge and Mrs J Human - are "serious".

Gen Geldenhuys warned that "the security forces will not hesitate to act in the country's security interests

□ To Page 2



Sharon van Zyl

Drugs Palazzolo backed

By BILL

HIGH-FLYING Mafia drug boss Palazzolo had extensive connections with National Party figures.

Before the May general elections he was at the receptions after political rallies which were attended by at least 100 people.

He also threw an election night victory party for National Party workers.

The double life of the convicted heroin dealer who skipped Switzerland and was ushered into the Ciskei, courtesy of National Party MP Peet de Pontes and East London Mayor Robert de Lange, emerged this week.

Mr De Pontes and Mr De Lange have admitted meeting the Italian vice chief in a Swiss prison and then arranging for him to take up permanent residence in the Ciskei.

Both men insist, however, that they did not know he was in jail for drug trafficking.

The revelations have shocked the public of controversy-plagued East London, where claims of a secret National Party caucus in local politics and finance have long been in circulation.

Implicated

Palazzolo was arrested by the SA Police and deported to complete his sentence in Switzerland.

But now: ● The Ciskei Government has cut all business ties with members of East London's National Party circle implicated in dealings with the drug pusher.

● Mr De Pontes has had a meeting with President Botha to explain himself.

● The promising career of the young MP is now on the line - some elements of the Cape NP are pressing for disciplinary action against the man who now bitterly claims he was used by Palazzolo.

In East London, the involvement with Palazzolo of the powerful National Party supporting the De Lange dynasty has brought calls on the mayor to resign.

"Why should I? I would if I had committed a crime," was his rejoinder in an interview this week.

Mr De Lange last saw his associate and friend, Palazzolo, at Cape Town's airport two weeks ago.

Palazzolo was then in custody pending deportation to Switzerland to finish his sen-

SAAF jets blast Angola

□ From Page 1
 Hamtunga said the organisation denied responsibility for the blast as part of a South African smear campaign. An equally tense atmosphere prevailed on South Africa's heavily militarised border with Zimbabwe after Chief Inspector Klerks Durand, liaison officer for the SFA-Namibian police, said the attack was "typical of Swapo's stated policy to take the war into each and every Namibian home". "We are following up positive leads on the blast and expect to make an early breakthrough," Swapo spokesman Hidipo

said. "We are tired of being labelled the destabilisers of southern Africa. We will act in our own interest regardless of the possibility that the whole world might rise up against us. Boycotts and sanctions might hurt us, but to succumb to violence means that everything will eventually be ruled by violence." "This must stop now." His warning echoed similar utterances against Mozambique. The hectic week brings regional relations to their lowest ebb since pre-Nkomati days.

There are strong expectations that South African forces will enter Zimbabwe if there are further cross-border violations by guerrillas operating out of that country.



TUTU SLAMS VIOLENCE

**SA PRESS
ASSOCIATION**

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu of Cape Town, has condemned the violence of both the Oshakati bomb blast and the revenge attack on alleged Swapo camps in Angola.

He said in a statement issued in Cape Town that "the horrible attack at a bank in Oshakati on Friday and the retaliatory attacks by the SADF on alleged Swapo camps in southern Angola are shocking.

"I condemn the bombing at Oshakati without equivocation, since all violence is evil, whether it is the violence of a military occupation of your motherland or that used by people fighting against such an occupation.

Tit-for-tat

"I am equally appalled at the tit-for-tat action of a government which espouses Christian principles in launching what is openly described as revenge attack. It is absolutely horrifying that the deaths of innocents

should be followed up by an aerial attack which almost inevitably means more innocents will die.

"The killing of the past few days is all the more distressing because the war in Namibia is so unnecessary. Ten years ago, the United Nations Security Council laid down a formula — in Resolution 435 — for free and fair elections which has widespread support.

"The major obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 435 is the South African Government's insistence on linking it with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Even a person such as Mr Justice Victor Hiemstra, formerly of the Transvaal bench and chief Justice of Bophuthatswana, has described the linkage as 'wholly unnecessary.'

"Judge Hiemstra says that the South African Government should get out of Namibia. They should follow his advice and remove any possible justification for violence in the country," Bishop Tutu said.— Sapa.

PROFESSOR

HOPITE HUT

RESEARCHER

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Playing the Soviet card in Angola

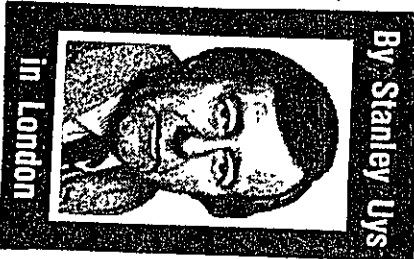
D1D 27-1-1988

end up with the best of both worlds. It should be noted here that the settlement terms have changed in one very important respect. Pretoria has de-linked Namibia from a settlement. There is no guarantee now that if the Cubans withdraw from Angola, Pretoria will automatically accept Security Council Resolution 435 and prepare for UN supervised elections and the installation of a Swapo government. Pretoria has made it absolutely clear that it will not countenance a Swapo government in Windhoek.

There are indications from Lunda that the MPLA might swallow a deal with Unita, but not with Savimbi himself. If this is the case, a peace settlement depends on one of two developments: either Pretoria continues to 'soften up' Luanda until it is ready to accept Savimbi in a 'government of national reconciliation'.

Pretoria, but to Washington. The wider consideration of détente with the US is all-important.

A third point is that the Soviet Union has already lost ground in the region. It is on the way out in Mozambique, and it carries little influence in these days of economic distress in the other front line states. Except for Angola, it is in Angola that the Soviet Union will make its stand. If it is not to suffer eventually a humiliating withdrawal from the whole southern African region.



Similarly, the Cubans will resist withdrawal of their troops from Angola. If withdrawal is presented as a retreat or defeat, Cuba too, has a reputation to uphold.

The lesson then seems to be that if there is to be a peace settlement in southern Africa it will have to start in Angola. This is where the 'Soviet card' might be played, although not in the form in which it is usually discussed.

The Soviet Union, clearly, is in the mood for a southern African settlement. It has had enough of supporting bankrupt clients, who turn out to be unreliable socialists anyway. It knows that even if it provides massive military

In many ways, therefore, the scene is set for a settlement in Angola — except that the key piece is missing. If South Africa can provide this key piece, the settlement will occur. Even if there are hard-line elements in the MPLA government who oppose a settlement, there are other, apparently more powerful, elements who seek one, and all the indications are that the Soviet Union will throw its weight behind them. This is one way for Pretoria to play the 'Soviet card' — through Angola.

The advantage such a settlement would have is that the West, including the US, probably would not be antagonistic towards it. The Americans might be miffed that they have been cut out of the final negotiations, but if the settlement resulted in a Cuban withdrawal, they would still claim it as a major foreign policy success.

This shows the 'Soviet card' in a new light if it is played with the West's approval, not disapproval. Pretoria then will

Luanda, one understands, has made direct approaches to Pretoria for talks, and Pretoria, one understands, has indicated its willingness to talk. But meanwhile the battle continues over Cuito Cuanavale. Perhaps Pretoria's objective is not only a military one of preventing a further Angolan army offensive next year, but also a diplomatic one of softening up Luanda for the tough conditions it will impose in the peace talks.

Another of Pretoria's conditions, probably, will be the removal of Swapo and ANC bases from Angola. The Soviet Union might find it difficult to swallow this condition, because it would virtually put the ANC's armed struggle out of business.

These are still early days, therefore, for Pretoria to play the 'Soviet card'. But in the limited context in which I have described it, it must be seen as one of the cards on the table. When it is played will depend on how hard a bargain Pretoria intends to drive.

From time to time, one of President Botha's ministers announces that South Africa has quit the West and become an African country. Usually, the announcement is made by Mr. P. K. Botha, who has the flamboyance necessary for the occasion.

It is nonsense of course. South Africa has no intention of quitting the West, whatever quitting the West might mean. For better or for worse, the two are locked into each other.

But in a more limited sense, the announcement is not completely illogical. What Mr. Botha really means when he says South Africa is part of Africa is, first, that South Africa will resolve its own problems without 'outside interference' and, second, that it will resolve the regional situation in southern Africa without foreign mediators, peace brokers or conciliators. It will find an 'African solution' which will give it better terms than an externally devised one.

For one thing, it has its support for the ANC and Swapo to consider. It won't just abandon them.

The other point to note is that the Soviet Union does not want to do anything in southern Africa that will bring it into sharp conflict with the West, and particularly with the United States. In fact, the diplomatic approaches it has made in the past year or two for a southern African settlement have been addressed not to

ample being that it will play the Soviet card. I referred to the 'Soviet card' in a recent column. Briefly, what it means is that Pretoria, somehow, will sit down with Moscow and come to an agreement over one or other aspect of the southern African conflict. The West will then be left watching from the sidelines.

Is this realistic? The first point to note is that the Soviet Union has a reputation to uphold, particularly in the Third World, as an enemy of apartheid. It can talk to De Beers behind closed doors about marketing its diamonds, but it can't sit down with P. K. Botha and cosily carve out a southern African peace settlement.

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Angolan claims of SADF losses dismissed by SA

MAPUTO — The Angolan President, Mr Eduardo dos Santos, says 9 000 South African soldiers are stationed in the south of his country, according to a Mozambican national news agency report yesterday.

Mr Dos Santos said at the weekend, after a meeting last week with the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, that 400 tanks and armoured vehicles and about 600 pieces of field artillery were backing up the South African troops.

Mr Dos Santos said that about 7 000 of the South Africans were currently involved in fighting outside the strategic southern city of Cuito Cuanavale.

He also said that the South Africans were trying to seize the town and attribute its fall to Unita, the anti-government guerillas backed by the United States and South Africa.

The leader of the Unita, Dr Jonas Savimbi, said recently that his forces had driven the Cuban- and Soviet-backed Angolan government army out of Cuito Cuanavale, the staging point for annual offensives against Unita positions in the south.

Dr Savimbi has not claimed he had taken the town and has reported several battles with the government forces, which he says have taken place about 20 kms outside the city.

● A South African Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria commented that "wild Angolan claims that 140 South African soldiers have been killed, six aircraft shot down and that there are more than 9 000 soldiers in Angola are blatant propaganda".

"The Defence Force as a matter of policy announces all its operational casualties after the next-of-kin have been informed.

"This policy is common knowledge. It is impossible to conceal operational losses, not to mention 140 of them.

"The Defence Force has no reason to withhold or conceal information about its losses, nor can this be done in the South African society where members of the Defence Force come from all levels of that society.

"These claims are typical examples of the propaganda to which the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, referred in parliament last year.

"He said there appeared to be two leaders in the propaganda campaign, Angop in Angola and Aim in Mozambique."— Sapa-AP

Angola air raid was revenge-plus

CME Times 22/2/88

5 (20)

Defence Correspondent

THE "revenge" air strike on Lubango — the first ever on southern Angola's main military headquarters — was intended not only to express South Africa's anger at the Oshakati blast but also to show the Angolans' much-vaunted air defences could be penetrated, local military observers said yesterday.

"I believe the raid was to demonstrate that in spite of Lubango's heavy air defence screen the South Africans were not just willing to attack it but able to penetrate it," one observer said.

According to the Cape Times Johannesburg correspondent, the SA Defence Force has declined to give further details about the attacks by eight Mirage fighters on Lubango and five Impalas on Ongiva, only hours after Friday's bomb blast at the First National Bank in Oshakati which killed 18 people and wounded 46, some seriously.

Training centre

The Chief of the SADF, General Jannie Geldenhuys, has said the attacks on Swapo bases in and near the two centres were launched to avenge the Oshakati explosion, although Swapo spokesmen have consistently denied the organization had anything to do with the incident.

In a statement after the raids the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said that by launching the attacks South Africa had reaffirmed its determination that no terrorism, violence or revolution should be exported to SA's area of responsibility, adding neighbouring governments had been repeatedly warned and requested not to harbour terrorists.

The targets of the Lubango attacks, the SADF says, were Swapo's most important training centre in Angola, the Tobias Hainyeko Training Centre, and the other was a Swapo holding

centre about 10km away.

Lubango, situated about 300km north of the SWA/Namibian border, is the main military headquarters for southern Angola and the logistic centre which supplies key military bases like Menongue and Cuito Cuanavale. It is also Swapo's main operational headquarters in Angola.

It is believed to be defended by a comprehensive radar and missile network, and as far as is known it has never yet been attacked from the air.

Observers said last night the attack on Lubango was obviously "not meant to cause large-scale damage but to give the Angolans and Swapo a slap in the face.

"The attack does not say much for the Angolans' air defence system — the South Africans seem to have got away without losing any aircraft."

Meanwhile, six of the wounded from Friday's blast are still under treatment at Windhoek hospital.

One of them is Miss Anna Dumeni, daughter of the Bishop of Ovamboland, the Right Reverend Cleophas Dumeni, who according to a hospital spokesman is being treated for 60% flash burns and fractures of both legs.

The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, yesterday condemned both the Oshakati bomb blast and the revenge attack on alleged Swapo camps in Angola as "shocking".

The killing by both sides was "so unnecessary" because the "major obstacle" to free elections in Namibia was "the South African government's insistence on linking (Resolution 435) with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola"

In Johannesburg the South African Catholic Defence League (SACDL) called on Catholic bishops to condemn the bomb blast in Oshakati, requested the bishops to organize nation-wide prayer for the victims of "this cruel act of violence" and called for the

condemnation of "Marxist-inspired" Swapo.

Also in Cape Town, the federal council of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) expressed its "shock and horror".

The indiscriminate killing of innocent men, women and children was a cowardly act that would be condemned by all decent people, the council said.

Dos Santos calls off Zambia visit

LUSAKA. — President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola has cancelled a one-day visit to Zambia because of what officials described as "a grave security situation" in southern Angola.

President Kenneth Kaunda said on Saturday that his Angolan counterpart would be in Lusaka yesterday to discuss bilateral relations. But foreign ministry officials said early yesterday the trip had been postponed apparently because of deteriorating security in southern Angola, where South African troops are backing Unita rebels.

South African aircraft attacked Swapo guerilla bases inside Angola on Saturday in retaliation for the bomb blast which killed 18 people and destroyed a bank in Namibia on Friday.

In Lisbon Unita announced at the weekend that it had killed 16 Angolan soldiers in recent fighting and shot down a fighter plane, killing the Cuban pilot.

Unita also claimed to have captured the town of Luquembo and two army garrisons in central Malange province and to have ambushed a train early this month between the towns of Catete and Botomona in central Luanda province.

The statement gave rebel casualties in recent fighting as two killed and nine wounded. — Sapa-Reuters

SA might still have to play 'Soviet card' over Angola

CAM Times 22/2/88 5

FROM time to time, one of President Botha's ministers announces that South Africa has quit the West and become an African country. Usually, the announcement is made by Mr Pik Botha, who has the flamboyance necessary for the occasion.

It is nonsense, of course. South Africa has no intention of quitting the West, whatever quitting the West might mean. For better or for worse, the two are locked into each other.

But in a more limited sense, the announcement is not completely illogical. What Mr Botha really means when he says South Africa is part of Africa is, first, that South Africa will resolve its own problems without "outside interference", and, second, that it will resolve the regional situation in Southern Africa without foreign mediators, peace brokers or conciliators. It will find an "African solution" which will give it better terms than an externally devised one.

This latter aim is possibly realizable. But it needs to be put into perspective. There has been some wild speculation lately over what Pretoria might or might not achieve, one example being that it will "play the Soviet card".

I referred to the "Soviet card" in a recent column. Briefly, what it means is that Pretoria, somehow, will sit down with Moscow and come to an agreement over one or other aspect of the Southern African conflict. The West will then be left watching from the sidelines.

Is this realistic? The first point to note is that the Soviet Union has a reputation to uphold, particularly in the Third World, as an enemy of apartheid. It can talk to De Beers behind closed doors about marketing its diamonds, but it cannot sit down with Pik Botha and cosily carve out a southern African peace settlement.

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By STANLEY UYS



Dr Jonas Savimbi ... would South Africa ditch him?

suffer eventually a humiliating withdrawal from the whole Southern African region.

Similarly, the Cubans will resist withdrawal of their troops from Angola, if withdrawal is presented as a retreat or defeat. Cuba, too, has a reputation to uphold.

The lesson then seems to be that if there is to be a peace settlement in Southern Africa it will have to start in Angola. This is where the "Soviet card" might be played, although not in the form in which it is usual-

In many ways, therefore, the scene is set for a settlement in Angola — except that the key piece is missing. If South Africa can provide this key piece, the settlement will occur. Even if there are hardline elements in the MPLA government who oppose a settlement, there are other, apparently more powerful, elements who seek one, and all the indications are that the Soviet Union will throw its weight behind them. This is one way for Pretoria to "play the Soviet card" — through Angola, not directly

Cuban withdrawal, they would still claim it as a major foreign policy success.

This shows the "Soviet card" in a new light: if it is played with the West's approval, not disapproval. Pretoria then will end up with the best of both worlds.

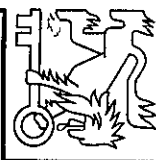
It should be noted here that the settlement terms have changed in one very important respect. Pretoria has delinked Namibia from a settlement. There is no guarantee now that if the Cubans withdraw from Angola, Pretoria will automatically accept Security Council Resolution 435 and prepare for UN supervised elections and the installation of a Swapo government. Pretoria has made it absolutely clear that it will not countenance a Swapo government in Windhoek.

The key to a settlement in Angola is Pretoria's insistence that Unita must be absorbed into a "government of national reconciliation" in Luanda. As Dr Andre du Pisani (SA Institute of International Affairs) sees it, this is Pretoria's non-negotiable condition.

Luanda, one understands, has made direct approaches to Pretoria for talks, and Pretoria, one understands further, has indicated its willingness to talk. But meanwhile the battle continues over Cuito Cuavale. Perhaps Pretoria's objective is not only a military one of preventing a further Angolan army offensive next year, but also a diplomatic one of "softening up" Luanda for the tough conditions it will impose in the peace talks.

There are indications from Luanda that the MPLA might swallow a deal with Unita, but not with Savimbi himself. If this is the case, a peace settlement depends on one of two developments: either Pretoria ditches Savimbi, or it continues to "soften up" Luanda until it is ready to accept Savimbi in a "government of national reconciliation". Another of Pretoria's conditions, probably, will be the removal of Swapo and ANC bases from Angola. The Soviet Union might find it difficult to swallow this condition, because it would virtually put the ANC's armed struggle out of business.

These are still early days, therefore, for Pretoria to play the "Soviet card". But in the limited context in which I have described it, it must be seen as one of the cards on the table. When it is played will depend on how hard a bargain Pretoria intends to drive.



Prayer at Temple Israel.
to re-
Saturday (am): Acting Mayor to start
the Ohlsson's Peninsula Marathon from
h and the Green Point Stadium; (pm): Acting
Mayor and Mayorress to attend the Jaycee
Acting Mayor's
Project the Podium Hall, Civic Centre.
Junior Town Council inaugural ball in



Angola claims 140 SA troops have died

Angola's President Eduardo dos Santos said at the weekend that 140 South African soldiers had died in fighting in southern Angola.

He also said there were 9 000 SA troops in Angolan territory and that his forces had shot down six SA aircraft.

The SA Defence Force has dismissed the claims as an example of the "blatant propaganda" disseminated by Angola's news agency, Angop, and the Mozambican agency Aim.

Angola says: SADF says:

Angola's President Eduardo dos Santos says 9 000 South African soldiers are stationed in the south of his country, according to a report released yesterday by Mozambique's news agency, AIM.

Mr dos Santos said on Saturday, after a meeting last week with UN Secretary-General Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, that 400 tanks and armoured vehicles and about 600 pieces of field artillery are backing up the South African troops.

AIM said its report was based on an account of Mr dos Santos's speech in Luanda, carried by the Angolan government news agency, Angop.

Mr dos Santos said about 7 000 South Africans are involved in fighting outside the city of Cuito Cuanavale.

DRIVEN OUT

Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi has said recently that his forces have driven the Angolan army out of Cuito Cuanavale, the staging point for annual offensives against Unita.

Mr Savimbi has not claimed he has taken the town and has reported several battles about 20 km outside the city.

Mr dos Santos identi-

fied eight battalions of South African forces he says are in Angola: The 32, 52, 53, 54, 55, 61, 101 and 20 battalions. The 32 and 101 battalions were made up largely of black Namibians and former Angolans. The SADF did not announce deaths of members of those battalions, although it said it announced the deaths of all South African soldiers.

VIOLATIONS

Mr dos Santos said that in the last 45 days South Africa had carried out 40 violations of Angolan airspace, 16 air raids, 67 artillery bombardments, and three ground attacks.

He said Angola had lost 33 dead and 54 wounded among its armed forces, and five civilian dead and 10 wounded. He said five pieces of Angolan artillery had been destroyed and 12 tanks and armoured vehicles were unaccounted for.

In addition to losses suffered by Unita, which Mr dos Santos did not enumerate, the president said the South Africans had lost 140 dead, six of their aircraft had been shot down and 47 tanks and armoured vehicles destroyed. — Sapa-AP.

Wild Angolan claims recently that 140 South African soldiers had been killed, that six aircraft had been shot down and that there were more than 9 000 SA soldiers in Angola, were blatant propaganda, South African Defence Headquarters in Pretoria said yesterday.

An SADF statement said: "The Defence Force as a matter of policy announces all its operational casualties after the next of kin have been informed."

"It is impossible to conceal operational losses, not to mention 140 of them, as is claimed. The Defence Force has no reason to withhold or conceal information about its losses, nor can this be done in South African society where members of the Defence Force come from all levels of that society.

"These claims are typical examples of the propaganda to which the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, referred in Parliament last year. He said there appeared to be two leaders in the propaganda campaign, Angop in Angola and AIM in Mozambique.

"The facts are that the Defence Force main-

tained a limited presence in southern Angola and this presence primarily concerned South Africa's interests. This was clearly stated by the Minister of Defence in October 1987. This was also confirmed by the Defence Force in a statement in November last year that the Defence Force took limited action in support of Unita and in South Africa's own interests.

WITHDRAWAL

"In December the Chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Celdenhuis, stated that the process of withdrawing from Angola had begun. To place the correct perspective on the situation, the Chief of the Defence Force also pointed out at the time that this was being done under operational circumstances and that extreme care had to be taken to ensure the safety of the soldiers involved.

"In addition the Minister of Defence pointed out in a television interview that the determining factor in such a withdrawal is achieving all the pre-determined military objectives and then securing these before the withdrawal can be finally completed." — Sapa

SA penetrates defence network to hit Swapo

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service

South African Mirage fighter bombers successfully penetrated a sophisticated air defence network when they attacked what the SADF described as Swapo bases near Lubango.

Lubango (formerly Sa da Bandeira) is the main base in a string of bases established by the MPLA government more than halfway across southern Angola with the main purpose of deterring South African attacks.

Most of the MiG23 jet fighters, the most sophisti-

cated plane the Angolans can deploy against the South African Mirages and Cheetahs, are based at Lubango.

The SADF said eight Mirages hit two targets near Lubango and all returned safely.

The success of the South African raid suggested that the Angolan defence line was not as effective as had been thought.

Until recently, the defence line stretched eastwards from the coast to Cuito Cuanavale, but the base at Cuito Cuanavale was believed to have been destroyed by South African long-range G5 cannons during the recent battle to drive the MPLA forces out of the strategic town.

The line was based on the Soviet "umbrella" principle.

Oshakati bomb toll rises to 20

By Brendan Seery,
The Star's Africa
News Service

WINDHOEK — Two more victims of Friday's Oshakati bomb blast have died in the Oshakati State Hospital, bringing the death toll to 20 with 46 injured.

A spokesman for the SWA Police said in Windhoek this morning that the two victims had died over the weekend. Names are not known at this stage, the spokesman added.

A number of the victims of the blast were flown to Windhoek over the weekend for further treatment.

The daughter of Evangelical Lutheran Church bishop Kleopas Dumeni,

Miss Anna Dumeni, is in a critical condition in the intensive care unit of the Windhoek State Hospital.

Five of the Oshakati victims are currently being treated in Windhoek, according to State Hospital superintendent Dr Andreas Obholzer.

A group of Cabinet Ministers who flew up to Oshakati over the weekend was refused permission to see the victims. The black State Hospital at Oshakati is controlled by Mr Peter Kalangu's Owambo administration, long antagonistic towards the transitional government in Windhoek.

Two of the five injured people airlifted to Pretoria after the blast are in a critical but stable condition.

Suspected Oshakati bombers released

By Craig Kotze

Two men held for questioning after last week's killer bomb blast in a bank in Oshakati, Namibia, have been released, a Windhoek police spokesman said yesterday.

The bombing, which killed 20 people and destroyed the First National Bank, sparked heavy South African revenge air strikes on Swapo bases in Angola.

The suspects were detained soon after the blast, but were released after questioning.

Police have vowed to catch the bombers, and feelings are also said to be running high in the black community in the town, many of whom do not believe Swapo was responsible.

Swapo has denied guilt, but the SADF has insisted the organisation was responsible.

The South African Air Force's retaliatory air strikes were made on Swapo's most important training bases in Lubango and Ongiva, about 300 km inside Angola.

Defence Force chief General Jannie Geldenhuys said the attacks were revenge for the Oshakati blast.

All 13 Mirage and Impala fighters used in the strikes returned safely to base. The Defence Force did not say what damage it caused or casualties it inflicted in the raids.

However, the Angolan Defence Ministry said South African aircraft killed several civilians on Saturday morning.

South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan said the strikes were in accordance with South Africa's policy to attack terrorists wherever they were based.

"With this action South Africa reaffirms its determination that no terrorism, violence or revolution should be exported to South Africa's area of responsibility," said General Malan.

Missiles

Each base in the chain consisted of an airstrip for MiGs, sophisticated ground-to-air missiles and radar to detect enemy aircraft and guide the MiGs and missiles in attacking them.

By overlapping, the "umbrellas" gave continuous cover from the Atlantic coast deep into Angolan territory.

SADF clams up about 'revenge attacks'

THE SA Defence Force refused to give further details yesterday about the two "revenge" air strikes on Swapo bases in southern Angola this weekend, hours after the bomb blast at the First National Bank in Oshakati on Friday which killed 18 people and injured 31.

Chief of the SADF General Jannie Goldenhuys said the attacks by eight SAAF Mirage fighters and five Impalas on Swapo bases at Lubango and Ongiva were in revenge for the bomb blast.

Friday SUE RUSSELL 22/2/88

In a statement after the raids Defence Minister Magnus Malan said with this action SA reaffirmed its determination that no terrorism, violence or revolution should be exported to SA's area of responsibility.

"For that reason SA cuts out the cancer of terrorism at its roots — namely training camps and bases."

He added neighbouring governments

had been repeatedly warned and requested not to harbour terrorists.

Lubango is about 300km north of the Namibia border. According to the SADF Swapo's most important training centre in Angola, the Tobias Hainyeko Training Centre, is there. The other target at Lubango was a terrorist holding centre about 10km away.

The attack on Ongiva was carried out

© To Page 2 ➡

KEY	
Gold	
NY Close \$/oz	LON PM \$/oz
445,25	447,25

Tutu slams bank blast, revenge

by the five Impalas at the same time. Swapo, meanwhile, has denied responsibility for Friday's blast, accusing SA of "dirty tricks".

Six of the 31 injured in Friday's blast are being treated at Windhoek Hospital. One of these is Anna Dumeni, daughter of the Bishop of Ovamboland, Cleophas Dumeni.

A hospital spokesman said she was being treated for 60% flash burns and fractures of both legs.

The five other people being treated at Windhoek Hospital are Olivia Kanime, Naomi Mukalele, Frieda Shikongo, Gabriel Haiumba and Abraham Neilda.

According to the spokesman all are being treated for burns.

He said some also had fractures of the lower legs.

A spokesman for the H F Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria said the three victims who were being treated there were all in a satisfactory condition.

She said Lionel Dempers, 30, had to have his badly injured left lower leg and foot amputated on Saturday.

The spokesman said a woman, W Carstens, 41, was being treated for burns to her face and arms and shrapnel wounds.

A second woman, E Lampbrecht, 49, has burn wounds on her face and arms and extensive laceration of the skull.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town has condemned the violence of both the Oshakati bomb blast and the revenge attack on alleged Swapo camps in Angola.

He said in a statement issued in Cape Town yesterday that "the horrible attack at a bank in Oshakati on Friday and

← © From Page 1

yesterday's retaliatory attacks by the SADF on alleged Swapo camps in Southern Angola are shocking.

"I condemn the bombing at Oshakati without equivocation, since all violence is evil, whether it is the violence of a military occupation of your motherland or that used by people fighting against such an occupation.

"I am equally appalled at the tit-for-tat action of a government which espouses Christian principles in launching what is openly described as revenge attack. It is absolutely horrifying that the deaths of innocents should be followed up by an aerial attack which almost inevitably means more innocents will die.

"The killing of the past few days is all the more distressing because the war in Namibia is so unnecessary. Ten years ago, the United Nations Security Council laid down a formula — in Resolution 435 — for free and fair elections which has widespread support.

"The major obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 435 is the South African government's insistence on linking it with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Even a person such as Mr Justice Victor Hiemstra, formerly of the Transvaal Bench and Chief Justice of Bophuthatswana, has described the linkage as 'wholly unnecessary'.

"Judge Hiemstra says the South African government should get out of Namibia. They should follow his advice and remove any possible justification for violence in the country."

TELE	
Stock Exchange	
Indust Box	JSE QV II Index
59,9	1614

5/8/80 22/2/88

FROM time-to-time, one of President Botha's Ministers announces that SA has quit the West and become an African country. Usually, the announcement is made by Pik Botha, who has the flamboyance for the occasion.

It is nonsense, of course. SA has no intention of quitting the West, whatever quitting the West might mean. For better or for worse, the two are locked into each other.

But in a more limited sense, the announcement is not completely illogical. What Pik Botha really means when he says SA is part of Africa is, first, that SA will resolve its own problems without "outside interference," and, second, that it will resolve the regional situation in southern Africa without foreign mediators, peace brokers or conciliators.

It will find an "African solution" which will give it better terms than an externally devised one.

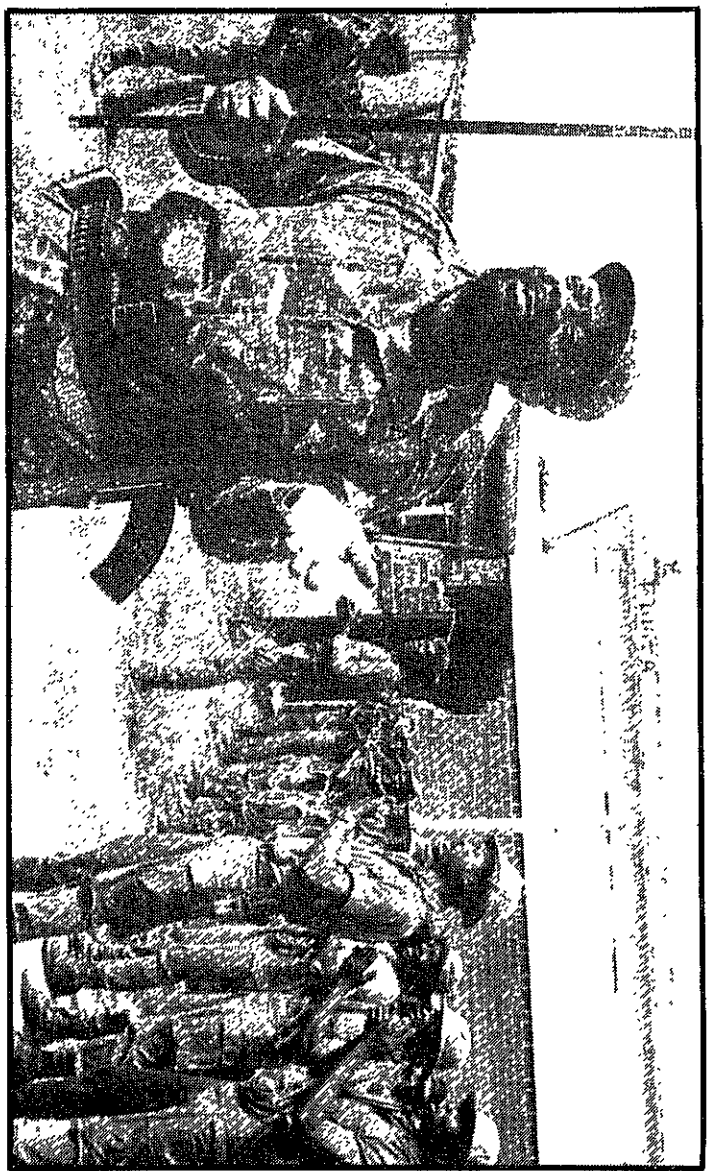
This latter aim is possibly realisable. But it needs to be put into perspective.

There has been some wild speculation lately over what Pretoria might or might not achieve, one example being that it will "play the Soviet card."

I referred to the "Soviet card" in a recent column. Briefly, what it means is that Pretoria, somehow, will sit down with Moscow and come to an agreement over one or other aspect of the southern African conflict. The West will then be left watching from the sidelines.

Is this realistic? The first point to note is that the Soviet Union has a reputation to uphold, particularly in the Third World, as an enemy of apartheid.

It can talk to De Beers behind closed doors about marketing its diamonds, but it cannot sit down with K. B. ... and ...



□ BIG STICK ... Savimbi and his Unita troops. Part of a government of national unity?

Unita the key for Pretoria to play its 'Soviet card'

STANLEY UYS in London

drawal they would still claim it as a major foreign policy success. This shows the "Soviet card" in a new light: if it is played with the West's approval, not disapproval. Pretoria then will end up with the best of both worlds.

It should be noted here that the settlement terms have changed in one very important respect. Pretoria has de-linked Namibia from a settlement.

There is no guarantee now that if the Cubans withdraw from Angola, Pretoria will automatically accept Security Council Resolution 435 and prepare for United Nations-supervised elections and the installation of a Swapo government.

Pretoria has made it absolutely clear that it will not countenance a Swapo government in Windhoek.

The key to a settlement in Angola is Pretoria's insistence that Unita must be absorbed into a "government of national reconciliation" in Luanda.

As Dr Andre du Pisani, of the SA Institute of International Affairs, sees it, this is Pretoria's non-negotiable condition. Luanda, one understands, has made direct approaches to Pretoria for talks, and Pretoria, one understands further, has indicated its willingness to talk.

But meanwhile the battle continues over Cuito Cuanavale. Perhaps Pretoria's objective is not only a military one of preventing a further Angolan army offensive next year, but also a diplomatic one of "softening up" Luanda for the tough conditions it will impose in the peace talks.

There are indications from Luanda that the MPLA might swallow a deal with Unita, but not with Jonas Savimbi himself. If this is the case, a peace settlement depends ...

SECTOR: NON-METALLIC
AREA: SOUTH AFRICA

1. Work Breaks
Minimum lunch
Maximum lunch
Total tea break
Number of tea

2. Maximum length

3. Spreadover
Spreadover hours
Hours of work
Retrenchment
Short time period

4. Overtime
Usual weekday
2nd weekday
Saturday work
Sunday work
Public Holidays
Maximum hours

5. Allowances
Shift allowance
Inconvenience
Clothing allowance
Subsistence allowance
Night shift allowance

6. Paid Leave
Leave days for
Leave days for
Annual sick leave
Annual sick leave

7. Paid Public Holidays
New Years Day
Founders Day
Family Day
Republic Day
Day of the Veteran
Day of Goodwill

8. Piecework etc
Piecework
Skilled/unskilled
Protective Clothing

9. Notice
Notice period
Notice period

10. Trade Union
Closed shop
Union membership
stop Order

Comments: either Pretoria ditches Savimbi or it continues to "soften up" Luanda until it is ready to accept Savimbi in a "government of national reconciliation".

Another of Pretoria's conditions, probably, will be the removal of Swapo and ANC bases from Angola.

The Soviet Union might find it difficult to swallow this condition, because it would virtually put the ANC's armed struggle out of business.

These are still early days, therefore, for Pretoria to play the "Soviet card". But in the limited context in which I have described it, it must be seen as one of the cards on the table.

When it is played will depend on how hard a bargain Pretoria intends to drive.

8 hours

other - apparently more powerful elements who seek one, and all the indications are that the Soviet Union will throw its weight behind them.

This is one way for Pretoria to play the "Soviet card" - through Angola, not directly with the Soviet Union itself.

The settlement which Pretoria offers Angola will have to be acceptable not only to President Dos Santos and his supporters in the MPLA, but also to Moscow. Without Moscow's concurrence, probably, there will be no settlement.

The advantage such a settlement would have is that the West, including the US, probably would not be antagonistic towards it.

The Americans might be miffed that they have been cut out of the final negotiations, but if the settlement resulted in a Cuban withdrawal

bankrupt clients, who turn out to be unreliable socialists anyway, it knows that even if it provides massive military support for Angola it cannot ensure an MPLA victory over the combined Unita-SADF forces; it certainly does not want to tangle with the SADF on a major scale; and there is no evidence whatever that it is prepared to have a direct confrontation with the West over SA.

In many ways, therefore, the scene is set for a settlement in Angola - except that the key piece is missing.

If South Africa can provide this key piece, the settlement will occur. Even if there are headline elements in the MPLA government who oppose a settlement, there are

allowance : Art
Inconvenience Allowance : -
Clothing allowance : -
Subsistence allowance : -
Night shift allowance : -

30 days per 24 months
24 days per 24 months

economic distress in the other Frontline states. Except for Angola, it is in Angola that the Soviet Union will make its stand if it is not to suffer eventually a humiliating withdrawal from the whole southern African region.

Similarly, the Cubans will resist withdrawal of their troops from Angola, if withdrawal is presented as a retreat or defeat. Cuba, too, has a reputation to uphold.

The lesson, then, seems to be that if there is to be a peace settlement in southern Africa it will have to start in Angola. This is where the "Soviet card" might be played, although not in the form in which it is usually discussed.

The Soviet Union, clearly, is in the mood for a southern African settlement. It has had enough of supporting

January : No
February : Yes
March Day : Yes
April Day : No
May Day : Yes
June Day : No

out a southern African peace settlement. For one thing, it has its support for the ANC and Swapo to consider. It won't just abandon them.

The other point to note is that the Soviet Union does not want to do anything in southern Africa that will bring it into sharp conflict with the West, and particularly with the US.

In fact, the diplomatic approaches it has made in the past year or two for a southern African settlement have been addressed not to Pretoria but to Washington.

The wider consideration of détente with the US is all-important. A third point is that the Soviet Union has already lost ground in the region. It is on the way out in Mozambique, and it carries little influence in these days of economic

hour (s)
day (s)

3 more killed in Angola

PRETORIA. — Three South African soldiers were killed in a bombardment of their positions in Angola at the weekend, Defence Force headquarters announced last night.

The three were:

● Sergeant Gerhardus Martinus Maritz, 25, who is survived by his wife, Mrs I Maritz, of Oshakati;

● Corporal Van Zyl Venter, 20, who is survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs A Venter, of Kroonstad; and

● Signalman Jacques de Lange, 19, who is survived by his father, Mr A P de Lange, of Richards Bay, and his mother, Mrs J C Kock, of De Deur.

The SADF had no word yesterday on air force Major Edward Richard Every, 31, whose aircraft was shot down in south-eastern Angola late on Saturday.

An SADF spokesman refused to disclose what type of aircraft was shot down, although informed sources believe it was either a Mirage FI or FIII.

On the heels of the SADF's announcement of the plane being downed, the Angolan news agency, Angop, reported that two Mirage jet fighters were shot down east of Cuito Cuanavale on Saturday.

A Defence Force spokesman re-



Major Edward Every

sponded to the claim by referring to the SADF statement, which noted the loss of only one aircraft.

Angop said the personal effects of Maj Every had been recovered, but did not specify whether he had been captured, nor did it identify the pilot of the other aircraft claimed to have been shot down.

Angola and South Africa continued their war of words yesterday, with Angola claiming battle gains and the Defence Force dismissing these claims as "propaganda".

Angop also reported the Angolan

Defence Ministry as saying MPLA troops had scored "significant gains" in recent battles against South African units and Unita.

Angop also said South African aircraft resumed attacks on Angolan troops east of Cuito Cuanavale at the weekend and staged bombing raids on Ongiva, the capital of neighboring Cunene province, and against Lubango, capital of Huila province.

South African aircraft staged bombing runs along the Ongiva-Tchamutete and Ongiva-Mongua roads causing "countless deaths", according to the the ministry.

Angop also reported Swapo officials denying claims that South African aircraft had bombed two Swapo bases in Angola's Cunene and Huila provinces Saturday, during attacks in revenge for the Oshakati bomb attack.

Asked for comment on the Angolan claims, an SADF spokesman said he had nothing to add to a statement released on February 20 in which the SADF dismissed "wild Angolan claims (as) blatant propaganda".

Meanwhile, the SWA Police have reported that the death toll in the Oshakati blast has risen to 20. — Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuter-AP

Pilot died in Angola, says wife

The wife of downed Air Force pilot Major Edward Every, who was shot down in Angola at the weekend, says she has been told he is dead — although an official SADF statement lists him as missing.

Last night, the SADF said it had nothing to add to its statement. Earlier yesterday Mrs Helga Every she had been told on Saturday that her husband was missing after his plane was shot down in Angola. However, the following day the SADF told her her 31-year-old husband was dead, she said.

The official Angolan news agency, Angop, yesterday said two South African aircraft had been shot down and identified one of the downed pilots as Major ER Every, saying his personal effects had been recovered.

'Another goodbye' was final

By Clyde Johnson, Lowveld Bureau

HOEDSPRUIT — "Mommy, please don't cry, daddy has taken his sore with him and he won't be coming back."

Those were the words of five-year-old Frederick, son of Hoedspruit fighter-pilot, Major Edward Richard Every, whose aircraft was shot down during a battle with Angolan forces at the weekend.

Mrs Helga Every said yesterday she had been informed of her husband's death on Sunday.

"I saw Edward for the last time on Wednesday night. He had spent a lot of time away in recent months and it was just like saying goodbye for a few days or a week, but this time it was forever."

A memorial service will be held later this week.

3 more SA men die in war-torn Angola

The Star's Africa News Service

Three more South African soldiers have died in Angola amid reports of a new flare-up in fighting around the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale.

SADF headquarters said the three had died during a bombardment on their positions in Angola during the weekend.

Yesterday, the SADF announced that a plane had been shot down during the weekend in south-eastern Angola and that its pilot, Major, Edward Every, was missing.

The Angolan authorities later claimed to have shot down two Mirages and to have captured "documentation of one of the South African pilots, named as a Major ER Every".

The SADF denied that two planes had been shot down in Angola.

Since September, when heavy fighting started in south-eastern Angola, the SADF has lost four planes in combat missions.

The Angolan authorities have confirmed there has been heavy fighting about 20 km from Cuito Cuanavale and said South African motorised units launched a fresh push against Cuito Cuanavale on Saturday.

Informed sources

Earlier, informed sources said three, or possibly four, Angolan brigades were facing rebel Unita and South African troops next to the Cuito River 20 km east of Cuito Cuanavale.

The sources said the Angolans might try to bring another brigade across the Cuito River before trying to launch an attack against the Unita and South African forces.

This attack would be aimed at pushing South Africa's long range

G-5 and G-6 guns back out of range of Cuito Cuanavale.

The Angolan authorities said that during the weekend the South African Air Force bombed the villages of Longa and Balva Longa in south-eastern Angola.

Longa is on the main road between Cuito Cuanavale and observers say the SADF might have been in action against reinforcements moving towards Cuito Cuanavale.

It is also known that the Cuban and Angolan command for the Sixth Military Region, previously stationed in Cuito Cuanavale, had moved to new and safer positions out of range of the G-5 and G-6 guns.

The Angolan defence ministry has confirmed South African raids against the towns of Lubango and Ongiva in south-western and southern Angola respectively, which South Africa said were in reprisal for the bomb attack in Oshakati which caused 29 deaths.

'SAAF strikes were on target and effective'

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — The South African Air Force raids on Swapo targets in Lubango and Ongiva in southern Angola were on target and effective, according to information available to the South West Africa Territory Force.

A spokesman for the force reacted to a statement yesterday in which Swapo said it had suffered no losses or damage in the strikes, carried out by Mirage fighters at Lubango and Impala planes at Ongiva. The Angolan government said after the raids that only civilians had been killed.

The SWATF spokesman said Swapo was taking advantage of the confusion that followed an air raid, and also the fact that independent sources, such as journalists, would have difficulty in verifying their

claims to have suffered no losses.

The military command in Windhoek announced yesterday that a long-range artillery bombardment of Ongiva, in the wake of the air strikes — on late Saturday night and early Sunday morning — had also been "on target" and effective.

Meanwhile, in Oshakati — scene of Friday's devastating bomb — things are returning to normal, with the First National Bank carrying on its business from three sub-branches while alternative premises are prepared to replace the destroyed main branch in the town.

According to the bank's Namibian head, Mr Hannes Cloete, the Oshakati branch handled about 118 000 savings accounts, and was linked to a central computer system, so clients' details were accessible.

Two killed crossing border into SA

MMABATHO — The South African Defence Force says two people have been killed and one injured in separate incidents as they were allegedly trying to cross illegally from Mozambique into South Africa.

A SADF spokesman in Pretoria confirmed two people in a group of four were killed early on February 7. He said South African police were investigating. — Sapa.

Threat of boycott if Zola runs

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Nigeria has threatened to lead an African boycott of the world cross country championships in Auckland next month if Zola Duku runs for Britain.

But Britain's athletics chiefs vowed yesterday not to yield to the African threats, which came from Nigeria's Sports Minister Mr Byo Lawal, influential chairman of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa.

His call has added force because it was Nigeria that led the Afro-Caribbean boycott of the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and the 1978 Olympics.

"Britain have picked their team and we will not be dictated to as to who will be in it," declared Mr Tony Ward, British athletics spokesman.

And Mr Les Jones, the British team manager, added: "We won't change our stance one little bit. Zola will not be selected if injured."

PRETORIA — Three South African soldiers were killed in a bombardment on their positions in Angola during the weekend, Defence Force Headquarters announced here last night.

Earlier yesterday the SADF announced that a fighter pilot, Major Edward Richard Every, 31, formerly of Cradock, was missing after his aircraft was shot down during an air attack in south-east Angola late on Saturday afternoon.

The three soldiers killed were Sergeant Gerhardus Martinus Maritz, 25, of Oshakati; Corporal Van Zyl Venter, 20, of Kroonstad; and Signalman Jacque de Lange, 19, of Richards Bay.

The chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, extended his condolences to the soldiers' families.

The SADF had no word late yesterday on the fate of Major Every. An SADF spokesman refused to disclose what type of aircraft was shot down.

The Angolan news agency, Angop, reported that two Mirage jet fighters were shot down east of Cuito Cuanavale on Saturday.

The SADF spokesman responded to the claim by referring to an earlier SADF statement which mentioned the loss of only one aircraft.

According to the Angop report, the planes were shot down while flying low altitude bombing runs over Angolan army positions.

It said the personal effects of Major Every had been recovered, but did not specify whether he had been captured, nor did it identify the pilot of the other aircraft claimed to have been shot down.

Maj Every's eldest sister, Mrs Meryl Collett, of Cradock, told the Daily Dispatch in an interview yesterday that her brother had been educated at Queen's College in Queenstown.

Her brother was a top pilot and was chairman of the South African Air Force's board of inquiry into aviation accidents.

He was stationed at Hoedspruit Air Force base with his wife Helga and their four-year-old son, Frederick.

Mrs Collett said that their parents, Maj Every's brother and another older sister had been flown to Hoed-

spruit on Sunday. (5)

They were told by the officer commanding, Colonel C. Lombard, that Maj Every had been shot down.

In its official communique, the SADF said that Maj Every's aircraft was downed by ground fire when, after the successful air strikes against Swapo targets on Saturday morning, the air force was used again in an air attack on Cuban and Fapla reinforcements, which posed a potential threat to South African forces.

Meanwhile, the war of words continued between the South African and Angolan military authorities over the fighting in south-east Angola.

Angop reported the Angolan Defence Ministry as saying MPLA troops had scored "significant gains" in recent battles against South African units and the Unita rebel movement.

It said South African warplanes resumed attacks on Angolan troops east of Cuito Cuanavale during the weekend, and staged bombing raids on Ongiva, the capital of neighboring Cunene province, and against Lubango, capital of Huila province.

The raids had caused "countless deaths".

The Angolans claimed to have killed 200 Unita guerillas in fighting near Cuemba in central Bie province and in beating off attacks on the Benguela railway.

Sapa reports Swapo as saying it had suffered no casualties and no damage to its bases during the South African air strikes in revenge for last Friday's bomb blast in an Oshakati bank.

Asked for comment on the Angolan claims, an SADF spokesman said he had nothing to add to a statement released on February 20 which dismissed Angolan claims as propaganda.

A SWA Territorial Force (SWATF) statement yesterday said long-range mortar bombardments directed at Swapo bases at Ongiva were believed to have been "on target".

The SWATF confirmed that the attacks were a continuation of the "revenge" air attacks on Swapo bases over the weekend.

The SWA Police reported yesterday that the death toll in the Oshakati blast had risen to 20. — DDR-DDC-Sapa.

DID 23/2/88

3 more SA soldiers die in Angola

IAL

Three more SA soldiers die in Angola

ARGUS
23/2/88



Argus-Africa News Service
JOHANNESBURG. — A further three South African soldiers have died in Angola amid reports of a new flare-up in the fighting around Cuito Cuanavale in the south-east.

Defence Force headquarters said the three died during a bombardment of their positions at the weekend.

Mirages

The three were Sergeant Gerhardus Martinus Maritz, 25, survived by his wife, Mrs I Maritz of Oshakati, Corporal Van Zyl Venter, 20, survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs A Venter of Kroonstad, and Signalman Jacque de Lange, 19, survived by his father, Mr A P de Lange, of Meerensee, Richards Bay, and his mother, Mrs J C Kock, of Debonair Park, De Dur.

Yesterday the Defence Force announced that an aircraft had been shot down during the

weekend in south-east Angola and its pilot, Major Edward Every, was missing.

The Angolan authorities later claimed to have shot down two Mirages and to have captured the "documentation of one of the South African pilots, named as a Major E R Every".

The Defence Force denies that two aircraft were shot down but refuses to say what type of aircraft Major Every was flying.

Since September, when heavy fighting started in south-east Angola, South Africa has lost four aircraft in combat missions.

The Angolan authorities have confirmed that there has been heavy fighting about 20km from Cuito Cuanavale and claimed that South African motorised units launched a fresh push against Cuito Cuanavale three days ago.

Earlier, informed sources said three or possibly four Angolan brigades were facing Unita and South African troops

beside the Cuito River 20km east of Cuito Cuanavale.

The sources said the Angolans might try to bring another brigade across the Cuito River before counter-attacking to push South Africa's long range G5 and G6 guns out of range of Cuito Cuanavale.

Military base

The Angolan authorities claimed that during the weekend the South African Air Force bombed the villages of Longa and Baixa Longa in south-east Angola.

Longa is on the main road between Cuito Cuanavale and the military base at Menongue and observers say the Defence Force might have been acting against reinforcements moving towards Cuito Cuanavale.

It is also known that the Cuban and Angolan command for the Sixth Military Region, previously stationed in Cuito Cuanavale, had moved to safer positions on that road, out of range of the G5 and G6 guns.

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'Shot down in SE Angola'

PRETORIA. — Evidence appeared to indicate that SAAF fighter pilot Major Edward Every died when his aircraft was shot down in south-eastern Angola on Saturday, an SADF spokesman confirmed here. Maj Every's plane was downed by ground fire during an air strike on Cuban and Angolan government forces.

Maj Every, 31, of Air Force Base Hoedspruit, is survived by his wife Mrs Helga Every and four-year-old son, Freddie.

The three deaths reported by the SADF on Monday and the loss of a fighter-bomber pilot take to 40 the toll since the SADF acknowledged in September direct support for the Unita rebels. — Sapa

Addis 26/2/88 (5)

'Hundreds killed in SA bombardments'

NAIROBI. — South African aircraft and artillery killed hundreds of people in heavy bombardments in southern Angola on Thursday, the Angolan Defence Ministry claimed.

And in a statement released in Lisbon Angola claimed to have shot down three more South African Mirage fighters.

The Defence Force has denied the claim.

In a broadcast on Angolan State radio the Ministry said: "We regret to announce the death of hundreds of citizens, including women, old people and children who lived in the bombed areas."

According to the Ministry the attacks centred on Cuito Cuanavale and Lubango, 600km to the west. Both are about 250km north of the SWA/Namibia border.

The Angolans claim South African forces launched a major offensive on Wednesday

with the aim of destroying economic and strategic targets 300km inside Angola.

In Lisbon the official Angolan news agency, Angop, said troops had brought down three Mirage jets between Sunday and Wednesday near Cuvelai, about 300km into Angola in Cunene province.

Angop said: "The wreckage of the three planes is in army hands."

Angop said the latest South African offensive involved about 9 000 troops.

In a statement today, the South African Defence Force described the reports as blatant propaganda and untrue.

The full statement read: "On Saturday the Defence Force placed on record that wild Angolan claims in recent weeks were blatant propaganda. This claim that three Mirage jets have been shot down falls into the same category. It is untrue."

Radar brings stalemate to Angolan war

From JAN RAATH
of the Times

TCHAMUTETE (Southern Angola). — The outstretched arms of a giant concrete Christ on top of a buttress embrace the diminished glory of the town of Lubango — a pastoral Portugal sculpted out of a bush escarpment in south-east Angola.

The monument also houses a Soviet mobile missile-linked radar system to repel air strikes from South Africa.

It failed on Thursday just before dawn when a force of South African Impala jets flying low over dry riverbeds penetrated the radar system and reportedly bombed a Swapo camp on the town's outskirts.

Broke through

The cost of that carelessness is not clear. Between February 18 and last Thursday, South African jets broke through twice, according to official communiqués from the Angolan Ministry of Defence.

A Government official in Luanda said the jets had missed their mark, a camp of Namibian refugees.

But people in the town said 20 were killed in the first attack and an unspecified but small number were in hospital

on Thursday after the dawn attack.

Captain Banca Armindo Fraternidade, a Fapla commander, said the radar system was sometimes "resting" for maintenance. The South Africans were able to take advantage of this because of intelligence supplied by informers of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

Stalemate

But breaking through the radar system appears to be a rare event for the South Africans.

The radar system, coupled with the improved performance of the Angolan Air Force, appears to have brought the war to a stalemate.

"It used to be a tourist trip for them, to come up and attack and fly back again. But now they are finding forces that can push them back," said the captain.

The Angolan Air Force is estimated to have 80 to 100 combat aircraft, supplied by the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources say that roughly half of the pilots of the Angolan Air Force are Cubans, but that the proportion is diminishing as Angolan airmen gain more combat experience.

An SADF spokesman said the Defence Force announced on February 20 that two Swapo targets near Lubango were attacked by aircraft of the SAAF. The targets were the Tobias Hainyeko training centre and a terrorist holding area 10 km west of there.

There was no way of checking South African claims that the camp was a military one as requests to visit the site were refused.

It appears that journalists, as usual, were only shown what Angola wanted them to see — further evidence of a deliberate propaganda effort.

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D/D 29/2/88

Two more die in Angola ③

PRETORIA — Two more South African soldiers have been killed in action in south-east Angola.

Defence Force Headquarters has announced that Lance-Corporal Leon Francois van Wyk, 30, of Nigel, and Bombardier Clinton Hen-

dricks, 19, of Orkney, had been killed in "indirect enemy fire" last Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Angolan Unita movement has claimed it "totally destroyed" three government brigades last Friday.

Unita's chief of mili-

tary staff, General Demostenes, said that Unita drove back Fapla forces to the western bank of the Cuito River.

He said 172 Fapla troops and 10 Cubans were killed. Five Unita soldiers were killed and four wounded, he said.—Sapa

CAH Time 29/2/88 (5)

Lubango air defences beefed up

LUANDA.— Angola has beefed up its southern anti-aircraft defences after South African aircraft pierced the modern radar and missile screens twice in a week and pounded targets near the city of Lubango, a major military and economic centre.

The raids near Lubango, which Pretoria said hit Swapo bases, surprised Angolan military commanders in the city. Lubango is an important air base and also the centre of a regional economic development project backed by the European Community and the United Nations.

"There was a slip-up," a local commander, Captain Bancao Armindo,

Fraternidade said in Lubango. Government officials in Luanda said additional anti-aircraft defences had been moved to plug the gaps revealed by the raids.

● Unita "totally destroyed" three Fapla brigades in heavy fighting east of Cuito Cuanavale last Friday, according to a Unita statement released in Jamba.

Unita's chief of military staff, General Demostenes, said Unita drove back Fapla forces to the western bank of the Cuito River and that 172 Fapla troops from the 21st, 25th and 59th Brigades and 10 Cubans were killed.



Castro hints at pull out of Cuban troops in Angola

D/D 29/4/88

(5)

HAVANA — The Cuban President, Mr Fidel Castro, hinted at a possible quick pull out of Cuban troops in Angola, if the United States and South Africa stop backing its right-wing rebels and clear the way for independence of South African-ruled Namibia.

"I think that in the near future steps will be taken to overcome the misunderstanding that exists," he said in an interview released on Saturday, referring to talks between Angolan, US and Cuban officials in Luanda a month ago.

At the meeting, Angola and Cuba formed a joint negotiating team, and it was reported that both countries accepted the pull out of the Cubans if certain conditions were met.

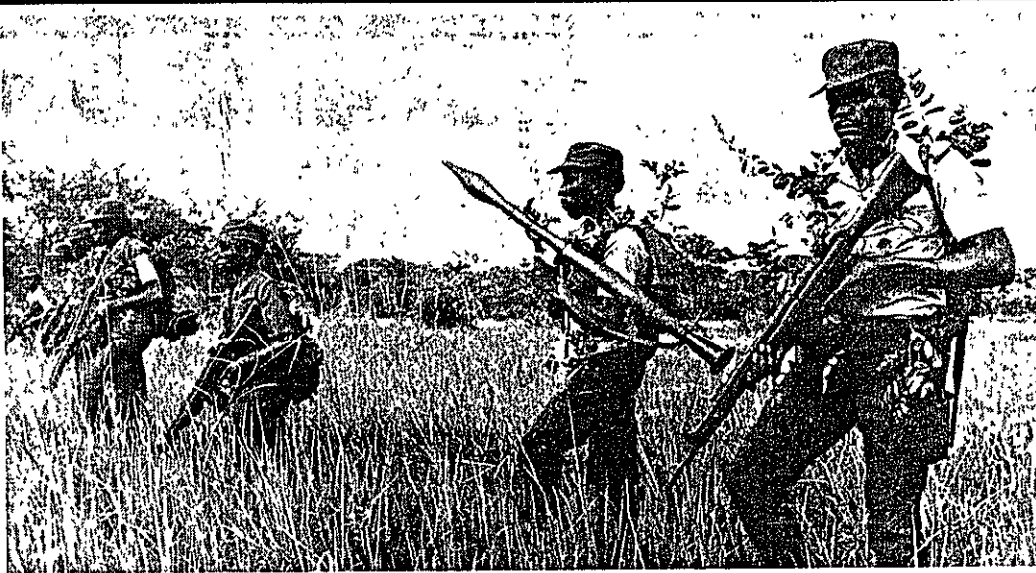
President Castro said that "indispensable requirements" for a troop pull out included an end

of South African and US support for Angolan rebels, and implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling for independence of South African-ruled Namibia.

Cuba has indirectly admitted to having 40 000 troops in Angola, but Mr Castro refused to give a precise number, saying only that a total of about 300 000 Cubans had been stationed there during the past 12 years, after Angola won independence from Portugal.

He said the "misunderstanding" was not insurmountable and was mainly a question of agenda.

An eventual timetable for the pull out of Cuban troops can only be designed once a global agreement is reached with all parties involved, he said. — Sapp
RNS



Star 1/3188 (S) Unita troops ... used for reconnaissance.

CUITO CUANAVALÉ — Angolan army Major Armindo Moreira points towards the rain-soaked horizon of low cloud and luxuriant green bush.

"The South Africans are over there, about eight or 10 km," Major Moreira says. "The South Africans will only take Cuito Cuanavale if they go over our dead bodies ... We are secure here. We are in control."

As he speaks, there is a low whine, a yellow flash and spurt of white smoke on the horizon, and the crack of an exploding artillery shell.

Another, another and another until the dense bush a kilometre away is plumed with tendrils of smoke. The explosions track menacingly towards the partially-destroyed wooden bridge where Major Moreira is standing.

"They're finding the range. I think we'd better go," he says. Reporters, the first foreign journalists to visit the beleaguered town, and heavily-armed troops scuttle for cover.

For the past eight weeks, Cuito Cuanavale, 300 north of the frontier with South African-controlled Namibia, has been pounded almost daily by artillery situated some 30 km east.

Nearer the town, South African infantry and their Angolan rebel allies have clashed in fierce firefights with well-dug-in Angolan troops.

South African Mirage and Impala fighters regularly make low-level bombing attacks on the town and its main supply road leading west to Menongue, some 100 km away.

Cuito Cuanavale lies in a shallow verdant valley in a province which Portuguese settlers called "The End of the Earth".

Its tarmac main street is flanked by more than two dozen houses, most of them showing bomb or shell damage amid the bright colours of their Portuguese colonial architecture.

SALUTES FOR THE CHILDREN

Incredibly, some of the civilian population still live in the town and nearby villages of mud and wattle huts. Women and children wave to passing Cuban and Angolan soldiers, who reply with clenched-fist salutes.

"Children have died in Cuito Cuanavale, houses have been destroyed. But our people are standing firm," said the military commander of the Sixth Region, Colonel Manuel Francisco Tuta.

In a wide circle around the town, Soviet-made missiles, radars, anti-aircraft artillery, scores of tanks and armoured cars nestle in specially built, heavily camouflaged bunkers cut from the thick bush.

Angolan troops occupy the forward positions on both sides of the Cuito river, but towards the rear, young Cuban troops can be seen driving armoured vehicles and trucks.

Angolan officers say the Cubans will intervene if the South Africans breach the front lines.

"We're always on the alert," says 18-year-old Angel from Camaguey in Cuba. "We will be here until the South Africans leave."

The town's 1 500 m tarmac airstrip, the key to its importance to both attackers and defenders, is intact but unused. The mere sound of an approaching aircraft brings down a barrage of South African artillery.

In January a South African pilotless drone struck the

Battle for Cuito: a view from behind the Angolan lines

wooden bridge over the Cuito River, the only access to the town from the east, shattering its central supports.

"It is impossible to mend it. Every time we try, they open up with their guns," Major Moreira said. The marshland around the bridge is pocked with water-filled shell holes.

Major Moreira said there was a fierce fight last Friday when the defenders pushed back a South African probe some 10 km to the east.

Colonel Tuta said the South African force ranged against the town numbered 8 000 men and "the battle for Cuito Cuanavale is decisive."

If the South Africans captured the airstrip, he said, they could push north and west into Angola, opening up new supply routes for their Unita allies. Colonel Tuta said the role of Unita in the current fighting was to act as artillery spotters for the South Africans and carry out reconnaissance patrols.

The South African units involved in the offensive against Cuito Cuanavale were the 61st, 62nd, 201st and 101st battalions, consisting of both white South African and black Namibian troops, he said.

Colonel Tuta said two high-ranking Portuguese officers, both former members of the PIDE secret police who had joined the South African army after Angola's independence in 1975, were helping to direct the offensive. He named them as Brigadier Ferreira and Lieutenant-Colonel Magalhaes.

Also operating in Cuando Cubango province were mixed units of Unita, South African and mercenary troops formed into battalions numbered 4, 49 and 450 and commanded by a Unita general known as "Ben Ben", Colonel Tuta said.

Colonel Tuta said the South African command post for operations inside Cuando Cubango was situated at Mavinga, 150 km southeast of Cuito Cuanavale. Mavinga was the target of a big government offensive late last year, backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union, which was driven back when South African troops and planes intervened directly.

Cuito Cuanavale's defenders are supplied along the tarmac road that cuts through the thick bush from Menongue.

During the 50-minute helicopter flight from Menongue, reporters saw Angolan and Cuban troops and an impressive array of artillery, tanks and armoured vehicles dug in on both sides of the road along almost its entire length.

Menongue is a bustling airbase, where sleek Soviet MiG-23 fighters nestle in sand bunkers ready to scramble against the South Africans if they come too close to Cuito Cuanavale.

In mid-January, MiGs piloted by Angolans and Cubans launched several air strikes against the town's attackers, preventing them from capturing it, Angolan military officials say. — Sapa-Reuter

From arms of Christ — missiles

Star 1/3188 (S)

LUANDA — The outstretched arms of a giant concrete Christ on top of a buttress embrace the diminished glory of the town of Lubango in south-east Angola.

The monument also houses a Soviet mobile missile-linked radar system to repel air strikes from South Africa.

It failed on Thursday, just before dawn, when a force of South African Impala jets, flying low over dry riverbeds, penetrated the radar system and reportedly bombed a Swapo camp on the town's outskirts.

"It is the carelessness of our army that troops in the back line think that those at the front will forewarn them," said Captain Banca Armindo Fraternidade, commander of the 35th Brigade of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAPIA), at a briefing in Tchamutete, 184 km north of the Namibian border and 62 km from the South African front line. The cost of that carelessness is not clear. Between February 18 and last Thursday, South African jets broke through twice, according to official communiques from the Angolan Ministry of Defence.

A government official in Luanda said the jets had missed their mark, a camp of Namibian refugees.

But people in the town said 20 were killed in the first attack and an unspecified, but small number were in hospital after the dawn attack. There was no way of checking South African claims that the camp was a military one, as requests to visit the site were refused.

Captain Fraternidade said the radar system was sometimes "rested" for maintenance.

But breaking through the radar system appears to be a rare event for the South Africans. Last Monday, said Captain Fraternidade, a flight of Angolan MiGs in a bombing raid on the South African lines were chased home by Mirages.

The radar system, coupled with the improved performance of the Angolan Air Force, appears to have brought the war to a stalemate.

"It used to be a tourist trip for them — to come up and attack and fly back again," said the captain who, like most senior Angolan officers, is in his early 30s but is a combat veteran of about 15 years.

But now they are finding forces that can push them back." — The Times of London.

Angola braced for 'new attack' by Unita, SA'

1764 1/3/85 5
From JAN RAATH of The Times

CUITO CUANAVALÉ. — Angolan government troops, with Cuban defensive support, appear to be reinforcing in readiness for a fresh offensive by South Africa and the Unita rebels on this strategic town in south-east Angola.

South African long-range artillery continued its bombardment of areas around the town on Sunday afternoon during a visit by a group of foreign journalists.

They were the first to be brought by the Angolan government to the scene of the most concerted engagements along the 1 287km border with SWA/Namibia.

South African conventional forces, estimated by Colonel Manuel Francisco Tuta, the military commander of the province of Cuanda Cubango, at four battalions, totalling 8 000 men, have been pounding Cuito Cuanavale with artillery and air strikes for the past four months.

SECOND FAILURE

The objective is to take the town and secure its heavy-duty runway and the strategic main roads to the north.

The drive follows the defeat in October of an Angolan offensive against the town of Mavinga. It was their second such failure in the battle for what is the most northern town held by Unita.

It is acknowledged here that the offensive failed because of large-scale intervention by South Africa.

Colonel Tuta said at Menongue, about 96km north-west of here, that Cuito would provide the South African and Unita forces with a strategic base from which to launch far-reaching air attacks on the north. South African jets now fly only from their bases on the SWA/Namibian border.

He added that the Angolan Government believed Unita intended to move its headquarters from

(Turn to page 3, col 8)

Rebels 'do not plan' to take Cuito Cuanavale

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — In spite of gains in the battle around the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, Unita says it has "no intention" of capturing it.

Unita spokesman Mr Alcides Sakala said yesterday the latest battles had resulted in three government brigades being forced to withdraw westwards across the Cuito River.

"But we don't want to take the town," he said.

"By controlling the area around it, we control the town."

SAME TACTIC

He said the same tactic was being followed by Unita in other parts of the country.

He gave as an example the situation around Cuemba on the Benguela railway line in central Angola.

"The same thing is happening there. We have a large government force trapped inside."

"We aim to create as many situations like this as possible."

He drew parallels between the situation in Cuito Cuanavale and Cuemba and the French defeat in Dien Bien Phu in Indo-China.

"We want to have as many Dien Bien Phus as possible," he said.

1986

Angola braced

5

(Continued from page 1)

Jamba in the south-east corner of the country to Cuito and declare independence.

Sunday's trip from Menongue, on whose runways could be seen five Mig-23s and an equal number of Mi8 and Mi25 heavy helicopter gunships and troop carriers, was an eye-opener.

In spite of the bombardment, the long road through the dense bush to Cuito is intact. The town itself is standing, though about a third of the pink, blue and orange single-storey colonial Portuguese buildings have been hit. What we saw of the runway also appeared in good order, but too exposed to attacks for an operational base.

The town, occupied by the Angolan armed forces (Fapla), is surrounded by a civilian population living in mud and grass huts.

More significant were the signs of heavy concentrations of Fapla and Cuban troops. South-east of Menongue, the town is heavily defended with artillery, tanks and trenches.

Ten minutes out of Cuito by helicopter there was a convoy of 400 to 500 vehicles backed up.

ROCKETS

The tanks, infantry-filled troop carriers, rockets, field guns and tons of ammunition had travelled most of the way from Menongue, evidence that the road has been secured against Unita ambushes, and that South Africa cannot carry out bombing sorties with impunity.

Closer to the town, dozens of side-roads turn off through the red, sandy soil, some with no-smoking signs hinting at the highly explosive contents concealed in the bush.

Also visible was a rack of white, thin, long missiles pointing to the south-east, as well as tanks, anti-aircraft batteries, radar screens and mobile communications lorries, all hidden under the trees.

From what we saw, the forces opposing the South Africans are equipped with prodigious weaponry and probably stretch over a wide front on either side of Cuito.

The troops and officers we spoke to were assertive and confident. "There is no more fear. We are accustomed to the bombings," said a Cuban, aged 19. Another told us that they need three minutes to lock a Mach 2 Mirage in their missile-linked radar systems.

"After that, they are gone," he said. The buoyant men we saw could not have come from a dispirited force on the point of rout.

Claim: 9 000 SA troops now in Angola'

LONDON. — An Angolan government minister said South Africa's six-month-long "invasion" of his country had intensified with a new phase which included the bombing of civilian centres, in particular the important town of Lubango, the Guardian reported yesterday.

It said Colonel Pedro Van Dunen "Loy", Minister of State for the Productive Sector and generally considered as Angola's number two, in Britain on an official visit, said Angola had suffered great damage in the current offensive.

He said that over the past month the South African "invasion" had become as serious as that of 1975 and now involved 9 000 South African ground troops. He said there had been three separate South African attempts to take the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale but it remained in government hands, though the air strip had been damaged.

An SADF spokesman last night said allegations contained in the story were "merely a continuation of allegations made the past weeks" and were

not new. Unita, meanwhile, yesterday said they killed 172 government troops and 10 Cubans in a fierce battle on Friday near the beleaguered south-eastern town of Cuito Cuanavale.

A statement in Lisbon said 10 tanks were destroyed or captured in the five-hour battle.

"Our troops destroyed the government and Cuban forces ranged along the left bank of Cuito River," the statement said. It added that five guerrillas were killed and 45 wounded.

The rebels have besieged the garrison town for more than a month with South African air and artillery support.

Colonel Van Dunen was quoted in the Guardian as saying: "The main concern of the (US) State Department is the withdrawal of Cuban troops — this is the only problem on their agenda. Our main problem is the root cause of destabilization — South Africa.

"We are ready to give (the US) a timetable for a total Cuban withdrawal, but they must first stop aid of all sorts to Unita," he said. — Sapa-Reuter

SA intensifying war effort claims Angola

LONDON — An Angolan Government Minister said South Africa's six-month-long "invasion" of his country had intensified with a new phase which included the bombing of civilian centres, in particular the important town of Lubango, the Guardian reported here yesterday.

It said Colonel Pedro Van Dunen 'Loy', generally considered as Angola's Number Two, said here at the weekend that Angola had suffered great damage in the current offensive.

He said that over the last month the South African "invasion" had become as serious as that of 1975 and now involved 9,000 South African ground troops.

Col Van Dunen, Minister of State for the Productive Sector and a member of Angola's 11-man political bureau, said there had been

three separate South African attempts to take the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, but it remained in government hands although the airstrip had been damaged.

Col Van Dunen arrived in the United Kingdom last week for an official visit, during which he met UK Government representatives, including Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The Guardian quoted Col Van Dunen as saying he had been at pains to stress in Britain that during the recent talks in Luanda with US Under-Secretary of State for Africa, Dr

Chester Crocker, the latter was unable to answer any questions on US readiness to stop arming the Unita movement.

Col Van Dunen said: "The main concern of the State Department is the withdrawal of Cuban troops — this is the only problem on their agenda. Our main problem is the root cause of destabilisation — South Africa."

"We started talking to the State Department many years ago, and we in Angola have been forced from concession to concession. "We are ready to give

them a timetable for a total Cuban withdrawal, but they must first stop aid of all sorts to Unita."

"We are waiting for the next round of negotiations to see what Dr Crocker will bring back from Washington."

Col Van Dunen said independent UN Resolution 435, and the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia, remained the key to ending the war.

He said he did not know if South Africa would accept an agreement with the US, adding "we would certainly need international

guarantees". An SADR spokesman last night said allegations contained in the story "were merely a continuation of allegations made the past weeks" and were not new.

He said this was more of Angola's "deliberate propaganda campaign" to which the defence force had referred in a statement earlier this month.

Meanwhile, in Lisbon, Unita issued a statement yesterday saying Unita forces had killed 172 government troops and 10 Cubans in a fierce battle last week near Cuito Cuanavale.

The statement said 10 tanks were destroyed or captured in the five-hour battle which occurred on Friday.

Five Unita troops were killed and 45 were wounded, it added. Sapa-RNS

SA troops shelling daily, but . . .

(5) B/day
1/3/88

Angolans claim to be secure in Cuito Cuanavale

CUITO CUANAVALÉ — Angolan army Major Armindo Moreira points towards the rain-soaked horizon of low cloud and luxuriant green bush.

"The South Africans are over there, about eight or 10km away," Moreira says. "They will only take Cuito Cuanavale over our dead bodies . . . we are secure here. We are in control."

As he speaks, there is a low whine, a yellow flash, a spurt of white smoke on the horizon and the crack of an exploding artillery shell.

Another and another, until the dense bush a kilometre away is plumed with tendrils of smoke. The explosions track menacingly towards the partially destroyed wooden bridge where Moreira is standing.

"They're finding the range. I think we'd better go," he says. Reporters — the first foreign journalists to visit the beleaguered town — and heavily-armed troops scuttle for cover.

For the past eight weeks, Cuito Cuanavale, 300km north of the frontier with South African-controlled Namibia, has been pounded almost daily by artillery situated some 30km east.

Children

Nearer the town, South African infantry and their Unita allies have clashed in fierce firefights with well dug-in Angolan troops.

South African Mirage and Impala jet fighters regularly make low-level bombing attacks on the town and its main supply road leading west to Menongue, some 100km away.

Said the military commander of the

Sixth Region, Colonel Manuel Francisco Tuta: "Children have died in Cuito Cuanavale, houses have been destroyed. But our people are standing firm."

In a wide circle around the town, Soviet-made missiles, radars, anti-aircraft artillery, scores of tanks and armoured cars nestle in specially built, heavily camouflaged bunkers cut from the thick bush.

Angolan troops occupy the forward positions on both sides of the Cuito River, but towards the rear, young Cuban troops can be seen driving armoured vehicles and trucks.

Barrage

Angolan officers say the Cubans will intervene if the South Africans breach the front lines.

"We're always on the alert," says 18-year-old Angel, from Camaguey, Cuba. "We will be here until the South Africans leave."

The town's 1 500m tarmac airstrip, the key to its importance to both attackers and defenders, is intact but unused. The mere sound of an approaching aircraft brings down a barrage of South African artillery.

If the South Africans captured the airstrip, said Tuta, they could push north and west into Angola, opening up new supply routes for Unita.

The South African units involved in the offensive were the 61st, 62nd, 201st and 101st battalions, consisting of both white South African and black Namibian troops.

Also operating in Cuando Cubango province were mixed units of Unita, South African and mercenary troops formed into battalions numbered 4, 49 and 450 and commanded by a Unita general. — Sapa-Reuter.

Mr.
Davis

D/D 1/3/88

Solution suggested for SA's Angolan problems

Daily Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — South Africa's withdrawal from South West Africa/Namibia and the installation of Swapo as the ruling party there could well prove the solution to South Africa's problems in Angola, according to a political consultant and former editor of Die Vaderland, Mr Harald Pakendorf.

Mr Pakendorf was addressing about 40 guests and members of the Southern African Institute of International Affairs here last night on the "current situation in Angola".

Breaking his address into "yesterday, today and tomorrow", Mr Pakendorf said that even though South Africa had repeatedly issued statements of its withdrawal from Angola, it had "never really left since 1975".

In mid-December last year, the South African Government said that South Africa had withdrawn again. While there were in fact with-

drawals, new troops were sent in to replace those coming out.

In linking the whole Angolan and Namibian situation, he said that if the Cubans would go then there was a chance that resolution 345 could be implemented.

A military and political stalemate had been reached in Angola, he said.

It was clear the "war" could not be won for several reasons, including waning US support in Southern Africa, increase in other foreign interests in Angola and Soviet foreign policy changes.

Mr Pakendorf said that where South Africa stood, the choice was either the advantages of stabilising or destabilising Southern Africa.

In terms of options, while the Soviets were prepared to talk with Unita, they were not prepared to talk to its leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

"Is South Africa prepared to dump him?"

Mr Pakendorf asked.

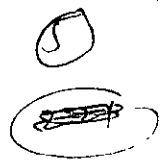
He said that if there was a settlement, South Africa would benefit financially, it would not lose young men sent in to fight an "illegal" war outside the borders, and it would provide a boost for South Africa's standing in the international community.

He said Pretoria would not "simply withdraw".

South Africa could not leave behind it the image that it "had lost" as this could "fan the flames of internal revolution" and "would not sit well with certain white voters".

"They need to withdraw without losing face," Mr Pakendorf said.

He said that the most important change was that South Africa recognised that the USSR had a role to play in Southern Africa and that the Soviets realised that South Africa was needed and that it could not simply be taken by force.



By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service
South Africa is taking considerable risks by its involvement with Unita in extended military operations at the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale.

These risks become bigger the longer Unita's effort to secure control of the town remains indecisive.

In their capital of Jamba at the weekend, Unita leaders told visiting Western journalists that the town had been evacuated by the MPLA government forces and Unita troops were expected to enter it this week.

But reports from other Western journalists who were taken to Cuito Cuanavale at the same time suggest that the government forces are putting up strong resistance despite the heavy damage inflicted on the town and its defenders.

If Unita is unable to drive the MPLA forces out of the town then South Africa, whose forces have suffered relatively heavy casualties, will have to decide whether to withdraw or to stay and risk further losses — and, possibly, to increase its

Angola could become South Africa's Vietnam

Star
3/31/87

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involvement in an attempt to force a victory.

South Africa is not yet in a Vietnam-type situation but the Cuito Cuanavale battle has taken it closer to such a situation than it has yet been and prolonged failure to seize control of the town will take it still closer.

South Africa's involvement in this battle differs in an important respect from its previous operations in support of Unita — which were essentially defensive and aimed at helping the rebels repel attacks by the MPLA's Cuban and Soviet-backed Fapla army.

At Cuito Cuanavale the SADF forces, who are reported to be backed by South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF) troops, have gone over to an offensive role and

are attempting to drive Fapla out of well-defended positions in a town.

For Unita, which has traditionally confined its forces to guerilla tactics, the Cuito Cuanavale offensive is the closest it has come to static, conventional warfare. The SADF likewise finds itself operating here in a more static role than at any other time in its support for Unita.

The loss of the town would be a major blow to the MPLA and it appears determined to avoid this. If the town is as heavily defended as the Western journalists suggest the SADF may have to choose between a long siege or an assault in strength. But, if Fapla were to launch a sufficiently powerful counter-offensive, the SADF would be forced to step

up its involvement or retreat.

Pretoria's decisions will obviously be dictated by its reasons for entering the battle.

Several possible reasons are discernible. One would be to prevent the MPLA and its allies from using Cuito Cuanavale to launch yet another offensive against Unita's stronghold in south-eastern Angola.

Another would be to capture and hold the town. This would give Unita control of major northward roads and, possibly, control of all central Angola. It could also enable South African warplanes to use the town's airfield to strike further northward, bypassing the line of radar, anti-aircraft missiles and Mig bases that stretches eastwards from the coast to Menongue, 200 km west of Cuito Cuanavale.

Some Unita spokesmen say the movement does not want to capture the town but only to deny Fapla the use of the town and its airfield.

But it is strange that the airfield's runway has, according to the Western journalists, been left intact by the long-range South African G5 guns that are said to have been bombarding the town for several weeks.

The fact that the runway is a static target and appears to be within the range of the guns suggests that the South Africans do not want to destroy it, only to deny it to Fapla.

Yet another aim of the South Africans could be to put Unita in as strong a bargaining position as possible in anticipation of an agreement by the MPLA to negotiate a political settlement of the war. Hopes of negotiation have been raised by recent suggestions that the Soviet Union, on whose aid the MPLA is dependent, may now favour a political, rather than a military, solution.

Pretoria's ultimate aim would be to weaken the insurgent capability of Swapo and the ANC and reverse the expansion of Soviet influence in the sub-continent.

Crucial to the whole issue is the strength of Moscow's apparent desire to seek peaceful solutions in Angola and the rest of southern Africa.

But the concept of a conciliatory Kremlin is not supported by the recent arrival of large supplies of Soviet weaponry.

If it should turn out, as some Kremlin-watchers have suggested, that Moscow's peace feelers are all bluff then it can be expected to beef up Fapla's defence of Cuito Cuanavale and possibly its ability to launch a counter-attack.

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Nigeria refuses to force Namibian issue by sending troops to Angola

DIP 3/3/88

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HARARE — Nigeria has ruled out military involvement in Angola aimed at achieving a settlement in South African ruled Namibia by replacing Cuban forces in the Marxist state.

"There is no intention now to send Nigerian troops to Angola or anywhere else," the Nigerian defence minister, General Donkat Bali, said.

Gen Bali was asked whether Nigeria, with black Africa's biggest economy and most populous nation, would be willing to send troops to war ravaged Angola to replace Cuban forces and remove one of the major obstacles to Namibian statehood.

"I don't think Nigeria has the economic ability

to sustain troops in Angola," he replied.

South Africa and the United States have demanded the withdrawal of an estimated 30 000 Cuban troops helping Angolan Government forces contain a long rebel campaign, as a condition for an independence settlement in Namibia.

Gen Bali, on a fact-finding mission to southern Africa, said Nigeria had learned from its role in a peace-keeping operation in Chad the expense involved in maintaining an army abroad.

Pressed by reporters, he retorted: "Do you think Nigeria can economically sustain troops in Angola or anywhere else?"

But he pledged continued military support for guerilla movements fighting for majority rule in South Africa and Namibia. "We will help where we can," he said.

Asked if he agreed with the idea of a pan-African army, Gen Bali stated: "The main problem is the political will. The economic problem is there. Africa can sustain such a force but the political will has to be there."

Earlier, Zimbabwe's defence minister, Mr Enos Nkala, had urged greater Nigerian involvement in African affairs.

"Our view is that now is the time for Africa to act together, to be seen to suffer together (and) to be seen to progress together," he told a press

conference.

"It is our genuine belief that Nigeria, as a big country in Africa, should be involved in African affairs."

Mr Nkala said that Gen Bali, who arrived from neighbouring Mozambique last weekend, had been taken on a tour of Zimbabwe's military establishments and briefed about the situation in Mozambique.

Landlocked Zimbabwe has some 12 000 troops in Mozambique guarding vital trade routes and helping Mozambican forces battle rebels trying to topple the government.

The Nigerian minister held talks with the Zimbabwean President, Mr Robert Mugabe, before leaving for Zambia and Tanzania. — Sapa-RNS

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3/3/88

HARARE — Nigeria did not intend to send troops to Angola "or anywhere else",

Nigerian Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Donkat Bali said yesterday at the end of a four-day visit to Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Bali said the Nigerian economy was unable to sustain the cost of dispatching an army to replace the Cuban troops assisting President Joe Eduardo dos Santos' MPLA government.

There had been recent reports that

No role for Nigeria in Angola

MICHAEL HARTNACK

Nigerian troops might be sent to replace the Cubans, thus paving the way for the withdrawal of SA forces from Angola and Namibia.

Bali rejected the suggestion that Nigeria might be willing to mediate between the MPLA government in Luanda and Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels.

"I think there is no intention as now to send Nigerian troops to Angola or anywhere else for that matter," said Bali, asked about the contents of his discussions with President Robert Mugabe while in Harare.

Bali said Nigeria would give "all help where we can" to the Frontline states, but he did not envisage direct military involvement, even with external financial backing.

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sondor

Sondor Industries Limited

("Sondor")

(Registration number 87/03475/06)
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987

INCOME STATEMENT

	Six months ended	Year ended
	31 December 1987	30 June 1987
Note	R'000	R'000

NOTE

1. Earnings per share have been calculated on the basis of 24 000 000 shares in issue during all periods of comparison.

COMMENTS

1. Sondor was listed on The Johannesburg Stock Exchange on 30 October 1987

Angolans claim new front is opening

The Star's Africa News Service

A force that is two battalions strong is reported to be advancing on the Angolan town of Menongue.

According to the commissioner of Cuando Cubango province, Colonel Manuel Francisco Tutã, the force consists of South African troops.

A SADF spokesman said: "These claims are blatant propaganda designed to prevent giving Unita any credit for their much-publicised military success recently."

"Angola is unable to neutralise Unita militarily and therefore resorts to propaganda."

Angola's MPLA government sometimes refers to elements of the Unita guerillas as South African forces because of their South African backing.

Menongue is 250 km west of Cuito Cuanavale, under siege by Unita and South African troops.

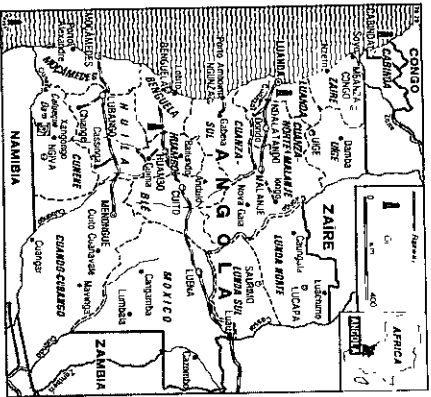
It is the next in a chain of strongly-defended military bases stretching westwards to the sea.

Colonel Tutã's claim is reported by the Angolan news agency, Angop. If true, it would mean a major escalation of South Africa's military involvement in Angola.

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4/3/88



From PASCAL FLETCHER

CUITO CUANAVALE, Angola. —Major Armando Moreira of the Angolan army points towards the rain-soaked horizon of low cloud and luxuriant green bush.

"The South Africans are over there, about eight or 10km away," Major Moreira says. "The South Africans will only take Cuito Cuanavale if they go over our dead bodies. . . . We are secure here. We are in control."

As he speaks, there is a low whine, a yellow flash and a spurt of white smoke on the horizon, and the crack of an exploding artillery shell.

Another, another and another until the dense bush and another away is plumed with tendrils of smoke. The explosions track menacingly towards the partly-destroyed wooden bridges where Major Moreira is standing.

"They're finding the range. I think we'd better go," he says. Reporters — the first foreign journalists to visit the beleaguered town — and heavily-armed troops scuttle for cover.

For the past eight weeks, Cuito

'The End of the Earth' battles

Cuanavale, 300km north of the Namibian border, has been pounded almost daily by artillery situated some 30km east.

Nearer the town, South African infantry and their Angolan rebel allies have clashed in fierce firefights with well-dug-in Angolan troops.

South African Mirage and Impala fighters regularly make low-level bombing attacks on the town and its main supply road leading west to Menongue, some 100km away.

Secret police

Cuito Cuanavale lies in a shallow verdant valley in a province which Portuguese settlers called "The End of the Earth".

Incredibly, some of the civilian population still live in the town and nearby villages of mud and wattle huts. Women and children wave to passing Cuban and Angolan soldiers, who reply with clenched-fist salutes.

"Children have died in Cuito Cuanavale, houses have been destroyed. But our people are standing firm," said the military commander

of the Sixth Region, Colonel Manuel Francisco Tutua.

In a wide circle around the town, Soviet-made missiles, radars, anti-aircraft artillery, scores of tanks and armoured cars nestle in specially built, heavily-camouflaged bunkers.

Angolan troops occupy the forward positions on both sides of the Cuito river, but towards the rear, young Cuban troops can be seen driving armoured vehicles and trucks.

"We're always on the alert," says 18-year-old Angel from Camaguey in Cuba. "We will be here until the South Africans leave."

The town's 1 500m-long tarmac airstrip, the key to its importance to both attackers and defenders, is intact but unused. The mere sound of an approaching aircraft brings down a barrage of South African artillery.

In January a South African pilotless drone struck the wooden bridge over the Cuito River, the only access to the town from the east, shattering its central supports.

"It is impossible to mend it. Every time we try, they open up with their guns," Major Moreira said.

He said there was a fierce fight last Friday when the defenders pushed back a South African probe some 10km to the east.

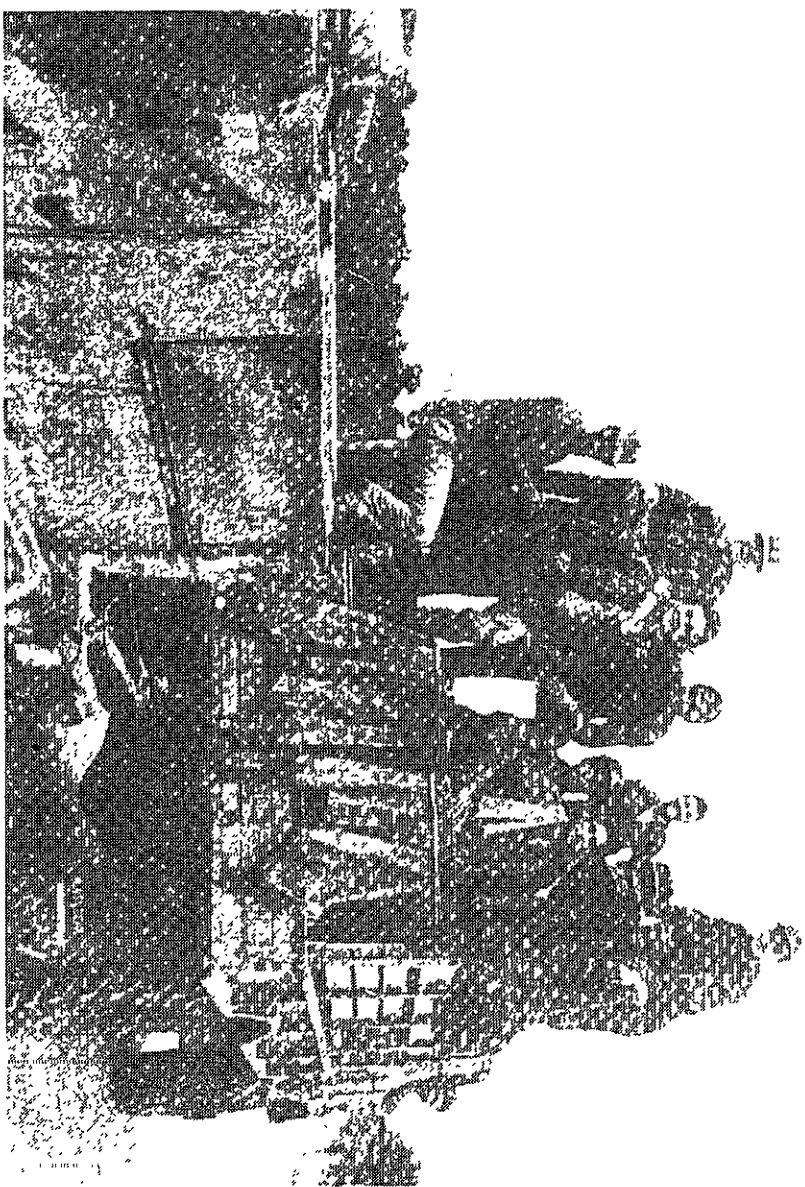
Colonel Tutua said the South African force ranged against the town numbers 8 000 men.

He said the role of the Unita guerrillas in the current fighting was to act as artillery spotters and carry out reconnaissance patrols.

Colonel Tutua said two high-ranking Portuguese officers, both former members of the Pide secret police who had joined the South African army after Angola's independence in 1975, were helping to direct the offensive. He named them as Brigadier Ferreira and Lieutenant-Colonel Magalhães.

Mixed units

He claimed that also operating in Cuango province were mixed units of Unita, South African and mercenary troops formed into battalions numbered 4, 49 and 450



CUBANS AT CUITO . . . Young Cuban troops in high spirits ride a truck near the beleaguered town of Cuito Cuanavale in south east Angola. The Cubans occupy defensive positions behind Angolan troops who have been defending the town against South African air and artillery attack for more than a month. Picture: Reuters

and commanded by a Unita general known as "Ben Ben", Tutua said. Colonel Tutua said the South African command post for operations in Cuango province was situated at Mavinga, 150km south-east of Cuito Cuanavale.

Cuito Cuanavale's defenders are supplied along the tarmac road that cuts through the thick bush from

Menongue. During a night from Menongue, reporters saw Angolan and Cuban troops and an impressive array of artillery, tanks and armoured vehicles dug in on both sides of the road.

The road surface is in good condition but its sides are littered with wrecks.

Menongue is a bustling airbase,

where sleek MiG-23 fighters in sand bunkers ready to scramble against the South Africans if they come too close to Cuito Cuanavale. In mid-January, MiGs 23s captured several air strikes against Angolans and Cubans. In several air strikes against attackers, preventing them from capturing it, Angolan pilots say. — Sapa-Reuters

8/3/88
Malan

cuts

Argus

contact

THE Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, has severed contact with the Argus Group newspapers, a spokesman confirmed yesterday.

He said he was not prepared to discuss the merits of the issue, but confirmed it was as a result of an article lifted from the French magazine Paris Match concerning Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The spokesman said he could not say what would be required to restore contact with the minister.

Argus Group journalists were not invited to Saturday's press conference with Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi at D.F. Malan Airport, a Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed.

It is understood the exclusion stemmed from unhappiness over reports published in Argus Group newspapers and based on an article in the magazine Paris Match, in which Dr Savimbi was quoted as making statements critical of the South African government. — Sapa



Angolan arsenal waiting for SA fighter planes



An Angolan soldier carrying a Soviet-made Kalashnikov assault rifle stands guard in front of ground-to-air Soviet-made missiles. It was one like this that shot down a South African Mirage in south-east Angola on February 19.

Cuito shelled daily, but life goes on

W/G AR662 5/3/88 (5)

Argus Africa News Service
CUITO CUANAVALÉ. — The astonishing thing about this village in south-eastern Angola is the 20m water tank that overlooks the village and the valleys and hills beyond. It is still standing.

And, so is much of the town, after a sustained aerial and artillery bombardment beginning in November, last year.

However, the village itself is clearly not the target for South African and Unita forces' front-lines about 10km to the south.

What the G-5 and G-6 155mm guns with a 47km range and the Mirage fighter-bombers that scream low over the Cuito River valley appear to be seeking are the dense concentrations of emplacements dug into the soft sand that spreads for tens of kilometres on either side of the town, well-concealed from aerial reconais-

sance by the thick foliage.

Fourteen foreign journalists, including six from the Soviet Union, Cuba and Yugoslavia, were taken briefly into the village last week by the Angolan Government, the first to be permitted at the front line.

Manners

Clearly, the South African Defence Force has long since lost the manners displayed by their Boer forebears in the Siege of Kimberley. The peace of a quiet Sunday afternoon was shattered by a barrage of 20 high-explosive shells landing with sharp, deep cracks on the low hills bordering the valley.

Three minutes earlier, Major Amindo Morreira, the Fapla political commissar for the front line, said at the remains of the bridge over the swiftly-flowing Cuito, said: "Unfortunately, they are not firing now. They should start any moment."

Earlier, he said, the regular morning bombardment had pounded the bush about 5km further north, near where heavily-armed Mi-8 and Mi-25 Soviet helicopters were parked, well within the range of the South African guns.

There were no Cuban forces to be seen in the village or beyond. Major Morreira said Fapla adhered to a policy of deploying their personnel exclusively at the front — which, he said, extended up to 10km south of the village — while the Cubans manned defensive positions from a point about 5km north of Cuito.

Resources

It is clear the Angolan-Cuban forces at Cuito Cuanavale are not about to be routed by the immense resources of the South African fighting machine.

"We are not afraid of the bombing," said a 19-year-old Cuban named Mario. "We have

grown accustomed to it."

His description of how he needed three minutes to lock an over-flying Mirage into his missile-linked radar system to bring it down was more like an enthusiastic telling of a game. Two Mirages had been brought down on February 20, he said.

Ernesto Garcia Ramirez, 18, said he had been in Angola for 16 months and was counting the days until he would go home with his wife and two-year-old son.

"But, we will stay here until necessary, we are fighting for a just cause," he said, clasping a Fapla soldier round the shoulders.

Angola is clearly not to the Cubans what Vietnam was to American youths. The Cubans to whom the journalists spoke were not senior political officers prepared for their arrival, but ordinary troops waiting for a truck and who thought they were foreign military advisers

MAJOR Armindo Moreira strode to the centre of a patched-together bridge and waved a hand towards a hillside of mud-and-thatch huts.

"We brought you here," the Angolan major said in Portuguese, "to show you that we still control Cuito Cuanavale."

Raising his voice above the roar of the river, he added: "The South Africans will take it over my dead body."

With that, a dozen South African G-5 artillery shells screamed out of the low, dark clouds and shattered the valley floor about a kilometre away. "A little gift from the racists," said Moreira as we scrambled off the bridge to a waiting Soviet-built personnel carrier.

For 10 minutes, repeated explosions raised white plumes of smoke against the thickly wooded ridge that hid the enemy.

The 10 minutes seemed like a year to the panic-stricken group of foreign journalists — from the United States, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Britain, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe — who were the first to visit the Angolan front since this battle began in August.

On the far side of the river, unperturbed Angolan soldiers stood quietly watching the fireworks from an overturned steel boat that serves them as both ammunition dump and living room.

Inside, fatigue jackets hung neatly on hooks above stacked boxes of gleaming brass Kalashnikov shells. Cans of milk and sausages shared shelf space with automatic rifles.

Cuito Cuanavale's size and shabbiness belie its importance.

A single street of bombed-out stucco stores surrounded by a traditional African village, it is hit by as many as 200 shells a day, fired from South Africa's deadly G-5 and G-6 guns.

The lines of the Unita/SADF forces — numbering 8 000 in the province, according to Angolan intelligence sources — are barely 8km away.

Air raids, too, are frequent, despite the long, white anti-aircraft missiles called pechoras that poke through the trees around the town.

Pivotal

An unmanned Israeli-type drone had taken out the bridge more than a month before, Moreira said.

"The bombardments are so constant that we don't bother to repair it any more."

Now, he added, his men crossed to their forward positions on a crude catwalk.

But contrary to recent reports, Cuito Cuanavale most certainly has not fallen.

And, surprisingly, it hasn't even been evacuated.

While we were there, women tended cooking fires outside their huts and children playing in maize fields waved at the soldiers.

Angola has been battling South African invasions and South African-backed guerrillas since its independence from Portugal in 1975. But the current struggle for this desolate village could prove the pivotal battle of the on-again, off-again war.

If Unita can take Cuito Cuanavale and its vital airstrip they will have broken the sophisticated Angolan air-defence line — built with Cuban and Soviet help — that is denying Pretoria air supremacy here.

Symbolic

If the Angolans can hold the town, and extend their lines another 160km southeast to the airfield at Mavinga, they will control the airspace all the way to the SWA/Namibian border, forcing the South Africans into what could be a costly retreat.

The political stakes are equally high.

The US, which, like South Africa, supports the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), the Cubans and the Angolan Government all profess their eagerness to negotiate a political solution to the war.

If such talks ever materialise, everyone will want to come to the table with the strongest position in the field. Cuito Cuanavale has taken on such symbolic as well as

THE CATWALK TO CUITO



MARGARET KNOX, an American journalist, reports from Cuito Cuanavale, where she spent several days with the Angolan forces.

IT'S A SMALL AND SHABBY TOWN — BUT CAPTURING IT HAS BECOME CRUCIAL TO ALL SIDES IN ANGOLA



"South Africa will take Cuito Cuanavale over my dead body," says Angolan Major Armindo Moreira, patrolling the road to the town with his men.

offensive as an unprovoked invasion. The South Africans, they claim, need Cuito Cuanavale to set up an independent Unita "bantustan".

Provincial commissar Manuel Francisco Tuta wouldn't say how many Cuban and Angolan troops are dug in around Cuito Cuanavale — only that they are stronger than the enemy.

The Soviet Mi-24 helicopter gunship that carried us out of Cuito Cuanavale skimmed over at least 300 tanks, armoured cars and supply trucks streaming bumper-to-bumper into the beleaguered city. Scores of tanks, mobile radar units, missiles and field guns turked menacingly in the bush on either side of the highway.

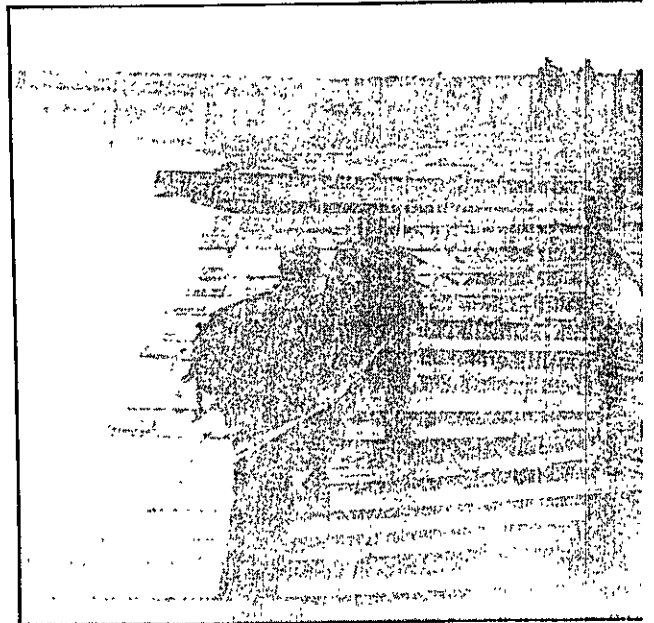
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wreckage of oil tankers and supply trucks.

The paved airstrip in Cuito Cuanavale is intact only because the Angolans quickly patch it up each time it is bombed.

And Unita/SADF attacks haven't been limited to this area. At least twice, South African jets penetrated the Angolans' air defence systems and bombed an alleged Swapo base on the outskirts of Lubango, a provincial capital 640km from here, and 304km from the SWA/Namibian border.

After flying to Lubango on the day of the second bombing we were denied access to the site, but local sources said casualties, including Swapo guerrillas and Namibian refugees, had been admitted to the regional hospital in Lubango.



FORWARD INTO BATTLE . . . Angolan troops cross what is left of the Cuito River

A single street of bombed-out stucco stores surrounded by a traditional African village, it is hit by as many as 200 shells a day, fired from South Africa's deadly G-5 and G-6 guns.

The lines of the Unita/SADF forces — numbering 8 000 in the province, according to Angolan intelligence sources — are barely 8km away.

Air raids, too, are frequent, despite the long, white anti-aircraft missiles, called pechoras that poke through the trees around the town.

Pivotal

An unmanned Israeli-type drone had taken out the bridge more than a month before, Moreira said. "The bombardments are so constant that we don't bother to repair it any more."

Now, he added, his men crossed to their forward positions on a crude catwalk.

But contrary to recent reports, Cuito Cuanavale most certainly has not fallen.

And, surprisingly, it hasn't even been evacuated.

While we were there, women tended cooking fires outside their huts and children playing in maize fields waved at the soldiers.

Angola has been battling South African invasions and South African-backed guerrillas since its independence from Portugal in 1975. But the current struggle for this desolate village could prove the pivotal battle of the on-again, off-again war.

If Unita can take Cuito Cuanavale and its vital airstrip they will have broken the sophisticated Angolan air-defence line — built with Cuban and Soviet help — that is denying Pretoria air supremacy here.

Symbolic

If the Angolans can hold the town, and extend their lines another 160km south-east to the airfield at Mavinga, they will control the airspace all the way to the SWA/Namibian border, forcing the South Africans into what could be a costly retreat.

The political stakes are equally high.

The US, which, like South Africa, supports the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), the Cubans and the Angolan Government all profess their eagerness to negotiate a political solution to the war.

If such talks ever materialise, everyone will want to come to the table with the strongest position in the field. Cuito Cuanavale has taken on such symbolic as well as strategic significance that a loss here for either side would be disastrous.

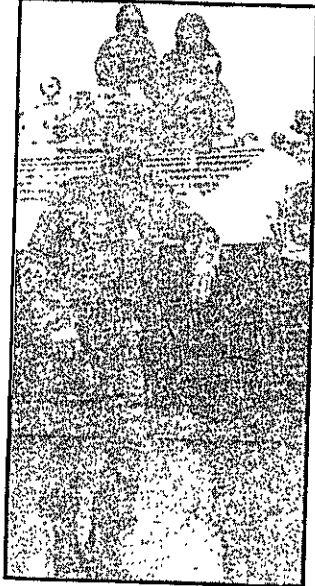
South Africa sees Angola's avowedly Marxist government — and the 30 000 Cuban troops stationed in the country — as a communist threat, a view with which the Reagan administration agrees.

'Bantustan'

Last year, the US gave Unita \$15-million in military aid, including high-tech Stinger missiles — which make flying in Angolan helicopters most uncomfortable.

"When you're flying over a battlefield," said our 24-year-old pilot, hunched over his joystick like an adolescent with a video game, "you spend as little time in the air as possible." Angola sees the

IT'S A SMALL AND SHABBY TOWN — BUT CAPTURING IT HAS BECOME CRUCIAL TO ALL SIDES IN ANGOLA



"South Africa will take Cuito Cuanavale over my dead body," says Angolan Major Armando Moreira, patrolling the road to the town with his men.

offensive as an unprovoked invasion. The South Africans, they claim, need Cuito Cuanavale to set up an independent Unita "bantustan".

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Tuta's high morale seems to be shared by his men. Those we saw — though muddy and unshaven — appeared well fed, well equipped and in high spirits.

Angola claims to have shot down more than 20 South African jets since the battle began.

But Angolan losses, too, have apparently been heavy — the roadside is pocked with bomb craters and littered with the burnt-out

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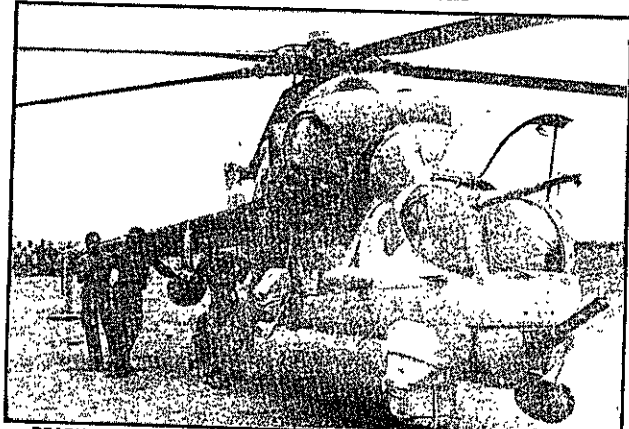
Denial

The Angolan Government denied harbouring Swapo guerrillas, but admitted the Lubango area had been hit.

"It's a carelessness of our army that the rear lines think the front lines will stop them," said Angolan Captain Bancoo Armando Fraternidade, who commands anti-aircraft units 320km to the west, near Cuvelai.

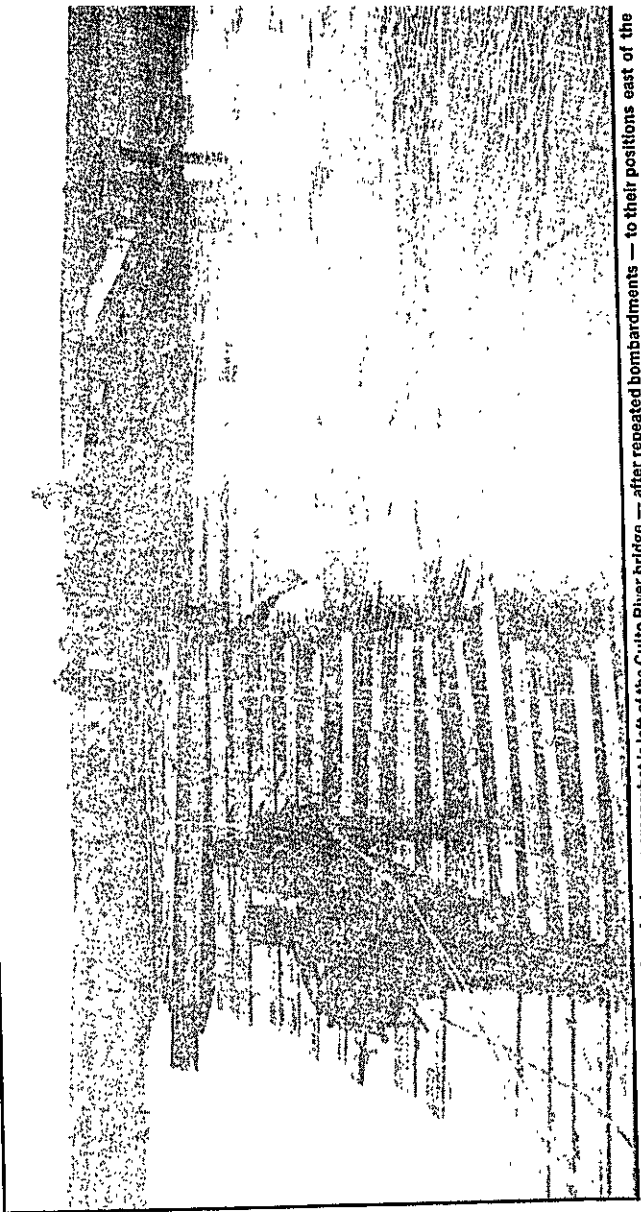
Though the Cubans and Angolan troops insist they will stay "until the racists go home", they too are longing for a resolution.

"I'm counting the days until I go home to my wife," said Ernesto Garcia Ramirez, an 18-year-old artillery man from Santiago de Cuba.



READY FOR TAKE-OFF ... an Angolan gunship with rocket launchers

WORLD WATCH



FORWARD INTO BATTLE... Angolan troops cross what is left of the Cuito River bridge — after repeated bombardments — to their positions east of the

TOILET

NOX, an American sports from Cuito where she spent with the Angolan

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bus/ract are... something else... cover you have... of... The fault is back... are told certain... not replaced... have been... Women living... elderly people... larly vulnerable... for the big rip-off... GOT GIRARDIN... Slip-shod... AS A parent... for school shoes... I have no option... state it's almost... Although both... dren's shoes were... less than a year... had holes in the... girl's T-bars tr... buckles broke... We eventually... pairs at R259... ing GSI... On the second... daughter returned... Is this revenge... REGARDING Jan... article about bei... (Sunday Times... I can't understand... people consider... 'brainless and... Maybe it's the... we all have... and intelligence... Some just appear... more clever bec... specialists in... don't interest... 'Shattered... Take heart! You've... The sour side... THE odds of pe... THE groceries... me, but this... was at home... monly offered... The poor he... father's purch... amount of toilet... I'd already pack... too spray, det... and floor pol... stationery and... all that remain... full assortment... such as cooking... sandwich fill... pasta, coffee... blend and had... As my disgran... Education is... MY daughter... school last year... In our days... ed and count... If anyone... What is the... instilling in... OTGORMANN, M... paying up to... than people... and Australia... Surely, it's... Government... sinism —... 0 W PISTOR... IUS, Durban... Namesakes!... WHEN the Duke... of York, choose... their baby, wh... part from trad... If an American... If they like... operas there... of distinguished... names to choo... for a Thom... Sister Rude... For a girl... Fallon, Kirtv... Tiger... Imagine Prince... Prince Thom... Tiger or Princess... I am sure the... approve — Mrs... Cape Town... your style... Their world... the last year... HOVEN, Beau... Quality litter... A CLEAR sign... tica's econom... want to end... the litter and... of half loaf... of bread. The... these were... are being dis... THIA VILVA, E... remarked once... proved the tol... household clea... little remains... human consum... B A ROSS, Dur... Faithful fan... BECAUSE I... beatwave I... cool my face... I wonder how... women still... ful device... The fan orig... Far East and... in the West... have gone into... FIS GARA, Kalk... Education is... MY daughter... school last year... In our days... ed and count... If anyone... What is the... instilling in... OTGORMANN, M... paying up to... than people... and Australia... Surely, it's... Government... sinism —... 0 W PISTOR... IUS, Durban... Namesakes!... WHEN the Duke... of York, choose... their baby, wh... part from trad... If an American... If they like... operas there... of distinguished... names to choo... for a Thom... Sister Rude... For a girl... Fallon, Kirtv... Tiger... Imagine Prince... Prince Thom... Tiger or Princess... I am sure the... approve — Mrs... Cape Town... your style... Their world... the last year... HOVEN, Beau... Quality litter... A CLEAR sign... tica's econom... want to end... the litter and... of half loaf... of bread. The... these were... are being dis... THIA VILVA, E... remarked once... proved the tol... household clea... little remains... human consum... B A ROSS, Dur... Faithful fan... BECAUSE I... beatwave I... cool my face... I wonder how... women still... ful device... The fan orig... Far East and... in the West... have gone into... FIS GARA, Kalk...

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SHOOTERS

entry by armed Brown into the sanctity of the buildings is a signal threat to the peace of all races.

he National Party makes no distinction between the AWB and the how irrational it is in terms of strategy to ban one ideology and armed aggression by the other.

w said it is to see the National campaigning as Nationalists the battleground strategy calls for oppress to be placed on good is evil.

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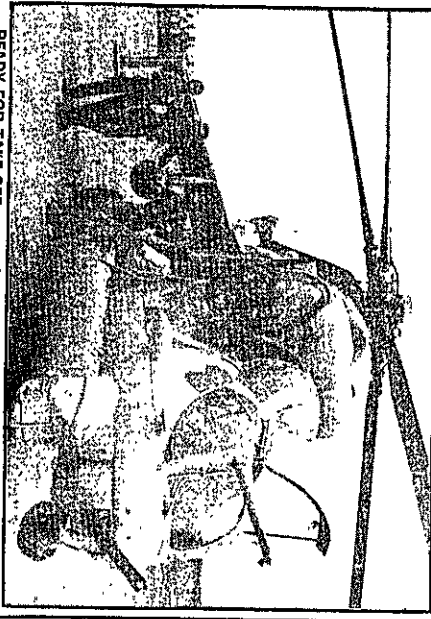
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READY FOR TAKE-OFF... an Angolan gunship with rocket launchers

ARC 43 11/3/88 (5) 1

Pretoria 'had better wake up' — Savimbi



Dr Jonas Savimbi

From JAMES TOMLINS
The Argus Foreign Service
PARIS. — Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi has harshly attacked the South African Government.

He said that Pretoria "had better wake up" to reality and criticised South Africa for making Unita pay a high fee for its military aid, for maintaining a puppet regime in SWA/Namibia, for fundamentally misunderstanding the Angola situation and mistakenly believing the SADF could take on the Soviet Union single-handed.

The interview appeared in

the mass-circulation weekly magazine, Paris-Match, and is the first time that the Unita leader has ever voiced in public such a torrent of criticism against his main ally.

He said Pretoria was wrong in thinking that "they are strong enough to fight the Soviet Union alone."

He added: "If Unita was by some mischance wiped out, then Swapo would take Namibia two months later. On my word of honour.

"Swapo is not strong militarily, and even less so than before, but it has the support of the Namibian people."

Namibians saw members of the interim government as lackeys: "Pretoria makes the laws and takes the decisions. The South African Government had better wake up and realise that the war being fought here is not just the concern of the Angolans but of all Southern Africa."

Apartheid

He said apartheid was a negative factor.

"I have noted a change in the mentality of South Africans. But it is not enough."

The Unita leader showed concern over whether Pretoria regarded Unita as a business partner or an ally.

He noted bitterly: "During the recent fighting around Lomba, the South Africans bombed and shelled the enemy — at a rate of 2 000-3 000 shells a night — and worked out the cost. At the end of the fighting, they handed over the bill. It was huge, and we had to ask our friends to pay it."

Door 'still open for talks with Angola'

Political Staff
PRESIDENT Botha confirmed today the door was open for direct talks with Angola but only if it included all the parties in the conflict.

With President Botha prepared to accept Swapo it appears the only block to negotiations on resolving conflict in Southern Africa could be Angolan reservations about including Unita.

Mr Botha was reacting to inquiries made after reports that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola was prepared to meet him face to face.

President Botha "is on record as saying he is willing to discuss the prospects for peace and development in Southern Africa with all the states of the

region, including Angola," a spokesman for his office said.

President Botha said today: "South Africa is convinced that peace and development in Angola and South West Africa can only be achieved if all parties participate in the deliberations, that is, South Africa, the transitional government in South West Africa, Swapo, Unita and the government of Angola."

The presence of foreign troops in Southern Africa would "also be addressed".

Mr Botha's initiative excludes both super powers in spite of tentative suggestions by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan, for talks with the Soviet Union.

South Africa is freezing out the United States because it is implementing sanctions.

Crocker 'trying to nudge SA'

Political Staff
THE Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, is to hold talks with the United States Assistant Secretary of State in charge of African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, in Europe next week.

It is understood that Dr Crocker wants to discuss developments on resolving the conflict in Southern Africa.

Dr Crocker has held talks with Angola and evidently

wants to see if he can nudge South Africa further towards an agreement.

South African sources, however, are concerned that the US may soften its stand on the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

The South African position remains that all Cuban troops must leave the region before it will give the green light to United Nations Resolution 435, which provides for the independence of Namibia.

Government baffled by report

Political Staff
THE Government was baffled today by the report and indicated that it would be seeking clarification from Dr Savimbi.

A spokesman for the Defence Force said he could not comment on reports of interviews with Dr Savimbi. He said it was impossible to evaluate such an interview.

Angola arranges a rare tour of the battlefields

FOR the past two months, the people of this bucolic valley have lived on a modern battlefield. When the front is quiet, they tend their maize against a lush backdrop of marshland and winding river. When the guns and missiles flash and boom, they glance at the wooded ridge that hides the enemy, then go on cooking mealie meal or feeding the chickens.

"Many children have died," said Provincial Commissar Manuel Francisco Tuta, "But our people will stay."

Unfortunately for the villagers, this dilapidated town has been chosen as a proving ground in an international test of wills.

By hosting their first press tour of Cuito Cuanavale last week, the Angolans hoped to show the world they are beating back the South African invasion. For its part, South Africa has claimed at least once to have taken the town. Cuito Cuanavale, a row of wrecked stores and mud huts amid miles of trackless wilderness, doesn't look like much. But it is taking on a public relations value almost equal to its strategic value.

This is no longer a small guerrilla insurgency but a full-blown war. Seen from an Angolan Soviet-built Mi-24 helicopter gunship, the 160km road from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale was bumper-to-bumper with supply trucks and armored vehicles streaming to the besieged town. Cuban-manned anti-aircraft missiles and mobile radar dishes poked through the trees on either side of the highway and the air was alive with helicopters.

South Africa and the Reagan administration see their involvement here as an anti-communist crusade. The United States has given the rebel Unita \$15-million in military aid during each of the past two years. South

For South Africans, the Angola conflict is shrouded in secrecy. Here, MARGARET KNOX provides a rare glimpse of the battle zone of Cuito Cuanavale

Africa intervened this time — as it has for the past three years — to help save Unita from the avowedly Marxist government of Angola, and the 70 000 Cuban troops here.

"If peace talks ever materialise, everyone will want to go to the negotiating table from the strongest position in the field. Unfortunately for the people of Cuito Cuanavale, both sides have decided to make their point right here.

When Pretoria decided in December not to withdraw its troops as scheduled, the Angolans for the first time openly shifted Cuban troops into active combat positions "at all levels," said Tuta. Cubans were evident at anti-aircraft positions along the road leading here last week, and at the airbase in Menongue. Conscripts assigned to Angola serve two years, rather than the three years they would serve back home, the Cubans explained. "Menongue is not Havana," laughed a tall, black Cuban soldier, starting across the airstrip at the endless bleak scrub and drizzling rain.

Militarily, the battle of Cuito Cuanavale is about air supremacy. Both sides need the airstrip here to control the skies over southern Angola. The South Africans and Unita hold six of the nine towns in Cuando Cubango province, according to the Angolans. If they can take the airbase here, they will have broken the Angolans sophisticated Soviet-built air defence line.

South African lines begin just 8km east of here, and their G-5 and G-6

guns pound Cuito Cuanavale with as many as 200 rounds a day. One such barrage ended an impromptu press briefing in the middle of a bridge east of the town last week. Huge white plumes of smoke rose against the ridge as a dozen explosions rocked the valley.

The Angolans claim to have shot down more than 20 South African planes in the past two months. A Cuban unit 20km west of Cuito Cuanavale boasted of having shot down two South African Mirage jets on February 23.

But Angolan losses were apparent, too, in the burned wreckage of supply trucks and the bomb craters flanking the road and airstrip. And Angola's incentive to end the war is evident far from the battlefield. A visitor to the capital, Luanda, is greeted at the international airport by an optimistic banner announcing: "1988:

First Year of Economic Recovery." The newspapers are full of talk about privatisation and devaluation, and the government is moving closer to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

But this decaying colonial city, once known as the "Rio of Africa," shows little sign of recovery. The gaudy neon signs adorning Portuguese-era boutiques are burned-out and broken. The cafes — there were once 5 000 attracting crowds to the palm-lined bay — are boarded shut, and an odour of sewage wafts over the esplanade. Despite \$2-billion in annual oil revenues, children in the sprawling shanty-towns show the distended bellies of disease and hunger.

"The Angolan people need peace and a chance to rebuild their economy," said Tuta. "We'll negotiate with any country not interfering in our internal affairs."

11-17/3/88 W/mail

5

GOVT STAND IN ANGOLA

THE Government considers the Soviet rejection of the South African standpoint on the ending of the conflict in Angola as a rejection of the realities of the sub-continent. *Sowetan 11/3/88*

A spokesman for the Department of Defence said in reply to a question that the issue revolved around the realities which Southern Africa could not escape, *SABC Radio News* reported.

It was in South Africa's interests that the sub-continent was not bled to death, and for this reason desired internal order and solutions which met Africa's immediate needs.

See Page 20.

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P.D. 11/31/88

Soviets main culprit says SA ministry

CAPE TOWN — The Soviet Union was the main destabiliser on the subcontinent and for that reason was not prepared to accept a recipe such as that applied to Afghanistan in Angola, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement yesterday.

Reacting to Soviet comments on South Africa's recent proposals on Angola, a spokesman said there were certain realities in the subcontinent from which no country could escape.

The Minister of Defence had said in his original statement that South Africa and the Soviet Union were the only two powers that could assist militarily there.

South Africa took care of its own and the subcontinent's interests by its stabilising role.

Southern Africa could not afford to be crushed in East-West conflict.

The suffering and misery of the people of Africa did not allow that.

There were countries contemplating the purchase of MiG 29 aircraft and other sophisticated Russian weaponry who could not supply decent boots to their soldiers, let alone food.

It was in South Africa's interests that the subcontinent not bleed itself to death.

Therefore South Africa desired internal order and solutions that complied with the needs of Africa, without outside interference or prescriptions.

— Sapa

D/D 12/3/88

Malan rejects Savimbi claims 5

JOHANNESBURG — Allegations made by the leader of Unita, Dr Jonas Savimbi, during an interview with a French journalist about the nature of South Africa's involvement in Angola were denied last night by the Defence Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

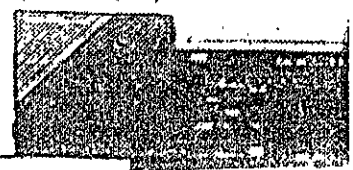
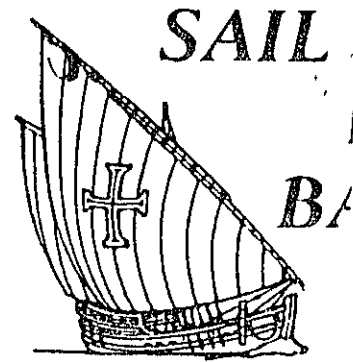
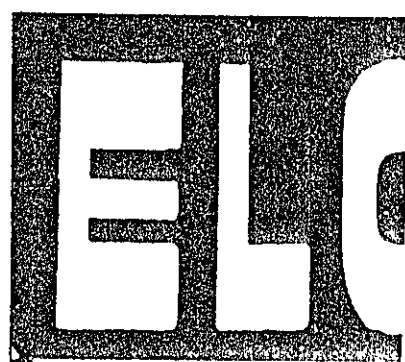
been placed on record so many times before, for the sake of its own interest and for the interest of the sub-continent of which it is part. South Africa receives no compensation to its own advantage in whatever form," he said. — Sapa.

Gen Malan said he trusted that Dr Savimbi would rectify the matter as soon as possible, and that the report which appeared in the weekly magazine, Paris-Match, was "a calculated effort to drive a wedge between South Africa and Unita".

In the report Dr Savimbi criticised South Africa for making Unita pay for its military aid, for maintaining a puppet government in Namibia, for fundamentally misunderstanding the Angolan situation and mistakingly believing that the SADF could take on the Soviet Union single-handedly.

Gen Malan said it was "a lie" that South Africa submitted an account for its "limited support" of Unita.

"South Africa's limited support is, as has



APL Time 12/3/88
Angola seeks direct SA talks (5)

LISBON. — Angola is seeking direct talks with South Africa on peace in Southern Africa because the United States has lost credibility as a mediator, the Angolan Minister of Industry, Mr Pedro de Castro Vandunem, said yesterday.
The minister said his govern-

ment had received signals that some South African officials were considering direct negotiations with Angola.
He said Angola wanted to talk to South Africa because the US had lost its impartiality as a mediator in the conflict by supplying Unifa with arms. — Sapa

copy to 16/3/88
Angola

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releases remains of SA soldiers

By CHRIS STEYN

THE remains of two South African, recce commandos were released by the Angolan government yesterday — nearly three years after they were killed in the Cabinda sabotage raid in northern Angola in which Major Wynand du Toit was captured.

And 12 captured Angolans — believed to be MPLA troops — were repatriated in exchange for the bodies of Corporal Rowland Ridgard Liebenberg, 25, of Douglas, and Corporal Louis Pieter van Breda, also 25, of Vredenburg.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced yesterday that the remains of the two commandos were released by Angola in terms of an agreement reached when Major Du Toit was freed in September 1987. The commandos were killed on May 21, 1985.

Yesterday morning, as an SADF transport aircraft arrived in Luanda to collect the bodies, the parents of Corporal Liebenberg left their home in flood-ravaged Douglas for a macabre reunion at an undisclosed destination.

For nearly three years Mr Roeland Liebenberg and his wife, Anna, waited and grieved. On Monday evening, word finally came.

SA offer

to Gorbachev

THE South African Government is poised for a direct diplomatic initiative involving the Soviet Union and Angola to end the hostilities that have plagued the region.

Confirmation of the move comes amid a heightened level of conflict, with Angolan air force jets reportedly striking directly at South African ground forces in south-eastern Angola.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan today made a remarkable direct offer to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev: Abandon your bid for a pro-Soviet government in Angola and South Africa will respond in similar vein.

And other sources indicate talks with the Angolan government are on the cards.

Gen Malan based his offer, made in a prepared statement on Soviet policy towards Afghanistan, where the Russians have said they intend to end their occupa-

Talks with Angola also on the cards as battle escalates

By LESTER VENTER, Political Correspondent

tion.

Mr Gorbachev said in January: "In free, non-aligned and neutral Afghanistan the government must be established on the basis of reconciliation."

The Soviet leader made it clear this policy had to be matched by a similar undertaking from the US.

Today Gen Malan said: "If Mr Gorbachev would be prepared to express himself in

the same way on Angola, South Africa is prepared to say the following: "South Africa is not attempting to establish a pro-South African government in Luanda."

"But then the Soviet Union must state clearly that it is not interested in a pro-Soviet government in Luanda."

"The MPLA and Unita will have to reach a settlement on the basis of reconciliation."

Gen Malan's stand — cer-

tain to make waves in diplomatic circles — follows hard on two important developments in the struggle between the super powers and regional powers for the upper hand in the Angola issue.

● Intimations from US diplomatic sources that the Americans are making headway in getting agreement on the creation of a government of reconciliation that will include the MPLA and Unita.

● Moves by the South African Government to draw a sharper non-aligned profile for South Africa in the sub-continent, involving putting the Americans out at arms-length and freeing SA to deal on its own terms with all the parties involved — including the Soviet Union.

Top SA Government sources dismiss the American claims of progress.

Pretoria believes US mediator Dr Chester Crocker has not been fully disclosing to South Africa his dealings with the MPLA government.

Direct contact between Pretoria and Luanda has revealed that Angolan government proposals made through Dr Crocker have not been reaching the SA Government, it was learned in Cape Town this week.

This has led to a strong measure of distrust of the Americans by both sides.

"The Yanks are cut out in a big way as mediators," a South African source said.

Tensions

Gen Malan's statement makes it clear that South Africa's increasing willingness to deal with the Soviets does not involve a softening of Pretoria's view of Soviet intentions in the region.

Gen Malan said the relaxing of East-West tensions that has accompanied Mr Gorbachev's premiership also saw a stepping up of Soviet arms shipments to the southern hemisphere.

At the same time there has been growing alienation between SA and the US, mainly provoked by sanctions.

"For Moscow this was a clear message, that the US was weakening its capabilities in southern Africa and that consequently a gap would be left for the extension of Soviet influence."

Distorted

He accused American policy of "inconsistency" that could bring "sorrow" to Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and other African leaders. SA had to intervene on Unita's behalf to prevent a "distorted balance of power" in the region.

The weakening or destruction of Unita would have a dramatic influence on future political developments in the region, Gen Malan said.

South Africa was prepared to live with a neutral, non-aligned future Angolan government, Gen Malan said.

Meanwhile, journalists who visited south-east Angola last week report that Angolan jets strafed South African positions in two major battles on February 14 and February 15 near the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, inflicting some casualties.

● See also Page 11

By DAVID BRAUN, Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA has rejected the US and is wooing the Soviet Union as part of a new "aggressively neutral" stance as "the regional power" of Southern Africa.

The Government fears the US will try for a "quick-fix solution" in Angola in the dying months of the Reagan Administration, which could involve a softening of their position on the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, on Saturday issued a statement aimed at Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Noting that Mr Gorbachev had said the Soviet Union would settle for a non-aligned government in Afghanistan, he said that if the Soviet Union would accept a non-aligned government in Angola, and if the MPLA and Unita reached agreement, South Africa would withdraw.

Initial reaction from the two superpowers today was a stunned silence.

A spokesman for the United States embassy said they were awaiting a copy of the statement and had no immediate comment, while the Soviet embassy in Lusaka said they were not aware of the statement and not prepared to comment until they had time to study its text.

There was no comment from Mr Pik Botha's Ministry of Foreign Affairs which would normally handle this type of initiative.

Senior Government spokesman said there had as yet been no direct contact with the Soviet Union and that General Malan's statement should be seen as a "kite-lying exercise".

South Africa has decided to "go it alone" on Southern African issues. Part of the new diplomatic offensive was the speech to the UN Security Council by the South African envoy, Mr Les Manley, in which he invited them to "do their damndest".

One source said last night: "There are only two powers which count in Southern Africa: the Soviet Union and South Africa."

"Unreliable"

"America is out. Americans have proved themselves to be basically unreliable in this part of the world."

Sources were careful to point out last night, however, that South Africa did not foresee formal links with Moscow and was not seeking a "toenadering" with the Soviets. However, South African officials are keen on establishing mineral cartels with the Russians.

One source said last night General Malan's weekend statement, should not be seen as a form of "glasnost".

He said: "The ball is in the Soviet court. They are destabilising the region whereas we want stability."

"Sorrow"

General Malan accused the Americans of inconsistency, which could bring "sorrow" to Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and other African leaders.

South Africa had to intervene on Unita's behalf to prevent a distorted balance of power, he said.

South Africa was prepared to live with a neutral, non-aligned Angolan government.

Opposition parties within South Africa were divided about the move.

Mr Tom Langley, Conservative Party spokesman, praised General Malan's firm line, but warned the Government to be both careful and patient in dealing with the Soviet Union.

Mr Ray Swart, PFP spokesman, was unimpressed. "What is needed more than anything is less posturing by General Malan and his Cabinet colleagues and more attention to meeting the desperate needs of reform in South Africa," he said

SOUTH AFRICA WOOING Soviets Preps for Anglos

APG 25 7/3/88

SA gives Russia a back door out of Angola

D1 D7/3/88 Political Correspondent (S)

CAPE TOWN — South Africa has offered Russia a "back door" out of Angola and a way to end the civil war without losing face.

In a bold bid to go-it-alone in ending the conflict, which is costing South Africa millions every day, the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, appears to have ditched American peace efforts.

Reacting in an important policy speech to Russia's claimed stance that it would not insist on a pro-Soviet government in Afghanistan, General Malan said if it adopted the same attitude in Angola, South Africa would also not attempt to establish a pro-South African government in Luanda.

Informed sources indicated yesterday that South Africa's attitude was that the MPLA government and the Unita movement should be allowed to establish a government of reconciliation of their own without outside interference.

But, according to senior sources, the offer is also made in the knowledge that the combined MPLA and Russian surrogate forces have taken a severe mauling recently and that Russia could be facing a humiliating military defeat, or at the very least an expensive no-win deadlock in the Angolan bush.

General Malan's offer amounts to giving the Soviets a way out of the impasse by withdrawing in the interests of peace.

South Africa's statement is apparently also in line with its new, aggressive policy to show that it really is a "regional power" and that it intends to behave like one.

It follows the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha's, tough line on Mazambique recently which, according to well placed sources, indicated a new hard-line approach towards its black neighbours.

The approach was confirmed last week by the South African Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Les Manley, when he told the African group that their attacks on South Africa were "hypocritical" as most of them had never known democracy.

Indications yesterday were that South Africa believed it was speaking from a position of strength and that while General Malan's statement was not a direct attempt to open face-to-face negotiations with Russia, it was a very clear "signal."

In his statement, General Malan said South Africa had to become involved in Angola and provide aid to Unita in order to prevent a distorted balance of power.

By Patrick Laurence

South Africa's surprise weekend signal to the Soviet Union that it is prepared to negotiate a deal on Angola is prompted in part by fear of further embroilment in the steadily escalating Angolan civil war, according to a senior diplomat.

"There is a pretty major war going on there," the diplomat said of the conflict in Angola, where South African soldiers and their Unita allies have been struggling for two months to wrest the fortress town of Cuito Cuanavale from Angolan government forces.

The signal that South Africa is amenable to agreement with the Soviet Union to end the war there was made by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

Noting that the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, had declared that the establishment of a "free, non-aligned and neutral government" in Kabul could form the basis of reconciliation with the United States on Afghanistan, General Malan indicated that a similar statement on Angola from the Soviet Union would draw a positive response from South Africa.

"We realise that a future government in Luanda, seen against the tension between East and West, must certainly follow a non-aligned and neutral political attitude," General Malan said. "South Africa is prepared to live with that."

The diplomat described General Malan's statement as

SA may be trying to pull out of war

"very interesting" and consistent with recent informal contacts between Pretoria and Moscow at an informal level. He did not elaborate but a professor at the University of Stellenbosch, Professor Philip Nel, visited Moscow recently.

His visit and unsubstantiated reports of further contacts triggered speculation that a deal might be pending. Now, however, the speculation has surfaced in a "very public manner".

The diplomat noted that General Malan had talked of the need for reconciliation between Angola's MPLA government and Unita rebels without specifically mentioning the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi. It might mean, he said, that South Africa was keeping its options open on a possible deal between the MPLA and Unita which would exclude Dr Savimbi.

Professor John Barratt, director-general of the SA Institute of International Affairs, agreed that the escalating war — the South African Defence Force has acknowledged the death of nine of its men in the past month — might be a motivating factor for General Malan's statement.

"Cuito Cuanavale is still in

Angolan hands," he said. "Angolan forces are pretty well dug in. We are fighting in a big battle. We are taking losses. We are not getting any further."

But, Professor Barratt said, General Malan's initiative contained a fatal weakness as it stood. He was trying to separate the Angolan and Namibian issues. His offer of a settlement on Angola excluded resolution of the inter-related and protracted Namibian conflict and thus had little or no chance of acceptance by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union would demand settlement of the Namibian conflict on the basis of the 1978 United Nations peace plan, as contained in resolution 435, Professor Barratt said. South Africa had previously linked the two issues by demanding the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a pre-condition for implementation of resolution 435. General Malan now appeared to be trying to disconnect them.

Professor Deon Geldenhuys said in an interview today that General Malan's statement was part of a "power game" aimed at extracting recognition of South Africa as a regional power.

© Bday 7/3/88
Angola wants help

LISBON — Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos called on other African countries on Saturday to do more to bring peace to southern Africa, saying Angola's conflict with Pretoria could have serious consequences for the continent.

He said Angola needed help from everyone and from African countries in particular. Victory or defeat would have profound repercussions for the rest of Africa.

Nigeria expressed support on Saturday for Cuba's military role in Angola and also pledged to oppose the US campaign against alleged human-rights violations by Fidel Castro's government.

Nigeria undertook to try and foil American efforts at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva to "unjustly" condemn Castro's government for the violations.

Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida gave those assurances at a Lagos meeting with Castro's envoy, Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa. — Sapa-Reuter.

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Malan's comments seen as a dramatic shift in policy on Angola



● MALAN

DEFENCE Minister Magnus Malan's hints at the weekend that SA would welcome Soviet support for a negotiated settlement in Angola were seen yesterday as a "dramatic shift" in government policy.

Director of the SA Institute of International Affairs John Barratt said Malan's statement indicated there was some "rethinking" going on by government — from its "total onslaught" position to one of possible negotiation with the Soviets.

He said SA would have to be prepared to make some concession to make the settlement worthwhile for the Soviets. The inde-

MANDY JEAN WOODS

pendence of Namibia might be something the Soviets would consider, he said.

Malan said SA was not striving for a pro-SA government but waiting for a Soviet indication that it would support a non-aligned, neutral government in the country.

"But advantages achieved in south-east Angola are in SA's and southern Africa's interests and cannot be given away on a plate, otherwise successes in preventing Soviet and Cuban destabilisation in the

area would be in vain."

He said if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was prepared to co-operate, SA would be satisfied with a government in Luanda formed on the basis of a settlement between the MPLA and Unita.

Barratt said it was "interesting" that Malan had made the statement, not the Foreign Affairs Department.

"It indicates the military considerations are paramount in the Namibian and Angolan conflicts.

"Two things must be remembered: the SA government stresses that SA is the re-

gional power and nothing can be settled without its agreement; and the trend has been for the Soviets to collaborate with the US in regional matters, so it is unlikely the Soviets will come to some agreement alone."

Barratt said Malan's statement might have been made to save face and to prevent being presented with a demand already agreed to by the superpowers.

A spokesman for Malan's office said yesterday Malan was not hinting at negotiations with the Soviets. He had merely made an "analysis" of the situation.

ITS Rowcott could block deal

11

8/18/88
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SA to become a regional power in Africa

Bold bid for talks

SW 7/15
7/12/88

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA made a bold bid at the weekend for direct negotiations with the Soviet Union over ending the war in Angola.

In a clear attempt to make the future of Angola a South Africa-Soviet issue, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, offered not to push for a pro-South African government in Luanda if Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev reciprocated in kind.

The move was seen in political circles as part of a set play by Government to aggressively project South Africa as a major African power capable of dealing firmly with all-comers, including the Soviet Union.

General Malan's assertive stance on Angola follows the no-holds-barred dressing-down the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, handed Mozambique last month and the controversial challenge by SA's UN Ambassador, Mr Les Manley, last week for the world body to "do your damndest".

Regional power

Government sources yesterday interpreted General Malan's offer as emphasizing South Africa's status as a regional power and as reflecting Pretoria's scepticism towards United States claims that it was making progress on an agreement for the formation of a government of national reconciliation in Angola.

In his statement, General Malan said South Africa had to become involved in Angola and provide aid to Unita to prevent a distorted balance of power between SA and the Soviet Union.

He said SA forces were also in south-east Angola for the sake of the stability of the sub-continent and to protect South Africa's interests against the ANC and Swapo.

Although an announcement had been made last year about a withdrawal of South African forces from Angola, the advantages gained in southern Angola had been in SA's favour, he said.

Advantages such as these could not be handed over on a plate, otherwise the successes achieved in preventing Soviet and Cuban destabilization would have been in vain.

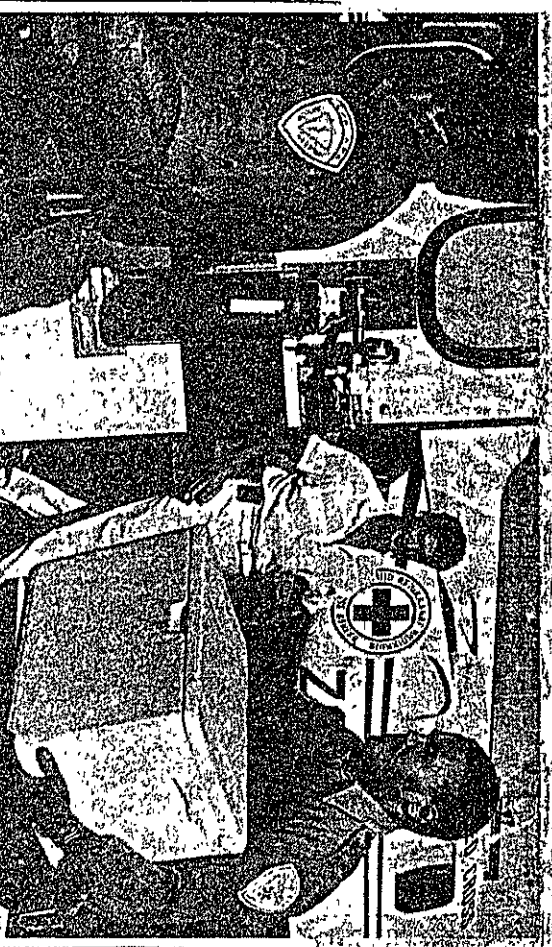
Sapa reports that General Malan referred to Mr Gorbachev's recent announcement of a possible end to the war in Afghanistan.

In January, Mr Gorbachev said the Soviet Union would not insist on a pro-Soviet government in Afghanistan and called on the US not to insist on a pro-American government.

General Malan referred to the successes of the Unita forces during the MPLA offensive, and said Unita was a permanent factor in Angola.

He said Moscow saw a golden opportunity for greater involvement because of the isolation South Africa was experiencing.

HEART IN HANDS . . . A Metro Rescue Service ambulance man rushes a heart and kidneys from the Red Cross Air Ambulance into a road ambulance at D F Malan Airport yesterday. In the background is Dr Hermann Reichenspumer, the head of the Groote Schuur Hospital team which went to Port Elizabeth to fetch the organs. Last night the heart-transplant patient, a man, was reported as stable. The kidneys were for another patient. Picture: ANNE LANG



Hopes of new deal in Angola crisis

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa
News Service

There is evidence that the Soviet Union might react favourably to the South African offer to accept a non-aligned government in Angola.

It was contained in a commentary by a Moscow analyst, made available by the Soviet embassy in Gaborone.

The commentary expresses the hope that the Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan will be followed by a settlement of the problems of southern Africa.

The commentary was written before the South African offer was made by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, over the weekend.

General Malan referred to the statement by Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev in January that the Soviet Union was ready to withdraw from Afghanistan to clear the way for a non-aligned government to be formed by the warring factions in that country.

If Mr Gorbachev was willing to take the same line on Ango-

la, General Malan said, South Africa would not insist on a pro-South African government in Luanda.

In the commentary, the analyst, Mr A Devitt, remarks that "only yesterday the Afghan crisis seemed to have gone too far for a political settlement".

"Since then, however, favourable prerequisites have been created for its final solution.

END OF CONFLICT?

"Could it be hoped that tomorrow we will find solutions to the conflict in southern Africa and to any other regional conflict in the world?"

Mr Devitt continues: "In some respects it will be easier to reach a settlement in southern Africa than in Afghanistan."

He suggests that Pretoria might "agree to give independence to Namibia and to drop its aggressive designs against the Frontline states even prior to the abolition of the apartheid system in the country".

While Mr Devitt's commentary does not specifically refer

to Angola it obviously relates to the Angolan-Namibian situation more than to any other part of southern Africa.

And, while he is not a senior Soviet official, he is presumed to be expressing official Kremlin policy.

Moscow's interest in peaceful settlements in southern Africa is seen to stem partly from two ambitions — first, to promote nuclear disarmament negotiations with the United States and, second, to divert more of its productive and other energies towards its own technological revolution.

It also arises from Moscow's feeling that the United States has scored at its expense by pre-empting the role of mediator in southern Africa, these analysts feel.

South Africa's interest in the Soviet Union as a major player in southern Africa is indicated by the recent creation of a Soviet desk in the Department of Foreign Affairs and by persistent reports that Pretoria is seeking, or has already conducted, unofficial exchanges with Moscow — reports that

Pretoria has not contradicted.

General Malan told Parliament recently that South Africa and the Soviet Union were the only two states that could make or break South Africa.

Prior to General Malan's statement over the weekend, South Africa had reacted cautiously to the signals from Moscow suggesting a new attitude there towards southern African problems.

SOVIET OVERTURES

Its caution has been shared by Kremlin-watchers in South Africa, including Dr Philip Nel of the Institute of Soviet Studies at Stellenbosch University.

Dr Nel warned recently that the Soviet overtures might be nothing more than a new way of achieving Moscow's old aim of extending its influence in southern Africa.

He thinks Moscow no longer believes the Pretoria Government will collapse soon and that Pretoria's involvement is now seen to be necessary in any political settlement in Angola and Namibia.

We're ready to talk to SA, says Angolan envoy

MKGW 8/3/80 (5)

The Argus Africa News Service

LUSAKA. — Angola is ready to hold talks with South Africa and the United States but will not talk to Unita, the Angolan ambassador to Zambia, Mr Luis Neto Kiambata, has said.

He was reacting to proposals made at the weekend by South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan who called for the formation of a non-aligned and neutral government in Angola.

"Unita is irrelevant," Mr Kiambata said, dismissing General Malan's assessment that the Angolan rebel group is "a permanent factor".

The Angolan Government was ready to take part in a peace conference involving South Africa, the United States, Cuba and Swapo, all of which were active in the region.

South African Foreign Minister Pik

Botha was "realistic and diplomatic", he said, while General Malan was "a radical fascist and one-track-minded with a paranoia over communism".

Mr Kiambata said 10 African countries were giving financial and diplomatic support to Unita. The Angolan Government was contacting them but some had "bluntly turned down" Angola's approaches.

He named one of the countries as Zaire.

● From Lisbon The Argus Foreign Staff reports that Unita guerrillas claim to have attacked the central highland provincial capital of Kuito with "much success", destroying a jetfighter and killing eight soldiers, including two Cubans.

The insurgents made no mention of casualties on their side. There was no independent comment from Luanda.

SA intensifying invasion of Angola says officer ⁵

DID 917188.

LISBON — South Africa was intensifying a military invasion of areas of southern Angola to help the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to topple the government, an Angolan army officer said yesterday.

Captain Bangao Fraternidade was quoted as saying South African forces were attempting to establish advanced headquarters near the towns of Evale and Mupa in the southwestern Cunene province.

He said South Africa was concentrating troops and military equipment in the area, 140 kilometres north of the SWA/Namibian border.

Capt Fraternidade, a regional commander in the Huila province north of Cunene, was quoted as saying South Africa's objective was to open corridors that would allow the Unita to advance northwards from their southern strongholds.

He said South African forces were in the area and were mining roads leading to towns and villages to stop supplies reaching townsfolk and villagers.

Angola claims 9 000 South African soldiers are helping the Unita lay siege to the town of Cuito Cuanavale.

In a further development the Unita said yesterday it had attacked a key military airport in central Angola and killed six government soldiers and two Cubans.

A Unita statement released in Lisbon said: "Our forces penetrated and attacked successfully two targets in Bie province — the commandos operating on the flank of Cuemba and its military airport guarded by Cubans."

Six government troops, including the commander, and two Cubans were

killed, it added.

The statement said the attack was on March 4, but did not say whether the airport was still operational.

Rebels and the government have reported battles near the town of Cuemba.

Most of the heaviest fighting in Angola's 13-year-old civil war is in the south, where South African troops are engaged.

From Jamba it was reported that the leader of the Unita, Dr Jonas Savimbi, had reiterated his willingness to talk with the MPLA Government in Luanda on a withdrawal of the Cuban troops in the country.

He was quoted to have said that the Unita would not be able to form a government of national unity with the MPLA as long as the Cubans remained.

More than 30 000 Cuban troops are reported to be stationed in Angola although some estimates are nearer 40 000.

He said the Unita had established contacts with the Cubans through a third party since it had captured a Cuban lieutenant-colonel.

Recently, the Portuguese Prime Minister, Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, said if an agreement on a Cuban withdrawal was not reached in the next few months, the chances for peace in Angola would be set back for years.

South Africa has expressed its willingness to seek a settlement on Angola with the USSR which would involve an agreement between Unita and the MPLA and Angola becoming a non-aligned state. — Sapa-RNS

Angola peace-bid rebuff 'no surprise'

Door 'still open' for SA, Soviet talks

SM
10/3/88

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent
Parliament

The Soviet Union's rejection of the South African Government offer to come to an agreement in the Angolan conflict has not necessarily closed the doors on a negotiated settlement, Government sources indicated today.

The immediate reaction to the Kremlin's rebuff today was that the South African Government was not unduly surprised.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday turned down the offer by Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan to withdraw from Angola if the Soviet Union committed itself to a neutral government in that country.

The spokesman said the situations in Angola and Afghanistan were completely different.

The Soviet Union believed the most important subjects of which the SA Government did not speak were apartheid, interference in the affairs of its neighbouring states — Angola for example — and Namibia.

South African Government sources appeared not to be too concerned about this reaction today.

Signals

It was believed the doors to a negotiated settlement in Angola were still open in view of signals from Angola itself that it would be prepared to take part in regional discussions.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said in reaction today, that Africa could no longer afford to be crushed in the conflict between East and West, the price was too high in terms of suffering and misery.

The spokesman said General Malan's original message to the Soviet Union had concerned realities which no country in Southern Africa could escape.

One of these realities pointed out by the Minister in his original statement, according to the spokesman, was that only two countries had the ability to project military power in Southern Africa — South Africa and the Soviet Union.

"But both these countries play in separate leagues," the spokesman said.

He said South Africa protected her own and the sub-continent's interests and played a stabilising role.

The Soviet Union on the other hand was the major destabiliser.

"Africa can no longer afford to be crushed in a conflict between East and West. The price in suffering and misery is too high.

"There are countries which unfortunately want to get hold of MiG-29s and other sophisticated weaponry but who are not able to supply their soldiers with decent shoes or boots, to say nothing of food.

"It is in South Africa's interests that the sub-continent should not bleed itself to death."

SA moving deeper into Angola, says MPLA

LUANDA — Officials said yesterday that South African troops are moving further north into Angola in support of rebel Unita forces involved in a three-day battle this week near Cuemba in central Bie province.

The officials said troops loyal to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government killed 180 rebels and captured large quantities of South African-supplied equipment.

"This was a major battle and we expect more fighting in the area," said one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He added the battle "shows the South African incursion into Angola is still moving north in conjunction with rebel forces".

Radio Nacional de Angola said MPLA troops destroyed two South African-built armored personnel carriers and captured another "along with South African arms and ammunition".

ALLEGATIONS

A spokesman for the South African Defence force said last night South Africa's position on Angola has been clearly stated and was repeated again at the weekend by the Minister of Defence. "Furthermore these allegations, by so-called anonymous sources, are merely a continuation of Angola's attempts to divert attention from Unita's widely publicised military successes in Angola," the spokesman said.

The action was the furthest north Unita has engaged government troops since they began driving out of their south-eastern strongholds in October.

Cuemba is 600 km north of the Namibian border.

In a statement distributed in Lisbon yesterday, Unita said their forces were engaged in heavy fighting around Cuemba. It said rebels killed 11 Angolan soldiers and four Cubans on Monday in an attack on the nearby town of Catabola.

Three weeks earlier, Unita overran Munhango, 60 km east of Cuemba.

Both Cuemba and Munhango are situated along the east-west Benguela railroad. — Associated Press

Soviets reject SA plan for Angola (S)

MOSCOW — An SA proposal for a direct deal with Moscow to set up a neutral government in Angola similar to that suggested by the Kremlin for Afghanistan was rejected by a Soviet spokesman yesterday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said: "The situation in Ango-

la and the situation in Afghanistan are completely different.

SA Defence Minister Magnus Malan said on Sunday that if Moscow would accept a free, neutral and non-aligned government in Angola, Pretoria would not insist that the government be pro-SA. — Sapa-Reuter.

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Soviets

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SA offer

MOSCOW. — A top Soviet spokesman yesterday dismissed a recent South African proposal for a direct deal with Moscow to set up a neutral government in Angola similar to that suggested by the Kremlin for Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mr Gennady Gerasimov told journalists that the situation in Angola and that in Afghanistan were "completely different".

"We believe the most important subject on which the SA government does not speak is apartheid, interference in the affairs of their neighbour states — Angola for example — and Namibia. This is the crux of the matter," he said.

Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan said at the weekend that if Moscow would accept a free, neutral and non-aligned government in Angola, Pretoria would not insist that the government be pro-South African.

In spite of Mr Gerasimov's formal rejection of the SA offer, high-level diplomatic sources believe that Angola, Moscow and Havana are convinced that the key to ending the regional conflict now lies in reaching an agreement with South Africa.

Our Lisbon correspondent reports that Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is willing to meet President P W Botha for face to face discussions on regional conflicts.

According to Xavier Figueredo, editor of a confidential Portuguese newsletter on the region, Mr Dos Santos's offer to talk to Mr Botha was made via intermediaries in Lisbon. — Own Correspondents with Sapa-Reuter.

D/10/7/88

Soviets

dismiss

Malan

proposal

MOSCOW — A Soviet spokesman yesterday dismissed South Africa's proposal for a direct deal with Moscow to set up a neutral government in Angola similar to that suggested by the Kremlin for Afghanistan.

"The situation in Angola and the situation in Afghanistan are completely different. The only similarity is that both countries start with the letter 'A,'" a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference.

"We believe the most important subject on which they (South Africa) do not speak is apartheid, interference in the affairs of their neighbour states — Angola for example — and Namibia. This is the crux of the matter."

The proposal was made by the South African Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, who said that if Moscow would accept a free, neutral and non-aligned government in Angola, Pretoria would not insist that the government be pro-South African.

Meanwhile, reports in Lisbon yesterday said that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola was willing to meet President P. W. Botha for discussions.

Angola, Moscow and Havana were said to be convinced that the key to the regional problem now lay in reaching an agreement with South Africa.

According to Mr Xavier Figueiredo, editor of a confidential Portuguese newsletter on the region, Mr Dos Santos's offer to talk to Mr Botha was made via intermediaries in Lisbon. — DDC-Sapa-RNS.

THE one glimpse of clarity to have emerged this week from General Magnus Malan's offer of a deal to the Soviet Union is Pretoria's intention of trying to install a pro-South African government in Angola.

Malan said if the Soviet Union was willing to back off from a pro-Moscow government in Luanda, then South Africa would not push for a pro-South African government in Luanda. The converse, he implied, would also be true.

Now that the Soviet Union has replied that the only similarity between Afghanistan and Angola is that they both begin with the letter "A", one can only presume Malan will go back to helping propel Jonas Savimbi and Unita towards Luanda.

Luanda claimed this week South African troops — who are engaged in Angola in unprecedented numbers — were fighting 600km north of the Namibian border.

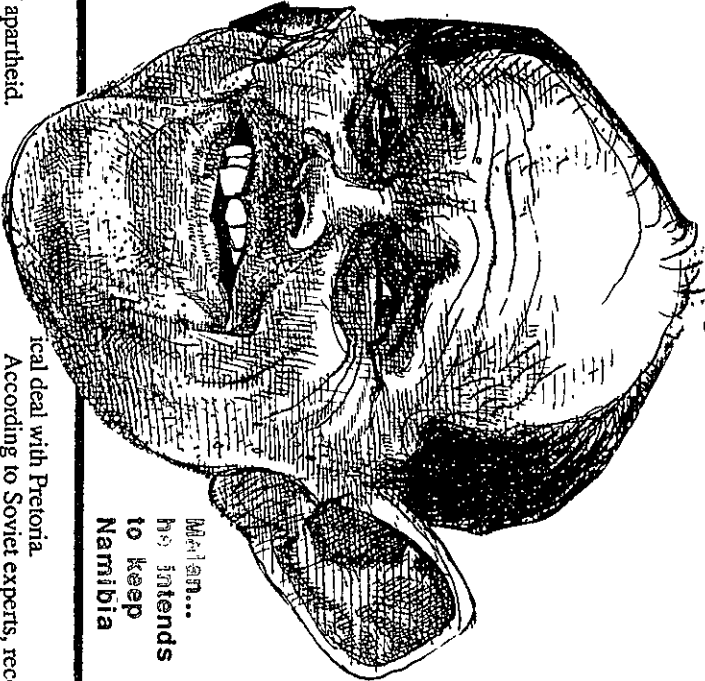
The only real question about Malan's offer is whether it was seriously misconceived or part of another diplomatic game such as Pretoria was playing at the United Nations at the same time this week.

From speeches and interviews with Soviet officials and members of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in Arusha, Tanzania, last December it was clear that, while favouring a political settlement in the subcontinent, no compromise with Pretoria was possible.

V Vagris, deputy chairman of the

What Malan really meant: We'll put a pro-SA regime in Luanda

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK on some of the hidden meanings of Magnus Malan's surprise call to the USSR this week



What Malan... he intends to keep Namibia

Supreme Soviet of the USSR, accused Pretoria of "racist terror" and "genocide". He supported comprehensive mandatory sanctions and said the Soviet Union had no interests in Southern Africa which differed from those of the Africans themselves.

The Soviets' major concern was that the conflict in the subcontinent should not be portrayed as an east-west superpower struggle but one in which the solution was the elimina-

tion of apartheid.

The Soviets essentially want a deal with the other superpower, the United States, not Pretoria, which now sees itself as the regional power.

Soviet commitment to the liberation movements in Southern Africa is long-standing, not particularly costly and a major diplomatic asset in the Third World, and one it would certainly not sacrifice through some cynical shift in Pretoria's regional policy.

The Malan offer did confirm a major shift in Pretoria's regional policy,

brought on by the progress made by Washington, the Cubans and Luanda's MPLA government during peace talks in January.

The Cubans are willing to withdraw on condition South Africa gets out of Angola, stops supporting Savimbi and starts implementing UN Security Council resolution 435, providing for Namibian independence.

Yet the military has made it clear it is not going to let go of Namibia.

After years of stalling on independence for Namibia by linking it to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, Pretoria now finds itself having to come up with another good reason for continuing to flout resolution 435.

The big difference now is that with Washington no longer on its side, South Africa is diplomatically isolated.

It is a situation which is not going to let up for Pretoria, even though Angola ranks low in the United States' set of foreign policy priorities during the last year of the Reagan administration.

Last month Secretary of State George Shultz spelt out his country's foreign policy agenda for 1988 which had arms control mentioned first, Central American peace second, followed by Afghanistan, Israel, Iran, Iraq, East Asia, and Southern Africa — in that order.

The one man who does have a sense of haste about a settlement in Angola is Chester Crocker, the assistant secretary of state for Africa.

At the end of eight years of dismal failure in his Southern Africa policy, which he can justifiably blame mainly on Pretoria, he badly needs some form of last-minute coup.

Malan's offer to the Soviets has been interpreted as a diversion from the real issues in the region — on the order of the kind of games which South African officials were playing at the United Nations when Pretoria, having got the faltering international sanctions movement back on its feet, begged the international community to impose mandatory sanctions.

Even *The Citizen* chided the attitude that "South Africa would prefer to deal with sanctions now because it wants to demonstrate to the world that it can handle sanctions." "We certainly do not think we should again try to goad the security council into imposing mandatory sanctions, since next time it might oblige, with nobody vetoing," said *The Citizen*.



Parliament and Politics

EEC aid to restricted

SA groups to continue

STRASBOURG, France. — The European Economic Community said yesterday that it would continue financial aid to South African opposition groups even though they had been banned by a government decree.

EEC Commission Vice-President Mr Lorenzo Natali told the European Parliament the EEC had already paid 25 million European Currency Units (R61 million) to anti-apartheid groups and planned to spend another R49 million this year.

He said it was unclear to what extent the ban on opposition groups would affect EEC aid. The parliament also condemned South Africa's ban on anti-apartheid groups. — Sapa-AP

SA lashes Soviets on Angola

Political Staff
THE Soviet Union's rejection of South Africa's peace plan for Angola showed that it still was the main destabilizing influence in the region, a Defence Force spokesman said yesterday.

Reacting to the Russian rejection, he said there were certain realities in the sub-continent which could not be escaped.

"As the minister said in his original statement, South Africa and the Soviet Union are the only two powers that have the ability to assist militarily in the region," he said.

"Yet, they play in a league of their own. South Africa takes care of its own — and the subcontinent's — interests by playing a stabilizing role.

"The Soviet Union is the main destabilizer in the sub-continent. For this reason it is not prepared to accept a comparable recipe, as applied to Afghanistan, in Angola."

Southern Africa could not afford to be crushed in an East-West conflict as the suffering and misery of the people of Africa was too great.

Therefore, Africa should con-

sider Russia's attitude as it could well be to the detriment of the whole continent.

"There are countries contemplating the purchase of MIG 29 aircraft and other sophisticated Russian weaponry but who cannot even supply their soldiers with decent boots, not to talk about feeding them," said the spokesman.

It was in South Africa's interests that the sub-continent did not bleed to death and it wanted internal order and solutions that met the needs of Africa, without outside interference

Initiatives bring hope of peace in Angola

⑤ SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENTS, FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE

There are some small but promising indications that the related Angola and Namibia problems can be solved, US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz has told the US Congress.

Signs from other quarters support Mr Shultz's optimism.

According to a Cape Town report, this week's exchanges could be a prelude to serious peace negotiations involving South Africa, the Soviet Union, Angola and other parties.

Another report from Cape Town says President Botha has confirmed that the door is open for direct talks with Angola — but only if all the parties in the conflict are included.

And Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha said last night the United States had not been excluded entirely from attempts to find a peace process for Angola and Namibia.

Mr Botha emphasised that the US would have to provide acceptable proposals if its initiatives were to be considered by South Africa.

In a telephone interview from Santiago, Chile, where he is attending a conference of South American heads of mission, Mr Botha confirmed that he would meet Mr Chester Crocker, United States Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs, in Europe next week.

It is understood that Mr Crocker is in Pretoria attempting to close the gap between Angola and South Africa.

Mr Botha said South Africa wanted a definite timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Expanding on Thursday's offer by President Botha of talks between all parties involved in the Angolan and Namibian conflicts, he said this did not exclude possible bilateral talks between Angola and South Africa as a start.

Mr Shultz said the promising signs were that no military solution was possible in the Angolan war, and the recent Angolan acceptance of a total Cuban troop withdrawal.

He made no reference to Soviet hints that the Kremlin might be ready for a political settlement, or to South Africa's offer to negotiate a no-advantage deal with Moscow.

But Washington sources say the Americans have been watching the Moscow-Pretoria exchanges with intense interest.

Mr Shultz said the Angolan government had to face the fact that Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi was strong and had the support of 40 percent of Angolans.

Tuks 'no' to AWB

The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) has been refused permission to establish a branch of the organisation on the University of Pretoria campus.

An informal meeting of the full Tuks Students' Representative Council rejected an application from the AWB to function on the campus as a cultural organisation. — Sapa.

● SEE PAGE 11

● TO PAGE 2

12/3/88

Angolan negotiations may herald efforts to end war

to FRANS (12/3/88)

NEW and potentially effective moves to end the war in Angola are on the cards if some strategists are correct in their reading of this week's developments.

They say Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi's verbal blast at Pretoria and Russia's earlier rejection of General Magnus Malan's offer of a deal should not be taken too seriously. The significance of these and other new developments, some strategists say, is that there is a movement showing a possible break in the lingering Angolan stalemate.

Hawkish
This week's exchanges, though seemingly negative and futile in terms of peace prospects, could be a prelude to serious negotiations involving South Africa, Russia, Angola, and others for a settlement.

What happened this week is seen by some strategists as a kite-flying exercise to test the climate for serious peace moves. Reactions of individual parties involved in such an exercise are often mere face-saving devices or a posturing for tactical reasons.

That South Africa's peace-seeking offer to Russia came from General Malan with his hawkish image is seen by some strategists as a signal that South Africa wants to withdraw from Angola... If conditions are right.

Russia's rejection of the offer is seen as a face-saving device to avoid giving the impression to the communist world and African supporters that it is collaborating with "racist" South Africa.

It may also be because the exercise came at a bad time, soon after South Africa's controversial clampdown on ex-

Dr Savimbi's blast at Pretoria could have been deliberately timed to pave the way for a withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. It could also be aimed at creating a suitable climate for negotiations during which Dr Savimbi may not want to be seen too close to Pretoria.

The kind of situation which some strategists envisage is that South Africa may withdraw its forces from Angolan territory, followed by immediate steps towards a ceasefire between Angolan Government forces and Unita.

The aim would be to get serious negotiations for a political settlement off the ground. Such negotiations could involve all the parties concerned, including the superpowers, Russia and the US.

Reports that renewed talks on Angola and South West Africa are to be held between South Africa and the US in Europe next week are seen as a further indication that something is happening.

Strategies
This has also given rise to speculation that there may be subtle changes behind the scenes in Russia's attitude towards South Africa.

Dr Philip Nel, director of the Institute for Soviet Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, agrees that this week's developments may be part of pre-negotiation strategies.

He told Weekend Argus the salient fact was that it was in the interests of both South Africa and the Soviet Union that a political settlement be reached in Angola.

He said indications were that neither Russia nor South Africa wanted a further escalation of the arms build-up in Angola and that Russia wanted to withdraw

THE TIMES OF

D/P 12/3/88

Pik, Crocker to discuss Angola

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was scheduled to meet the US under-secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, soon to discuss the Angolan issue, a spokesman for the Minister said yesterday.

The meeting would take place in Europe but no date was disclosed.

The spokesman said reports of the meeting had not emanated from the Minister's office but had resulted from "leaks" from other sources.

He said the meeting was "still on at this stage".

From Santiago, it was reported Mr Botha had arrived in Chile on the first-ever private visit to meet local Embassy staff as part of a tour of the region.

Embassy sources said it was possible that he might see government ministers, but the foreign ministry said there were no plans.

Mr Botha was scheduled to have left Chile early yesterday. — DDC-Sapa

We will stay until Cubans quit — P W

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

South Africa will not allow Namibia to hold independence elections, nor will the SADF pull its forces out of the territory until Cuban troops are out of Angola, President Botha made clear last night.

On the eve of the four-nation talks in London on Angola and Namibia, Mr Botha said he wanted to warn against optimism because all over the world there were mischief-makers who wanted to destroy every effort to bring about better conditions in southern Africa.

Withdrawal of forces

The talks — between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the United States — begin in Britain today.

They are expected to centre on the withdrawal of Cuban and South African forces from Angola as a prelude to ending the civil war in the country, and also to implement the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

Mr Botha said during the debate on his Budget vote in the House of Delegates last night that South Africa had no claim on Namibia, and he would like to see the territory prosper until it achieved independence.

"But we cannot have foreign troops dictating to South West Africa the way in which it should acquire its independence.

"South Africa is a regional power with interests in southern Africa. We believe it is in the interests of South West Africa as well as the whole of southern Africa that the Cubans must go.

"We said right from the beginning that the Cuban presence in Angola is contributing to the civil war in

that area. What is more, the Cuban presence is also crippling the economic future of that country."

Mr Botha said that in talks he had held with African leaders who came from different countries to consult him in recent weeks, he had said peace could come to Africa, especially southern Africa, if the Cubans went.

"The moment the Cubans go it will be a different ball game in southern Africa. The whole situation will turn for the better because southern Africa cannot go it alone without the technological support, expertise and other support of South Africa."

Earlier in his speech Mr Botha said Namibians were the most subsidised community in Africa and probably in the world.

The territory had a population of about a million, but received about R1 000 million in assistance from South Africa every year to keep it going.

Earlier yesterday the Department of Foreign Affairs admitted that the South African delegation to the talks flew in greatest secrecy to Britain at the weekend.

The whereabouts and movements of the high-powered delegation, led by Foreign Affairs director-general Mr Neil van Heerden, are still strictly secret.

On the eve of the talks:

- Cuba is reported to have injected up to 10 000 new troops into Angola.

- Unita rebels claimed to have shot down two Soviet-built Angolan Air Force jet fighters in fighting around the central town of Cuemba, and said they had killed 67 government troops.

But yesterday senior South African Foreign Affairs sources dismissed the reported influx of up to 10 000 Cuban troops as "pre-talks tactics".

● See Page 15.

New Angola Peace Plan

CARE Times 143/88

(5)

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Angola presented a new peace proposal for Southern Africa to the United States in talks last week in Luanda between Angolan, Cuban and US officials.

The proposal brought fresh hopes for a peace settlement on Angola and Namibia and the withdrawal of SADF troops.

The Angolan news agency Angop said the proposal included a timetable for the withdrawal to the north of Cuban troops stationed in the south and their gradual total evacuation from Angola.

The project involved Angola, Cuba, South Africa and Swapo and "would permit security in Angola, independence of Namibia and peace for both countries".

KEN POTTINGER reports from Lisbon that Angola is seeking direct talks with Pretoria to end the civil war against its Western-backed Unita opponents.

Mr Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem, Minister of State, and the second-ranking figure in the Luandan government hierarchy, said: "The time has come to hold direct talks with Pretoria. The United States has lost its credibility as a mediator between us and South Africa."

He said Unita was backed by South Africa which was also engaged in a massive military assault on targets in southern Angola, and a peace deal therefore needed to be worked out directly with Pretoria.

The move is seen as a major breakthrough in the 13-year-old Angolan conflict.

It was also disclosed at the weekend, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and US Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, would meet for the first time in more than a year.

Mr Botha's projected meeting with Dr Crocker was confirmed by a Foreign Affairs spokesman yesterday. He said Mr Botha was in South America last week and left for Europe at the

To page 2

From page 1

weekend. He could not confirm the time or the date it would take place.

Last month Mr Botha said Dr Crocker's peace initiatives in the region had become "totally irrelevant".

Dr Crocker began fresh talks with Angolan officials in January in a bid to break the stalemate.

Earlier Western diplomatic sources in Lisbon reported that Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos had sent a special envoy to Pretoria seeking a formal meeting with his South African counterpart, President P W Botha.

Mr Daniel Chipenda, former leader of the rebel FNLA movement, flew to Johannesburg via Lisbon on February 15 to set up the meeting. Other well-informed sources say that Unita representatives met senior Soviet government officials in Lisbon last week.

One Western diplomat said: "Suddenly everyone is talking to everyone, the whole situation seems to be in a melting pot."

Military sources have said that the Angolan Army is thoroughly demoralized and its leadership shaken by repeated setbacks.

Conditions therefore appear more favourable than ever before for bringing about a negotiated settlement, which would remove the 40 000 Cubans, end Swapo guerilla infiltration into Namibia, give Unita a role in government and halt South African incursions.

Meanwhile a report in yesterday's London Sunday Times claimed secret talks were already on the go between South Africa and Angola.

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Prospect for peace in Angola now 'best for years'

From REBECCA IRVIN, in Lisbon.

SIGNS look promising for a diplomatic breakthrough that will lead to a peace settlement in Angola's 13-year-old civil war, Western diplomats and African commentators say.

Unprecedented statements by Angolan and South African officials and a flurry of diplomatic contacts among all parties have given the most promising signs yet, they say.

"We could be at the point just before the curtain goes up and we finally see a peace settlement," Fernando Trigo, co-editor of the magazine Africa Confidential, said in Lisbon.

Angola, rich in natural resources, including oil and diamonds, has been wracked by civil war since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

Direct talks

The Marxist government, backed by Soviet advisers and 35 000 Cuban troops, is pitted against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), supported by the United States and South Africa.

In the most recent sign of a shift in Angolan policy, Angolan Oil Minister Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem said in Lisbon that his government was willing to talk directly with Pretoria, its bitter enemy, to end the war.

"I think the moment has come perhaps to begin direct negotiations," he said at the end of a visit to Portugal.

Several diplomats said his comments could indicate Pretoria and Luanda had already reached some under-

standing. "He wouldn't have made such a statement unless contacts were well under way," said one Western diplomat.

The Angolan government said yesterday it had presented new peace proposals to the United States at a meeting in Luanda between Angolan, Cuban and US officials.

Luanda radio reported that Cuba and Angola had offered the United States a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops that would apply if the United States and South Africa stop supporting Jonas Savimbi's pro-Western rebels.

Although the proposal appeared merely to repeat long-standing Angolan demands, African experts said it indicated intense efforts had resumed after a long deadlock last year.

Last week the South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan proposed a direct deal with Moscow to set up a neutral government in Angola.

South Africa also said Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha would meet US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker at an unspecified European venue this week.

In addition to possible South African-Soviet and South African-Angolan contacts, well-informed diplomatic sources in Lisbon said Unita had been in contact for the first time with Soviet diplomats in at least one European capital this month.

Unita sources in Lisbon also reported Savimbi had met unofficially with Angola's ruling MPLA party.

"All the parties are talking to each other in a way they haven't before. The Cubans and Unita are the only combination we have not yet seen," said the Western diplomat.

Commentators say the moves indicate a shift away from the United States, which for years has tried to act as power broker in southern Africa. Both Angola and South Africa appeared to have distanced themselves from Washington in their comments.

Intense fighting

Angolan oil minister Van-Dunem made clear Luanda was upset that Savimbi "was received in Washington as if he were a head of state" and said the United States seemed concerned only with removing Cuban troops to the exclusion of other issues.

South Africa's state radio said the Soviet Union was now more important than the United States in ending the Angolan war.

Commentators and diplomats say the spate of fresh moves coincides with a worsening military situation in Angola.

Both sides have reported intensified fighting in recent months, particularly around the southern garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale in Cuando Cubango province.

South African troops moved into Angola last year and their casualties prove embarrassingly difficult to justify at home.

Angola has been drained by years of war and has been hit hard by a drop in the price of oil, its main export.— Sapa-Reuter

R.T.O.

Angolan peace drive gains new momentum

D/D/14/13/88

CAPE TOWN — Efforts to end the 12-year-long war in Angola gained new impetus at the weekend.

The leader of Unita, Dr Jonas Savimbi, said yesterday South Africa had officially informed Unita that it was to start negotiating with Angola's MPLA government.

He told an international news conference at his headquarters in Jamba that Unita would intensify its military campaign to bolster its negotiating position during the prevailing atmosphere of talks.

He stressed, however, that Unita was in a strong negotiating position, thanks to the "crippling" defeats it had dealt the MPLA, Russian and Cuban troops in recent months.

A South African Defence Ministry spokesman said last night he could neither confirm nor deny Dr Savimbi's statement.

South Africa's position was that it was prepared to negotiate with

all parties, but that Unita must be part of the negotiations, and there had been no deviation from this position.

However, reports in South Africa and Britain yesterday said South Africa had already had face-to-face meetings with the Angolan government. The meetings were said to have taken place at secret venues in Southern Africa.

A Lisbon report quoted the Angolan Minister of State, Mr Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem, the second-ranking figure in the Luanda government hierarchy, as saying direct talks with South Africa had become necessary as the United States had lost its credibility as a mediator.

Another Lisbon report quoted Western diplomatic sources as saying that President José Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola had sent a

special envoy to Pretoria seeking a formal meeting with President P. W. Botha.

The Angolan news agency Angop reported yesterday that Angola had presented a new peace proposal for Southern Africa to the US during talks last week in Luanda between Angolan, Cuban and US officials.

Angop said the proposal "included a timetable for the withdrawal to the north of Cuban troops stationed in the south and their gradual total evacuation from Angola".

It was also disclosed at the weekend that the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr P. K. Botha, and the US Under Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, would meet soon.

The meeting was confirmed by a Foreign Affairs spokesman who said Mr Botha had left Chile at the weekend for Europe where he would meet Dr Crocker.

It will be the first meeting between the two in more than a year. Diplomatic relations took a knock last month when Mr Botha said Dr Crocker's peace initiatives in the region had become "totally irrelevant".

Other sources claimed yesterday that Unita representatives had met senior Soviet government officials in Lisbon last week.

Earlier yesterday, during a visit to Cape Town, Dr Savimbi said that 12 African states were involved in renewed peace efforts.

He said three of the countries were "outsiders" in their desire for an end to the conflict. They were Nigeria, Kenya and Ivory Coast. South Africa was one of the remaining nine, but he did not name the others.

At his news conference in Jamba, Dr Savimbi said government forces had been reduced to 30 per cent of their fighting capacity.

He said Unita's intensified military campaign would mainly entail guerrilla warfare.

Unita's forces would be split into smaller guerrilla groups to attack economic targets, but would "not harm civilians".

Unita's chief of military intelligence, Brig-Gen Wambu Kasitu, said Unita's "clandestine network" had launched a bomb attack on a military target in Luanda last month.

Unita had also stopped a motorised Swapo brigade which had launched an offensive towards Menongue.

Dr Savimbi said Unita entertained no animosity against Swapo, but a Swapo brigade was "slaying" people in Cuemba. — DDC/Sapa RNS.

Angola, SA 'talking' ⁵

Sowetan 14/3/88

LONDON — South Africa and Angola's Marxist government have opened secret talks aimed at ending the Angolan war, now in its 13th year.

While South African artillery continues to pound Angolan posi-

tions in the battle for the strategic base of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola, envoys from both sides have been meeting clandestinely elsewhere in southern Africa to try to thrash out a peace plan. Pretoria has also opened up

contacts with the Soviet Union aimed at finding a way to end the war.

Western diplomatic sources in Cape Town confirmed on Saturday that direct contact had been established between Pretoria and the government in Luanda, at a

preliminary level.

The talks-about-talks are the first time the two sides have met directly and involve only the South African and Angolan governments. They follow growing impatience with American attempts to mediate.

SA, Angola hold secret talks in bid to end war

14/3/88

SOUTH AFRICA and Angola have opened secret talks aimed at ending the Angolan war, now in its 13th year.

While South African artillery continues to pound Angolan positions in the battle for Cuito Cuanavale, envoys from both sides have been meeting secretly elsewhere in Southern Africa to try to thrash out a peace plan. Pretoria has also opened up contacts with the Soviet Union.

Western diplomatic sources in Cape Town confirmed on Saturday that direct contact had been established between Pretoria and the government in Luanda, at a preliminary level.

The move results from the military impasse in the region and disillusionment with the American government after years of close co-operation.

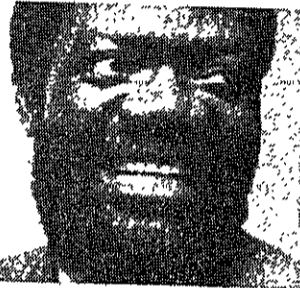
Attempts by South African and Unita forces to punch a hole through the defence at Cuito Cuanavale have failed and a week ago heavy Cuban reinforcements were streaming into the town.

The South Africans believe nothing short of a full scale infantry offensive could take the base, a tactic they are unlikely to risk.

Pretoria's loss of enthusiasm for the war has coincided with a tentative thawing of relations between South Africa and the Soviet Union, after a wave of anti-Americanism in South Africa.

President Botha believes South Africa should pursue a more non-aligned policy.

Angola and Cuba have presented proposals to the US for a Southern African peace accord involving Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the South West African People's Organisation, the Angolan Foreign Ministry said yesterday.



Savimbi criticism: Argus not invited

Political Correspondent
NEWSPAPERS of The Argus group were not invited to Dr Jonas Savimbi's press conference at D F Malan Airport on Saturday.

According to a defence ministry source this was on the instructions of Defence Minister General Magnus Malan.

The source also said Dr Savimbi, in Cape Town since Friday, had shown no interest in Argus newspapers being present at the Press conference.

Dr Savimbi described as "totally unfounded" a report from Paris that he had said that South Africa wanted him to pay for support given to his movement.

CORRESPONDENT

His objection was not to the original article as it appeared in the prestige magazine Paris Match, but to the report from Paris which appeared in Argus Company newspapers, including The Argus, last week which, he said, had distorted the article.

The Argus Group's correspondent in Paris says all the remarks attributed to Dr Savimbi in last week's report are contained in the Paris Match report by respected French journalist Jean Larteguy, and that the report published in South Africa was a fair summary of it.

A statement said the proposals included a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the south of Angola, followed by their gradual removal from the rest of the country.

Official sources in Luanda, however, said they had no knowledge of secret meetings between Angolan and South African officials.

The proposals for a Cuban withdrawal are conditional on South Africa withdrawing from Angola and the US and South Africa halting aid to Unita, the Angolan Foreign Ministry said.

Government forces yesterday pressed ahead with a major offensive against Unita outside Cuemba in Angola's central highlands, as fighting there entered its fourth month.

Commanders said there were "strong indications" that South African forces had been fighting in this region.

Urban warfare

Deputy Commander Major Jose Walter Freitas Gomes claimed that 20 whites had been seen taking part in the fighting.

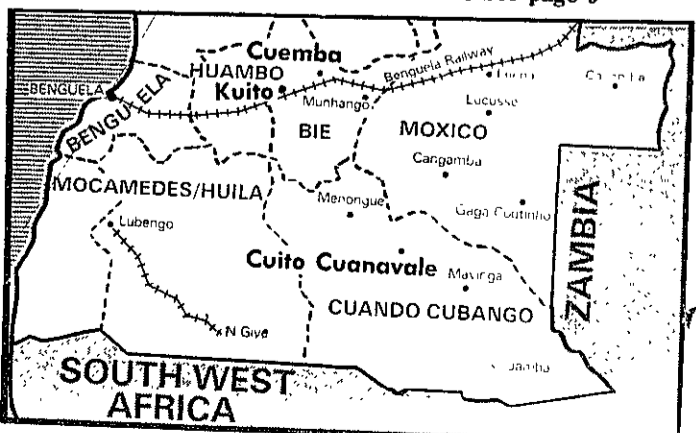
In Lisbon, Unita claimed yesterday that rebels had killed 43 government soldiers in an attack at N'harea, 110km north of Kuito. Unita claimed it killed 39 government soldiers the same day in an attack in neighbouring Huila province.

Meanwhile Unita has threatened to launch an intensified campaign of urban guerrilla warfare.

Dr Jonas Savimbi said the main targets would be economic ones and civilians would not be attacked.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, were to hold talks in Geneva this morning. — Sunday Times, Argus Africa News Service, Sapa-AP

See page 9



Southern Angola, where South African, Unita, Angolan government and Cuban troops are enmeshed in battle. New diplomatic moves may disentangle them.

type of rigging which is ...
Unita leader denies newspaper reports

D/D 14/3/88 (5)
Savimbi clears air with SA

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — It is "business as usual" between South Africa and the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, following an unexpected visit to Cape Town at the weekend.

The rebel leader came to Cape Town on Saturday to clear up "misunderstandings" about reports in certain newspapers which could have threatened the continuation of South Africa's military aid for his movement.

Yesterday, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said he was satisfied with Dr Savimbi's explanation and thanked him for clearing up the matter so promptly.

South African newspapers reported on Friday that Dr Savimbi had told a French magazine South Africa had sent him bills for military support, that he had described the interim government in SWA/Nami-



DR SAVIMBI

bia as puppets, and that Swapo could take over the territory in two months because it had the support of the local population.

However, Dr Savimbi said that the reports had been a "distortion" of the report.

Gen Malan said yesterday: "It goes without saying that relations with Dr Savimbi will continue as normal."

His statement comes with the announcement of a new peace plan by the Angolan Government.

The Angolan news agency, Angop, announced the plan yesterday following talks involving both the United States and Cuban officials.

It said the "project" involved Angola, Cuba, South Africa and Swapo, and dealt with the gradual withdrawal of Cuban



GENERAL MALAN

forces to northern Angola in preparation for their total withdrawal.

It also called for the cessation of South African aid for Unita.

The plan is not likely to be supported by either Dr Savimbi or South Africa because both have said any peace plan in Angola would have to involve Unita — this plan apparently does not.

South Africa has also made it clear in the past that it is not interested in any plan in which the total withdrawal of Cuban troops is subject to the prior implementation of UN resolution 435.

Last week Russia rejected a bid by South Africa to go it alone in seeking a solution to the Angolan situation.

Commenting on South Africa's offer not to expect a pro-South African government in Luanda if Russia would not push for a pro-communist government, Dr Savimbi said at the weekend that he favoured a "pro-African" government.

Savimbi in city after 'distortions'

Political Staff
14/3/88
IT IS business as usual between South Africa and Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi following an unexpected visit to Cape Town at the weekend.

The rebel leader came to the city on Saturday to clear up what he described as distorted reports of an interview he had given to a French publication.

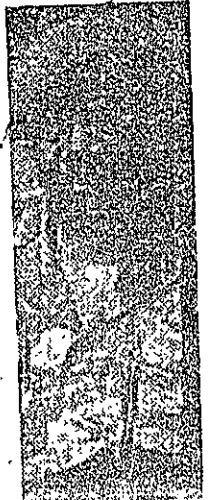
The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said later that he was satisfied with Dr Savimbi's explanation.

South African newspapers reported on Friday that Dr Savimbi had

told the French magazine Paris-Match that South Africa had sent him bills for military support, that he had described the interim government in Namibia as puppets, and that Swapo could take over the territory in two months because it had the support of the local population.

However, Dr Savimbi said at a hastily called media conference that the reports had been a distortion of the report in Paris-Match.

He denied ever having said that South Africa had sent him bills for its support or that there was a puppet government in Namibia.



Dr Savimbi

SA troops will stay in Angola until Cuban

CAPE TOWN — The State President, Mr P. W. Botha, said South Africa will stay put in Angola until Cuban forces have withdrawn.

In a lengthy interview with the editor of the Washington Times, Mr A. de Borchgrafe, Mr Botha also said that the United States could become irrelevant to an Angolan settlement and claimed that the Cuban/Soviet-backed Marxist-oriented Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) forces had suffered astonishing losses in the war since December.

The interview, published yesterday, coincided with current talks in Europe between the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and the US under Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, and a surprise visit to Cape Town by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi. It also cuts across a new Angolan peace plan which demands an end to South African support for Unita.

In the interview, Mr Botha reaffirmed the South African attitude that Unita would have to be part of any peace plan in the region and said that, while he does not believe the Soviet Union will "ditch" Angola, he does believe it is "shopping for a compromise".

Asked if he thought the Soviets were ready to ask the Cubans to withdraw their 40 000 soldiers, he replied: "Yes, if they are reasonable and considering the tremendous losses in money, weaponry and lives, they must have concluded that it simply does not pay geo-politically."

The Soviets must have concluded that they could not continue "dumping" sophisticated weapons

into Africa when it had got them nowhere after 12 years in Angola.

He said he did not believe that the US had become totally irrelevant to a settlement in Angola "but, if the US continues on the present track, it will indeed become irrelevant. American influence in Southern Africa has clearly diminished".

To his "great regret" the US had acted in ways which produced precisely the opposite effect to what they wanted — orderly government. Black African leaders who came to see him said they did not trust the US government, he said.

Mr Botha also said there was not a military stalemate in the Angolan conflict as Unita was operating throughout Angola and the war should not be seen in conventional terms.

Asked to quantify MPLA losses, Mr Botha said: "They lost 4 000 to 5 000 troops since December alone, to which you can add 10 000 to 15 000 wounded."

He said Cuban troops maintained defensive positions in townships but said both the Cubans and the Soviets had lost men.

All the Soviets had succeeded in doing since 1975 was to destroy Angola and South Africa was not prepared to allow the chaos which existed there to spill across the border to SWA/Namibia, he said.

"We are staying there until the Cubans leave. That was the understanding we had with President Reagan who said the Cubans must leave and we said we agree. But, they showed no signs of leaving voluntarily and until the situation has been settled, we will not withdraw from Angola."

Meanwhile, a top Angolan government's willingness to progress South Africa, as progress Angolan, Cuban and US is a pre-condition for withdrawal of Cuban forces.

But the second in command, Mr Kundi Payama, talks between Luanda and the rebels had been a waste of time.

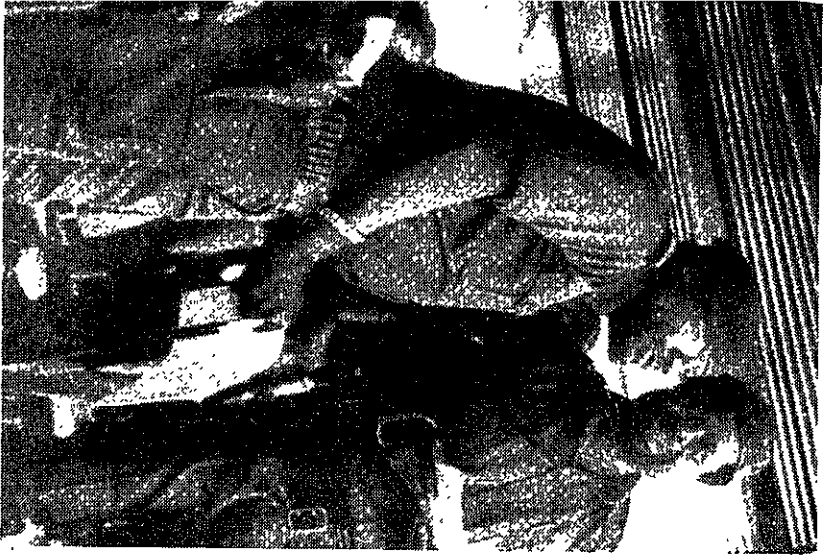
"I think we can negotiate at any time, as long as we are not (the talks) for gaining time," Mr Payama said.

The minister of state for Unita rebels if no breakthrough is achieved.

Angola's foreign minister said that Angolan, Cuban and US met in Luanda last week to discuss the withdrawal of the 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola.

The Angolan President said the number of South African troops in Angola is over 9 000.

The ministry said that a Luanda meeting, plan for among delegates from Angolan, Cuban and the South-West African (Swapo), the Angolan-sending on a mission for self-rule and an administration in South West Africa. No mention was made of the movement. Dr Savimbi to end that such talks would be inconvenient.



With his favourite ivory-handled pistol at his hip, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi discusses war strategy with a senior commander at his bush headquarters in Jamba, Angola. (Reuters)



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participation of his organisation.

Mr Payama cautioned that there was a possibility that South Africa would increase its five-month presence in Angola.

Before it agrees to send home the Cubans, Angola wants a halt to South African and US aid for Unita, a complete South African pull-out from Angola, a halt to attacks and a South African withdrawal from Namibia.

9/15/88

● Unita said yesterday that they had killed 82 troops in two attacks on army garrisons in Angola's central Huila and Bie provinces last week.

A statement distributed in Lisbon by Unita said that they had captured the Mondumbo garrison near the town of Matala in Huila, killing 39 troops.

They also seized 41 Soviet-made AK-47 rifles and more than 20 000 rounds of ammunition, the statement said.

Another 43 Angolan soldiers were killed in a rebel attack on the army position at Nhareia, 30 km east of the town of Andula in the Bie province, where Unita captured 78 automatic rifles, a B-10 cannon and more ammunition.

On the rebel side, five were killed and 13 were wounded in the attacks, which both took place last Tuesday, Unita said.

The statement came after Dr Savimbi told reporters at his bush headquarters in Jamba that Unita victories had brought Angola closer than ever to a negotiated peace settlement. — DDC-Sapa-AP-RNS

Unita leader will increase pressure on Luanda to start negotiations — but will not step down

Savimbi threatens to start urban warfare

By Gerald L'ange, The Star's Africa News Service

JAMBIA — Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of Unita, has threatened to launch an intensified campaign of urban guerrilla warfare to increase the pressure on the MPLA government to agree to negotiate an end to the Angolan civil war.

At the same time, Dr. Savimbi made it plain that he would not step down if the MPLA made this a prior condition of negotiation. He took a relatively optimistic view of the prospects of negotiation starting when he addressed a news conference at Unita's headquarters at Jamba yesterday during celebrations for the organisation's 22nd anniversary.

He said the MPLA had, in turn, indicated a willingness to deal with South Africa. But he did not elaborate. He insisted that Unita as "a key player in Angola and southern Africa" must be involved in the negotiations.

He appeared less optimistic when asked about Unita's chances of winning the battle for the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, although he insisted Unita had pushed the defenders back across the Cuito River. He claimed that only the Cuban forces were keeping the town from falling.

But he did not repeat Unita's earlier claims that the town was about to fall. He rejected the accounts of Western journalists who said they had recently been taken to the town and found it strongly defended, still occupied by some civilians and with its important airstrip largely intact.

Unita leader, Jonas Savimbi, recently granted an interview to French reporter Jean Larteguy, which was published in the magazine *Paris Match*. The Star correspondent in Paris, James Tomlinson, wrote a report based on the *Paris Match* article which was published in Argus Company newspapers in South Africa. Dr. Savimbi described the Tomlinson report as "distorted" and "unfounded", but said he had no complaint with the report as it had been published in *Paris Match*. The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, alleged the report was an effort to "drive a wedge between Unita and South Africa and has cut contacts between himself and Argus Company newspapers as a result. Argus Company journalists were not invited to a press conference. Dr. Savimbi gave on Saturday at Cape Town's D.F. Malan airport after he had flown to South Africa to discuss the issue with the South African Government. Dr. Savimbi said at the conference he had come to clear up the reports, which he said were distorted. The defence ministry's communications chief, Dr. D.A.S. Herbst, said yesterday he had arranged the press conference and the Argus group were excluded. Asked if this was on the direct orders of the Minister of Defence, General Malan, he said: "I'm spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, and I therefore work for General Malan. A spokesman does not act in his own right." He refused to elaborate. The Star's sister newspaper in Cape Town, *The Argus*, said in a front page report that according to "a defence ministry source" it was on General Malan's orders that the Argus group was not invited. "The source," *The Argus* commented, "also said Dr. Savimbi, in Cape Town since Friday, had shown an interest in Argus newspapers" being present at the press conference.

The Paris-Match report:

This is a direct translation of portions of the interview with Unita leader Jonas Savimbi by interviewer Jean Larteguy, published in *Paris-Match*. After discussing how Unita managed to knock out the MPLA on support and armoured columns by means of mines, the question of aid from SA arose. Jean Larteguy from the South African confirmed in an official communique that they came to your assistance. Was this direct or logistic assistance?

The Star's report:

This is the report on Dr. Jonas Savimbi's remarks on South Africa, based on the report in *Paris-Match* and published in *The Star* on Friday March 11. Unita president Dr. Jonas Savimbi criticised South Africa for making Unita pay a high fee for its military aid and for maintaining a puppet regime in Namibia, the Star's Africa News Service reports from Paris. Dr. Savimbi also said South Africa was mistaken in believing that the SADF could take on the Soviet Union single-handedly.

Direct talks

Dr. Savimbi said Unita had been told by the South African Government that it intended to start negotiating directly with the MPLA to help find a settlement of the conflict. He said the MPLA had, in turn, indicated a willingness to deal with South Africa. But he did not elaborate. He insisted that Unita as "a key player in Angola and southern Africa" must be involved in the negotiations.

He appeared less optimistic when asked about Unita's chances of winning the battle for the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, although he insisted Unita had pushed the defenders back across the Cuito River. He claimed that only the Cuban forces were keeping the town from falling.

But he did not repeat Unita's earlier claims that the town was about to fall. He rejected the accounts of Western journalists who said they had recently been taken to the town and found it strongly defended, still occupied by some civilians and with its important airstrip largely intact.

When it was put to him that, ultimately, it might come down to a choice between him and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the MPLA government, Dr. Savimbi dismissed Mr. dos Santos as an incompetent who had never fought against the Portuguese colonialists.

When it was put to him that, ultimately, it might come down to a choice between him and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the MPLA government, Dr. Savimbi dismissed Mr. dos Santos as an incompetent who had never fought against the Portuguese colonialists.



Dr. Savimbi, Unita a key player in southern Africa.

Confident

Dr. Savimbi said he was confident he would get the support of the majority of Angolans while favouring the participation in negotiation of all those currently involved in the struggles in Angola and Namibia, he suggested that, ultimately, the outsiders would have to bow out of the Angolan issue and leave the final shape of the solution to the Angolans. Everybody would be welcome at a marriage between Unita and the MPLA, he said, but, in the end, "all the wedding guests would have to go away".

Announcing Unita's intention to use urban guerrilla warfare as a means of increasing pressure on the MPLA, Dr. Savimbi said the main targets would be economic and emphasised that civilians would not be attacked. Noting the interest of leading African nations in helping to bring about a solution, Dr. Savimbi said an African peace-keeping force might be re-deployed in Angola after the Cubans left but it was too early to say whether this would be necessary. Dr. Savimbi said Unita had put out negotiating feelers to the Cubans (as distinct from the MPLA) but refused to say whether there had been any response. When it was put to Dr. Savimbi at the news conference that the South Africans were doing all the fighting for Unita

at Cuito Cuanavale he retorted:

...hated the offensive (Some discussion about Unita's shortage of materiel and how they needed assistance to employ captured Russian tanks against the communists.)

Exaggerated

JS We said in the South Africans came out as... They accused giving us logistic support and teaching our men how to operate the tanks. But only after they saw that we had stemmed the enemy offensive. It wasn't at the crucial moment.

JL Was the reason for their publishing the communique not the fact that they had to explain their casualties to the public?

JS The South Africans suffered losses, especially at Koume where they fought on their own account, but not Havana. They are suffering losses against Swapo and that will continue until April this year.

With us the South Africans only lost nine men out of 34 who were killed during the artillery exchanges.

Ravaging

The discussion continues about the war in Angola. JS We wish we could tell all Africa. How much longer is this war going to continue? This war is ravaging our country and will have repercussions throughout Africa.

It is blocking the independence of Namibia (which South Africa continues to control under the pretext of defending its territory - JL) and facilitates the assault of the Russians and Cubans on our territory.

On the relationship between SA and Unita JL But if nine South Africans were killed fighting on your side, that could become a scandal. What exactly is your relationship with South Africa?

...our I know how fragile the Namibian situation is. 3. Swapo is not strong in military terms. It may even be weaker than before. But it has the population behind it.

Understand

The multiracial interim government installed by the South Africans represents nothing because it governs nothing and the Namibians regard its members as lackeys.

4 The laws are made and the decisions taken in Pretoria. I hope the South Africans will wake up and understand that the war happening here does not only concern the Angolans but the whole of Southern Africa.

I recognize a certain evolution in the mentality of the South Africans. But that is not enough. They must look at the problem in all its aspects and the geo-strategic importance of Angola still escapes them.

5 During the offensive and at the battle at Lomba, bombs they were showering bombs and shells on the enemy - 2 000 to 3 000 shells in the course of night - they blasted everything we owed them and at the end of the offensive, they presented it to us. And it was a lot we need our friends to help us settle the account.

That is not to say they did not supply us with certain forms of assistance free of charge. These were ordnance which operated on the wounded at the front and supplies for our hospitals.

JS talks about the ambitions of the Russians in Africa and what Gorbatchev wants to do. JL Where does he want to go? JS All the way to the Cape. The South Africans must understand that our battle is theirs too. The Russians want the whole of Southern Africa, not just Angola. Angola is only a point of departure for a larger conquest.

They are counting on capturing South Africa without running the risk of a nuclear conflict. And playing all their trump cards, including the anti-apartheid campaign and sanctions.

...the Unita leader for an explanation on the published derogatory remarks. A Government source said today he was baffled because the reported remarks were so out of keeping with Dr. Savimbi's usual press interviews.

Dr Savimbi says:

The Star's Africa News Service

The following is a transcript from a tape recording of Dr. Jonas Savimbi's remarks in conversation with the disputed Paris-Match article on Sunday.

Dr Savimbi, I want to take advantage of saying here that there were some misunderstandings in the report about an article which appeared on Saturday - on Friday rather - in The Star, which I think is a member of the Agency group, which has maliciously selected some parts of the interview I gave to Paris-Match, put them own command in order to create misunderstanding between Unita and the South Africans.

I feel that in South Africa you may have your own problems, you may want to understand southern Africa the way you want, but I don't think it is in the interest of southern Africa to create this sort of controversy. Because I can tell you 99 percent that The Star was false. It was never said that I was never written, because every time we give interviews privately or with you on this table we have also our own recorder.

Problems

"So then we are very sorry to say here that it was the first time that a South African paper tried to create problems between Unita and South Africa.

I want to take some few points that appeared in The Star newspaper. They said for instance Savimbi said that he had to pay a very heavy bill for 2 000 to 5 000 bombs that the South Africans have diverted on the enemy.

It was not said like that. There were two parts. One to say that we have a market in South Africa where we sell diamonds, where we sell timber, and when we have needs with those means we pay those needs.

Second part, we said when we saw that we were short of materiel, we asked the South Africans to give us that materiel. And I said it was not 200 bombs. It was 1 000 bombs a night to bomb the enemy. I did not say we have to beg for those bombs.

Dr Savimbi said the journalists had been taken to Cuito Cuanavale, but to some other town with an airstrip that was under attack and which the

Dr Savimbi says:

When questions were invited at the end of Dr Savimbi's statement, Gerald Lange of the Agency News Service put the following question after identifying himself as the representative of The Star and the other Agency newspapers.

Dr Savimbi, the article you referred to was I understand, written by our Paris correspondent who took it from Paris-Match. I don't know whether he added anything, but certainly nothing was added in Johannesburg. I would be interested to know if you had any information to suggest that he did add anything to what was in Paris-Match because I don't think he did."

Savimbi Yes, I have the Paris-Match I have The Star. I have my own cassette. For instance, your journal said Savimbi said better the South African government wake up. It does not exist in any part of the paper.

Second, apartheid is a negative factor does not exist in any part, in my cassette or in other cassettes. So there were so many points which were false and were just fabrications.

Another one. That the South Africa Defence Force believed that they could fight alone the Russians. It is in no part, not in Paris-Match, not in my own cassette. So then I think if in eight questions you have six false questions why not two other false also?

Doubtful

I think also, if you have one false and one true the conclusion is doubtful. If you have one false and one false the other one is false.

Lange Sir, the suggestion I am making is that the fault is not with The Star but with Paris-Match, we simply reported what they said I believe."

...golian and Namibian issues. In talks he had in Cape Town this week with President P V Botha and in earlier talks with Dr Chesler Crocker, the Ameri-

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...When the Cubans give me a report on how they are fighting me I will tell you how I am fighting them.

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D/D 15/3/88

Angola accepts linkage

— **Pik** (S)

GENEVA — Angola has finally accepted in principle the link between the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia. South Africa's foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, said here last night.

Talks between Mr Botha and the United States negotiator, Dr Chester Crocker, continued into the night, but Mr Botha made clear his unhappiness with the lack of detail in Angolan proposals for a phased Cuban withdrawal.

Mr Botha said the proposals unveiled by Angola at the weekend for the withdrawal of 40 000 Cubans were not what he understood by the word "detailed".

"However," he added, "they apparently acknowledge in principle that there is a linkage between the Cuban withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 435."

Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire are also reportedly seeking a role in the negotiations to end the conflict.

A number of possibilities, Mr Botha said, existed for a resolution to the Angolan conflict, all of which would be welcomed by South Africa as long they resulted in the removal of the Cubans.

Possible ways forward included:

- The US and USSR reaching a settlement for the withdrawal of Cubans.

- The intervention of African states as mediators; and

- Direct talks between South African and Angola.

See page 13

Angola yet to submit details of peace proposals

Argus
15/3/88
5

The Argus Foreign Service

GENEVA. — Angola is yet to submit detailed peace proposals to the US team in Angola to negotiate settlement.

On the table in Geneva yesterday was a plan drawn up in Luanda last week during talks between US State Department officials and the Angolan Government. After meeting US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha confirmed this would meet South Africa's longstanding demand for a complete Cuban pullout.

TIMETABLE

The Angolan news agency Angop has said the proposal includes a timetable for the withdrawal of the 35 000 to 40 000 Cuban troops stationed in the country.

But Mr Botha said yesterday the Angolan Government had not so far submitted detailed proposals.

He reaffirmed South Africa's support for the rebel Unita movement — in spite of Angola's insistence that the withdrawal of the Cubans is conditional on South Africa withdrawing its backing.

The Geneva meeting coincides with reports that Pretoria has conducted low-level unofficial contacts with Moscow, which backs the MPLA government in Luanda.

Nevertheless, Mr Botha said he would welcome a negotiated

settlement orchestrated by the Americans.

He told a Press conference that apart from Angola he and Mr Crocker also "discussed in detail" the situation inside South Africa. His government, he said, was "not obliged" to give any accounting to the Americans but he wanted to explain "the purpose of recent actions".

But the main thrust of his seven hours of talks during the day, which continued over dinner at the South African ambassador's residence, centred on Angola and SWA/Namibia and moves to bring about a Cuban withdrawal.

RETICENT

Mr Botha declined to give any substantive detail about the talks. He pointed out that Angola had accepted total withdrawal in principle, but he would not sketch the sort of time-frame sought by the South Africans.

Less positive in his outlook was Mr Charles Redman, spokesman for the State Department, who described the latest Angolan proposals as "unrealistic".

It is reported from Washington that he said the preliminary working paper repeated many elements of previous Angolan positions and appeared to break no new ground on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

SA is still waiting for details of peace plan



Mr Pik Botha

The Star's Foreign News Service

GENEVA — Angola's government had yet to submit detailed peace proposals, South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday after talks with United States assistant secretary of state Mr Chester Crocker.

On the table in Geneva was a plan finalised in Luanda last week during talks between US state department officials and the Angolan government. This would meet South Africa's long-standing demand for a complete Cuban pullout, US officials said.

Angolan news agency Angop has said the proposal included a timetable for the withdrawal of the 35 000 to 40 000 Cuban troops stationed in the country.

Mr Botha said the Angolan government had not so far submitted detailed proposals, which "is really the issue that we have to take up from now on". He reaffirmed South Africa's support for Unita.

Speaking at a Press conference, he said he would welcome a negotiated settlement orchestrated by the US and that he would not be averse to the United Nations playing the role of mediator. He added that he and Mr Crocker had also "discussed in detail" the situation inside South Africa.

We won't leave unless Cubans do, says PW

5/15/88
SPX

WASHINGTON — South African soldiers would remain in Angola until Cuban troops departed, President Botha said in an interview with the *Washington Times* published yesterday.

The interview was published as Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha met Dr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, in Geneva yesterday — their first face-to-face meeting in two years.

The meeting fuelled hopes of a breakthrough in peace efforts which were raised by a weekend meeting between American and Angolan officials in Luanda.

On Sunday, Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi told a press conference at his Jamba headquarters that negotiations could soon

end the 13-year civil war.

He said South Africa had told him it would have direct talks with the MPLA. This was confirmed by a top Angolan official who said his government was willing to meet South Africa.

President Botha told *Washington Times* editor Mr Arnaud de Borchgrave that he had reason to believe the Soviet Union was ready to cut its losses in Africa and was pressuring Cuba to withdraw its forces.

Mr Botha said regional conflicts such as those in Angola and Afghanistan were draining the Soviet Union and Cuba.

"But change is slow and I don't think Moscow is about to ditch Angola — but they seem to be shopping for a compromise," he said.

Mr Botha spoke of tremendous Soviet/Cuban losses in money, weapons and lives Angolan forces continued to lose ground and he said he knew the Cubans and Russians were frustrated and disappointed.

"We are staying until the Cubans leave. That was the understanding we had with President Reagan who said the Cubans must leave and we said we agreed. But they showed no signs of leaving voluntarily. And, until that situation has been settled, we will not withdraw from Angola," he said.

At his press conference, Dr Savimbi vowed he would not stand down to clear the way for a peace settlement.

He revealed a complex web of negotiations involving South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States and Angola.

Briefed

He said Unita was being kept fully briefed by Pretoria on proposals for a peace conference, but he insisted he wanted to be present when real negotiations took place.

● The latest Angolan proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal have been rejected by the Americans as unrealistic.

The proposals were presented to American officials in Luanda shortly before Dr Crocker left for Geneva.

State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman, said the working paper repeated many elements of previous Angolan positions and appeared to break no new ground on the withdrawal of Cuban forces.

THE WEATHER

TRANSVAAL — Partly cloudy and warm with isolated thunderstorms over the eastern highveld and escarpment.

JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL — Today: 8 am 19 deg C; yesterday: max 25 deg C; min 18 deg C; rainfall — mm; so far, this month 221,7 mm; so far this year 361,2 mm; average rainfall for March over 92 years 106 mm; average annual rainfall 769 mm.

SUNSET today, 6.24; sunrise tomorrow, 6.09; sunset tomorrow, 6.24.
MOONRISE today, 2.59 am.

ROUND THE WORLD:

City	Max	Min	City	Max	Min	City	Max	Min
Amsterdam	5	0	Lisbon	19	9	Rome	15	8
Athens	18	9	Los Angeles	26	9	Rio de Janeiro	31	20
Bermuda	21	15	London	7	5	Sydney	35	19
Brussels	8	1	Moscow	-2	-2	Taipei	32	21
Copenhagen	3	-3	New Delhi	28	16	Tel Aviv	19	8
Frankfurt	8	0	New York	18	9	Tokyo	18	8
Geneva	10	4	Paris	10	7	Toronto	9	1
Hong Kong	26	23	Perth	23	18	Vienna	1	0

Store set on fire

West Rand Bureau

Damage estimated at R80 000 was caused by a fire at a store in Vlakfontein, Roodepoort, early this morning.

A West Rand police spokesman said Mr J H Nel, who lives next to the Halfway Cash Store, woke at 2 am and saw that the shop was alight.

He summoned help and the blaze was eventually extinguished.

It appears the shop was broken into through the roof and that it was set on fire intentionally. Police are investigating an arson case.

Killer of 3 to hang

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — A farm worker, Johannes Witbooi (39), has been sentenced to death by the Windhoek Supreme Court for the brutal killing of a grandmother and her two small grandchildren last year.

Witbooi and an accomplice, Hendrik Swartbooi, were found to have bludgeoned to death Mrs Carolina Groenewaldt and her grandchildren, Angelina (4) and Theo (2).

A baby of only a few months was left alive in the farmhouse about 120 km south of Windhoek.

CAPT TROOPS 15/3/88

SA forces to stay in Angola — Botha

By ORMONDE POLLOK
Political Staff

PRESIDENT P W Botha says South Africa will stay in Angola till Cuban forces have withdrawn.

In a lengthy interview with the editor of the Washington Times, Mr A de Borchgrave, Mr Botha also says the United States could become irrelevant to an Angolan settlement and claims the Cuban/Soviet-backed MPLA forces have suffered astonishing losses in the war since December.

The interview, published yesterday, coincides with talks in Europe between the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, and a surprise visit to Cape Town by Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi. It also cuts across a new Angolan peace plan which demands an end to South African support for Unita.

How the sentiments expressed in the interview will affect the South African-United States talks now on in

Geneva remains to be seen.

In it, Mr Botha reaffirms the South African attitude that Unita would have to be part of any peace plan in the region and says that while he does not believe Russia will "ditch" Angola, he does think it is "shopping for a compromise".

Asked if he thought the Soviets were ready to ask the Cubans to withdraw their 40 000 soldiers, he replied: "Yes, if they are reasonable. And considering the tremendous losses in money, weaponry and lives, they must have concluded that it simply does not pay geo-politically."

The Soviets must have concluded they could not continue "dumping" sophisticated weapons into Africa when it had got them nowhere after 13 years in Angola.

He did not believe America had become irrelevant to a settlement in Angola but said: "If the US continues on the present track, it will indeed become irrelevant. American influence in Southern Africa has clearly diminished."

Mr Botha said he did not know how much Dr Crocker had contributed to a settlement in the strife-torn country, but added that there had not been much movement till South Africa had got directly involved.

SA's involvement

To his "great regret" the US had acted in ways which produced the opposite effect to what they wanted — orderly government. Black African leaders who came to see him said they did not trust the US government.

Asked if he did not think a military stalemate had been reached in Angola, Mr Botha replied: "No. The MPLA continues to lose ground and we know the Cubans and Russians are frustrated and disappointed. They have been driven back with heavy losses."

He said there was not a military stalemate as Unita was operating throughout Angola and the war should not be seen in conventional terms.

Asked to quantify MPLA

losses, Mr Botha said: "They lost 4 000 to 5 000 troops since December alone, to which you can add 10 000 to 15 000 wounded."

Cuban troops, he said, sat in defensive positions, but both the Cubans and Russians had lost men.

All Russia had succeeded in doing since 1975 was to destroy Angola, and South Africa was not prepared to allow the chaos which existed there to spill across the border to Namibia.

'SA staying'

Mr De Borchgrave: "In other words, South African forces will now be staying inside Angola as long as the Cubans are there."

Mr Botha: "We are staying there until the Cubans leave."

"That was the understanding we had with President Reagan who said the Cubans must leave and we said we agree. But, they showed no signs of leaving voluntarily and until the situation has been settled, we will not withdraw from Angola."

Savimbi predicts end to war

Pik: Angola says Cubans can pull out

8/19/88
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GENEVA — Angola had finally accepted in principle the linkage between withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said here last night.

Talks between Botha and US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker continued late into last night, but Botha made it clear he was unhappy with the lack of detail in Angolan proposals for phased withdrawal of the Cubans.

He would not be drawn further on the detail of the discussions but said he had received some interesting and useful information from his first talks in two years with Crocker.

Botha repeatedly raised the possibility of other African states seeking a role in the negotiations to end the Angolan conflict. He declined to elaborate, saying anything he said would impact detrimentally on any future action.

But a senior Foreign Affairs official confirmed the SA government had received signals from Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire on a possible role for them in the resolution of the Angolan conflict.

The meeting was attended on the SA side by Botha, Foreign Affairs director-

MIKE ROBERTSON

general Neil van Heerden, SA ambassador to the US Piet Koornhof and other senior officials.

Crocker was accompanied by US Ambassador to SA Charles Perkins and senior officials.

Botha said the proposals unveiled by Angola at the weekend for the phased withdrawal of 40 000 Cubans, which were relayed to him by Crocker, were not what he understood by the word "detailed". "Numbers, timetables and dates are what I understand by details."

"That is the issue that will have to be taken up now."

"However, they apparently acknowledge in principle that there is a linkage between the Cuban withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 435."

SA, he said, had made it clear it would at all times stand by Unita but it could not prescribe that Unita be given a role in the government of Angola. This issue was subsidiary to the Cuban withdrawal. Nevertheless, he added: "The fact is they enjoy majority support from the people of Angola."

Asked about a Soviet role in the reso-

➔ To Page 2

Pik: Angola accepts Cuban pullout

lution of the conflict, he said it was only logical that having accepted disengagement from Afghanistan, the USSR should view its role in Angola the same way.

"They have had very little gain in Africa and paid a very heavy price."

SA could not think of "taking on" the Soviet Union, but the USSR and US had to recognise it was an important power in the region and treat it accordingly.

A number of possibilities existed for a resolution to the Angolan conflict. All would be welcomed by SA as long they resulted in the removal of the Cubans. He listed as possible ways forward:

- The US and USSR reaching a settlement on the withdrawal of Cubans;
- The intervention of African states as mediators. African countries, he said, had a far better concept of realities in the region than either the US or European countries; and
- Direct talks between SA and Angola.

"I have no problem in talking to Luanda," he stressed.

Our political staff report President P.W. Botha said SA forces would stay in Angola until Cuban troops had withdrawn.

Botha told the Washington Times the US could become irrelevant to an Angolan settlement and claimed the Cuban/Soviet-backed MPLA had suffered astonishing losses in the war since December.

8/19/88
12/13/88
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➔ From Page 1

Botha reaffirmed the SA attitude that Unita would have to be part of any peace plan in the region and said while he did not believe the Soviet Union would "ditch" Angola, he did think it was "shopping for a compromise".

Meanwhile, Unita said yesterday its troops had killed 82 soldiers in two attacks last week on army garrisons in Angola's central Huilla and Bie provinces.

Savimbi predicted at his Jamba headquarters that negotiations could soon end the 13-year-old Angolan civil war, but vowed he would not stand down to clear the way for a peace settlement.

DOMINIQUE GILBERT reports an informed source said yesterday SA had requested the talks to be briefed on latest US initiatives in southern Africa.

He said this had resulted from an awareness by the US government that SA officials were "miffed" at not being kept up to date on developments.

The source expected the Angolan proposals to involve a return to proposals included in the 1984 Lusaka Accord which includes the withdrawal of troops south of the 13th parallel, the implementation of Resolution 435 in Namibia and that conditions be attached to SA assistance to Unita.

Angolans accept SWA linkage, says Pik Botha

CAPE TIMES 15/3/88 (S) (P)

From MIKE ROBERTSON
GENEVA. — Angola has accepted in principle the linkage between withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia, the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, said here last night.

Talks between Mr Botha and the American Under-secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, continued late into the night, but Mr Botha made it clear he was unhappy with the lack of detail in Angolan proposals for phased withdrawal of the Cubans.

He would not be drawn further on the detail of the discussions but said he had received some interesting and useful information from his first talks in two years with Dr Crocker.

Mr Botha repeatedly raised the possibility of other African states seeking a role in the negotiations to end the Angolan conflict.

A senior Foreign Affairs official confirmed that the South African government had received signals from Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire concerning a possible role for them in the resolution of the Angolan conflict.

Mr Botha said the proposals unveiled by Angola at the weekend for the phased withdrawal of 40 000 Cubans which were relayed to him by Dr Crocker were not what he understood by the word "detailed".

"Numbers, timetables and dates are what I understand by details. That is the issue that will

have to be taken up now.

"However," he added, "they apparently acknowledge in principle that there is a linkage between the Cuban withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 435."

South Africa, he said, had made it clear that it would at all times stand by Unita but South Africa could not prescribe that Unita be given a role in the government of Angola. This issue

● Savimbi interview — Page 3

● Malan cuts Argus contact — Page 3

● SA forces to stay in Angola — Page 6

To page 3

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From page 1

was subsidiary to the Cuban withdrawal. Nevertheless, he added: "The fact is they enjoy majority support from the people of Angola."

A number of possibilities existed for a resolution of the Angolan conflict. All would be welcomed by South Africa as long as they resulted in the removal of the Cubans and peace and stability for the region.

He listed as possible ways forward:

● The US and USSR reaching a settlement for the withdrawal of the Cubans.

● The intervention of African states as mediators. African countries, he said, had a far better concept of realities in the region than either the US or European countries.

● Direct talks between South African and Angola. "I have no prob-

lem in talking to Luan-da."

Angola's plan, which was first presented to US officials on Sunday, linked the withdrawal of Cuban troops to a halt in US and South African support for Unita.

Unita's leader Dr Jonas Savimbi said at his Angolan bush headquarters on Sunday that negotiations could soon end the country's 13-year-old civil war, but vowed he would not stand down to clear the way for a settlement.

● In Washington, Sapa Reuter reports, President P W Botha was quoted in the Washington Times as saying South African troops would stay in Angola until the 40 000-man Cuban force there left.

"We are staying (in Angola) until the Cubans leave. That was the understanding we had with President Reagan," he said.

Dispute over Savimbi

By GERALD L'ANGE,
Editor Argus Africa
News Service

THE Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, has accused The Argus and its sister newspapers of "maliciously distorting" a report of an interview with him in the French magazine Paris Match to damage relations between Unita and the South African government.

"Ninety-nine percent of what The Argus reported was false," he said. "It was never written."

But, on this page, we reproduce direct translations of extracts of the Paris Match interview showing that the report was an accurate reflection of the published interview.

At his news conference Dr Savimbi said he could understand that The Argus was opposed to the South African government but it was not in South Africa's interests to create this sort of controversy.

No bill

Freedom of speech would always be respected by Unita, he said, but not when it created problems for Unita.

Dr Savimbi denied that he had told Paris Match that South Africa had presented him with a bill for thousands of artillery shells after the fighting at the Lomba River battle. He also denied saying that the interim government in Namibia was a puppet government.



Jonas Savimbi

PARIS
MATCH

"Les Sud-Africains nous ont présenté la note de tous les obus qu'ils ont tirés pour nous aider. C'était cher!"

Extracts from Paris Match re

THIS is a direct translation from the interview with Unita leader Jonas Savimbi by interviewer Jean Larteguy, published in Paris Match.

Sections of the report on the published interview, by The Argus correspondent in Paris James Tomlins, were described by Dr Savimbi as "distorted" and "unfounded", while he had no complaint about the published interview in Paris Match.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan described the report as "an effort to drive a wedge between Unita and South Africa."

The directly translated extracts below show that the report of the interview was accurate to the last detail.

After discussing how Unita managed to knock out the MPLA air support and armoured columns by means of missiles, the question of aid from SA arose:

Jean Larteguy: The South African confirmed in an (official) communique that they came to your assistance. Was this direct or logistic assistance?

Jonas Savimbi: The South Africans were aware that this offensive was going to take place and just as concerned as us that Unita should not be crushed. Initially they did not move. We knew the offensive was going to take place in June, July, August. They only started moving in September,

towards the 20th or 22nd.

JL: They would then have stepped in with their heavy artillery?

JS: I don't want to go into the details. They exaggerated when they said we would have been crushed without them. Let's say that without the American anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles we would have been done for. The communists launched a blitzkrieg aimed at taking Jamba in July. When the South Africans arrived in September, we had already halted the offensive.

'Come and help'

(Some discussion about Unita's shortage of material and how they needed assistance to employ captured Russian tanks against the communists)

JS: We said to the South Africans "come help us". They acceded, giving us logistic support and teaching our men how to operate the tanks. But only after they saw that we had stemmed the enemy offensive. It wasn't at the crucial moment.

JL: Was the reason for their publishing the communique not the fact that they had to explain their casualties to the public?

JS: The South African suffered losses, especially at Koumene where they fought on their own account, but not Hovinga. They are suffering losses against Swapo and that

will continue until April this year ...

With us the South Africans only lost nine men out of 34 who were killed during the artillery exchanges.

(JL remarks: This seems to confirm that the SA artillery intervened on the side of Unita. It is also clear that to maintain his image Savimbi would hope for Pretoria to be more discreet. This blunder was due to the politicians and not to the SA army, who have a better sense of secrecy.)

Talking about the war in Angola:

JS: We wish we could tell all Africa: how much longer is this war going to continue? This war is ravaging our country and will have repercussions throughout Africa. It is blocking the independence of Namibia (which South Africa continues to control under the pretext of defending its territory — JL) and facilitates the assault of the Russians and Cubans on our territory.

Relationship

The relationship between SA and Unita:

JL: But if nine South Africans are killed fighting on your side, that could become a scandal. What exactly is your relationship with South Africa?

JS: (Savimbi recalls the history of Unita and how aid was given by France, Morocco and Saudi-Arabia. After it became impossible to transfer aid to Unita, Savimbi

decided to approach SA).

JS: The only possibility was South Africa. Neither France nor the other countries wanted to deal with SA, so I said 'I will talk to SA'. They were reticent and blamed Kissinger for having pushed them into Angola and then abandoned them.

Between 1977 and 1981 SA's only role was to transfer the logistic support destined for us. We even had to buy lorries to transport it. Eventually the South Africans woke up and realised the strategic value of Unita and that the Cubans and Russians were their enemies because of their support of Swapo and the ANC. They decided to help us. But not at any price.

We have diamonds; we control 70 percent of production of the Cafunua region in the north-west. We have timber, ivory that we have to sell to them. But it is not enough to meet our obligations. The South Africans agreed to give us credit. It was in their interest to maintain Unita.

The disputed quotes

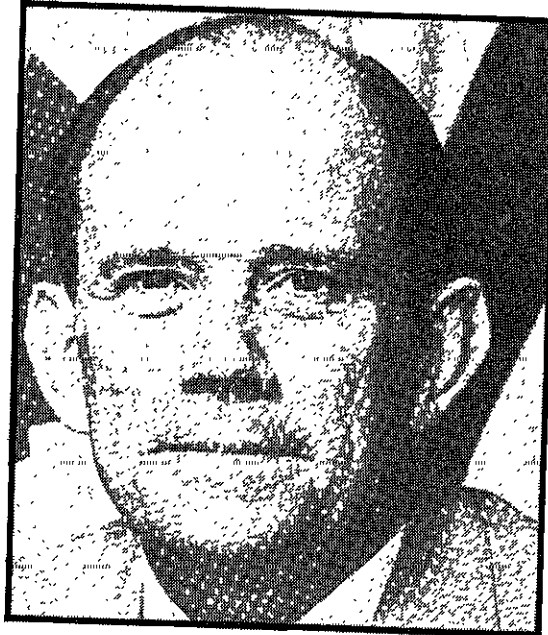
Jonas Savimbi:

1. "The South Africans think they are made of the stuff (lit.) to defend themselves against the Russians unaided. They are mistaken."

2. "If Unita was eliminated by some accident, Swapo would take Namibia two months later. On my word of honour! I know how fragile

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Namibi interview



Magnus Malan

Malan drops The Argus

THE Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, has severed contact with the Argus Group newspapers, a spokesman confirmed today.

He said he was not prepared to discuss the merits of the issue but confirmed that it was as a result of an article lifted from the French magazine Paris Match concerning the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The spokesman said he could not say what would be required to restore contact with the Minister. — Sapa

port

...Nambian situation is." Swapo is not strong in terms; it may even weaker than before. But it has a large population behind it. The multiracial interim government installed by the South Africans represents the interests of the South Africans because it governs the country and the Namibians see its members as their representatives.

The laws are made and decisions taken in Pretoria. I hope the South Africans will wake up and understand that the war happening here does not only concern the Angolans, but the whole of Southern Africa."

...recognise a certain change in the mentality of the South Africans. But that is not enough. They must look at the problem in all its aspects. And the geo-strategic importance of Angola still remains a factor.

...during the offensive and battle at Lomba, when we were showering bombs and shells on the enemy — 3 000 shells in the night — then listed the things we owed them. At the end of the offensive I presented it to us. We need our friends to settle the account. I do not want to say they did not do it with certain forms of assistance free of charge. They were orderlies who operated on the wounded at the front and supplies for our units."

As published in The Argus

Pretoria 'had better wake up' — Savimbi

From JAMES TOMLINS
The Argus Foreign Service

PARIS. — Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi has harshly attacked the South African Government.

He said that Pretoria "had better wake up" to reality and criticised South Africa for making Unita pay a high fee for its military aid, for maintaining a puppet regime in SWA/Namibia, for fundamentally misunderstanding the Angola situation and mistakenly believing the SADF could take on the Soviet Union single-handed.

The interview appeared in the mass-circulation weekly magazine, Paris Match, and is the first time that the Unita leader has ever voiced in public such a torrent of criticism against his main ally.

1. He said Pretoria was wrong in thinking that "they are strong enough to fight the Soviet Union alone."

2. He added: "If Unita was by some mischance wiped out, then Swapo would take Namibia two months later. On my word of honour."

3. "Swapo is not strong militarily, and even less so than before, but it has the support of the Namibian people."

4. Namibians saw members of the interim government as lackeys. "Pretoria makes the laws and takes the decision. The South African Government had better wake up and realise that the war being fought here is not just the concern of the Angolans but of all Southern Africa."

Apartheid

He said apartheid was a negative factor.

5. "I have noted a change in the mentality of South Africans. But it is not enough."

The Unita leader showed concern over whether Pretoria regarded Unita as a business partner or an ally.

6. He noted bitterly: "During the recent fighting around Lomba, the South Africans bombed and shelled the enemy — at a rate of 2 000-3 000 shells a night — and worked out the cost. At the end of the fighting, they handed over the bill. It was huge, and we had to ask our friends to pay it."

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Angola talks 'Not without me'

JAMBA, Angola. — Rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi said negotiations could soon end the 13-year-old Angolan civil war, but said he would not stand down to clear the way for a peace settlement.

Dr Savimbi revealed a complex web of negotiations involving South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States and the Angolan government when he met reporters at his bush headquarters on Sunday.



Dr Savimbi

"This year, 1988, is going to change the face of our country," he said.

Dr Savimbi said he had discussed a joint strategy for negotiations at a secret meeting with South African President P W Botha in Cape Town.

Unita was being kept fully briefed by Pretoria on proposals for a peace conference, Dr Savimbi said, but insisted he had to be present when real negotiations get under way.

Dr Savimbi dismissed speculation that South Africa, his backer through 12 years of guerilla war against the Soviet-supported Marxist government in Luanda, might be ready to drop him.

"I will be there" when you are talking about Unita, you are talking about Savimbi."

He said Angola and Cuba agreed this year in meetings with US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker that the estimated 35 000 Cubans backing Luanda's army against Unita should be withdrawn.

"The Russians now seem to be saying they would prefer a negotiated settlement to continuing war."

● In a report from Lisbon yesterday Unita said it had killed 82 troops in two attacks last week on army garrisons in Angola's central Huila and Bie provinces. Sapa-Reuter

Unita claims victories

LISBON — Unita rebels in Angola claimed yesterday that they had captured the town of Kiwaba-N'zogi in northern Malange province, killing 12 government soldiers and seizing arms.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) said in a statement that guerrillas attacked the town, 67 km north of the provincial capital of Malange on Sunday, capturing an RPG-7 rocket launcher, nine automatic rifles and 42 000 rounds of ammunition.

The rebels said they also captured three Angolan soldiers and destroyed five trucks in an attack on Saturday on a military convoy in Malange province.

Malange borders on Zaïre, a country the Angolan government accuses of providing Unita with material support. The rebels claimed they killed 10 Angolan soldiers at an army post at Elola in south-western Huila province.

Unita gave rebel casualties in the clashes as three killed and eight wounded. — AP.

US 'no' to Angola

5 APR 16/3/88

WASHINGTON — Angola's latest proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal have been rejected by the United States as unrealistic.

The proposals were presented to US officials in the Angolan capital just before Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker flew to Geneva for his talks with South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha.

Mr Charles Redman, spokesman for the State Department, said in Washington that the proposals repeated many elements of previous Angolan positions and appeared to break no new ground on the withdrawal of Cuban forces.

ACCEPTABLE

Realistic proposals by the Angolans that would be acceptable to the South African Government are seen by the US as the key issue in the current diplomatic effort to end the civil war, secure the departure of all foreign forces and set Angola on the road to a government of national reconciliation.

A member of the US team in Luanda flew to Europe at the weekend to brief

Proposals for a Cuban pull-out are turned down

Dr Crocker on the latest position so that Dr Crocker could put Mr Botha clearly in the picture.

According to the Americans, giving the South African Government an authoritative briefing about the most important developments in US talks with the Angolans and the Cubans was one of the reasons for the Geneva meeting which was held at South Africa's request.

Mr Redman declined to give the details of the latest Angolan proposals, saying only: "They do not, in our view, provide concrete, realistic calendars for the withdrawal of Cuban troops."

The Americans are staying in Luanda to continue their negotiations with the government officials joining in

their discussions are Cuban representatives who now appear to be a regular part of the negotiating process.

After the meeting between Mr Botha and Dr Crocker, the US said that "substantial gaps" remained in the positions of South Africa and Angola in the quest for a peace settlement.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) fully supports Angola's latest proposals.

TERRITORY

These include linking the withdrawal of Cuban troops from its territory to an end to US and South African support for Unita rebels, says OAU secretary-general Mr Ide Ounnarou. He rejected a recent South African suggestion that it would talk to the Soviet Union in the search for peace in southern Africa.

"It is a trap. If the Russians go along, it would give undue credibility to Pretoria's wrongdoings — destabilisation of the frontline states and mass arrests of innocent people in the region," he said. — The Star Bureau-Reuters-Associated Press.

5 P/804 16/3/88

SA, Angola move closer to peace talks

GENEVA — Angolan peace talks are back on the frontburner, Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden said yesterday as the first round of discussions in two years between SA and US Undersecretary of State Chester Crocker ended here yesterday.

Van Heerden said it was too early to assess the chances of success, but said a basis for a further round of consultations had been established.

Details of what is being proposed are being kept secret but it is known the Angolans have offered to step up the

MIKE ROBERTSON

withdrawal of the 40 000 Cuban troops from the region. Foreign Minister Pik Botha has rejected the offer as not being detailed enough.

Foreign Affairs officials say recent events, in particular the routing of Angolan army forces, have strengthened their hand in negotiations. There now appears to be a very real possibility that both Angola and SA will agree that negotiations for Cuban troop withdrawals will be given priority over the more politi-

cally sensitive issue of Namibian independence.

Botha has broadly outlined three scenarios for continuing peace talks.

These are: A plan negotiated by the superpowers; direct talks between Angola and SA; and the intervention of other African states with Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire being mentioned.

It was clear in discussions here that sanctions and what the South Africans perceive as hypocritical attacks on domestic policy have placed the continuing role of the US as a mediator in question.

Next two weeks are crucial

Time ripe for Angolan settlement

16/3/88

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Rapid international developments are taking place aimed at resolving the Angolan and Namibian conflicts, senior South African sources indicated today.

One senior member of the Government said: "The next two weeks are crucial. There may never have been a better chance of settling the conflict."

As it has been confirmed that there has been direct contact between South Africa and Angola on a number of occasions recently.

DIRECT TALKS

Topics of discussion have been diverse including yesterday's swap in which a number of MPLA prisoners were handed over in return for two South Africans soldiers' bodies.

There are also understood to have been talks between Unita and the Angolan MPLA government in another African country recently.

Discussions are under way on a number of levels internationally while South Africa has been turning on the pressure on Angola with the State President Mr P W Botha refusing to withdraw the SADF from Angola until the Cubans withdraw.

A number of unnamed African countries have intervened, seeking national reconciliation in Angola while it is understood that there has been increased contact be-

tween the United States and the Soviet Union, with further talks expected shortly.

According to one South African source, although South Africa would like to exclude the United States, she could play a role in dealing with the Soviet Union.

"We do not need an intermediary. We can talk to Angola anytime we want.

"The issue is not talking to one another. The problem is the basis on which we can agree.

"There has to be agreement on the number of Cubans to be withdrawn and the timetable."

The Government sources say there is no hope of resolving the conflict unless there can be national reconciliation in Angola.

"President Eduardo dos Santos will not agree to Cuban withdrawal unless his future is secure."

The key to this, they say, is for the Soviets to see Angola in the same context as Afganistan, where there could be a stand-off between the United States and Russia.

The Soviet Union has already rejected Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan's tentative suggestion for a stand-off in Angola but South Africa is clearly hoping the United States will be able to achieve this.

This issue was apparently central to the talks between Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, in Geneva this week.

● See Page 5.

Belgian claims SAAF will poison gas used against Unita fetch remains of soldiers

BRUSSELS — Belgian Professor Aubin Heyndrickx is claiming that Cuban troops are using chemical weapons in Angola.

Dr Heyndrickx, an international expert in toxicology, visited south-east Angola three weeks' ago at the invitation of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The Ghent University professor examined eight Unita soldiers in a field hospital in the Mavinga area. He was accompanied by another toxicologist and doctors from Ghent University.

He told the press in reports published yesterday that their first examination clearly showed the soldiers had been the victims of toxic gas.

Further laboratory analysis made later in Ghent confirmed the first diagnosis, Dr Heyndrickx said. He added that Dr Savimbi had also shown him containers with Soviet instructions used to detect residues of toxic gas, found on Cuban prisoners. He said this proved government troops used deadly gas in areas they planned to occupy. — Associated Press.

SAAF aircraft yesterday flew to Angola, apparently to trade prisoners of war for the bodies of two South African commandos.

A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman in Pretoria said the aircraft were due back from Luanda with the remains of two corporals killed during a commando raid in 1985.

She could not confirm the prisoner swap, saying that 12 Angolans had now returned to Luanda.

The Foreign Ministry said the aircraft had been sent for the bodies of Corporal Louis Pieter van Breda and Corporal Rawland Ridgard Liebenberg.

They were killed in May 1985 during a clandestine mission in Cabinda, northern Angola.

Luanda alleged the commandos were on a sabotage raid which was denied by South Africa. — Reuter.

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D/D 16/3/88

Angola returns bodies to SA

CAPE TOWN — The remains of two South African reconnaissance commandos were released by the Angolan Government yesterday — nearly three years after they were killed in an operation in Cabinda in northern Angola during which Major Wynand du Toit was captured.

Twelve captured Angolans believed to be MPLA troops — were repatriated in exchange for the bodies of Corporal Rowland Ridgard Liebenberg of Douglas and Corporal Louis

Pieter van Breda.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said the remains of the two commandos were released by the Angolan Government in terms of an agreement reached when Major Du Toit was freed in September last year. The commandos were killed on May 21, 1985.

"The South African Government appreciates the efforts on all sides which contributed to the successful conclusion of the exchange," Mr Botha said. — DDC

New life to peace talks

From MIKE ROBERTSON

GENEVA. — Discussing the new initiative for Angolan peace here yesterday, Foreign Affairs Director-General Mr Nel van Heerden recalled an old Dutch adage: "When the waters are murky the fishing is good."

Given the complexity of the situation, fishing is an apt metaphor.

Coming away from their first talks in two years with US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker, the South Africans made it clear Angola was a priority. But an outbreak of peace, they hastened to add, was not imminent.

Details of what is being proposed are, not surprisingly, being kept under wraps, but the factors which have breathed new life into the negotiations are clear.

Not least is that Dr Crocker, his constructive-engagement policy laid to waste by SA obduracy and congressional quick-fix naivety, sees Angola as an achievable goal after eight years of fruitless toil.

Three other factors, foreign affairs officials say, have combined to inject "a new fluidity" into the situation.

Superpower arms negotiations, they say, have provided a platform for the discussion of regional conflict.

With Russian leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's new pragmatism, a possibility has arisen of the Soviet Union pushing its surrogates into a negotiated solution to the Angolan



Mr Pik Botha

conflict with the US holding out the carrot of diplomatic recognition.

The near routing of Fapla forces in the ongoing war in southern Angola has also provided a major stimulus for the new initiative.

The net result, as SA Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha pointed out, has been an acceptance by the Angolans of a linkage between Cuban troop withdrawals and the implementation of Resolution 435.

Dr Crocker on Monday outlined to the South Africans the new Angolan proposals for Cuban troop withdrawals. These are believed to amount to



Mr Mikhail Gorbachev

an earlier withdrawal, but Mr Botha was unhappy with the detail. He wants numbers and dates.

"They won't go public on it, but Foreign Affairs officials appear to perceive a 'de-linkage' of their own: achieving a real opportunity to

Discussing Cuban troop withdrawal while the politically more sensitive (for them) issue of Namibian independence simmers away for the time being on the backburner.

"What has happened," says Mr Van Heerden, "is that the war has assumed greater prominence than the implementation of Resolution 435.

But it's quite clear that a Cuban withdrawal will contribute greatly towards finding a solution in South West Africa/Namibia."

The third factor contributing to the new initiative is a growing interest by African countries in playing a mediating role in Angola.

It is this that Mr Botha seems to find most exciting.

His normal belligerence towards the West and doubt over its motives in the region now verges on outright contempt.

While this is a reaction to sanctions and what he sees as sanctimonious posturing over events in SA, the contempt is real and places a very large question mark over the United State's ability to continue acting as mediator.

Like Mrs Margaret Thatcher on Mr Gorbachev, Mr Botha believes African leaders are people he can do business with. According to him they understand the complexities of the issues, appreciate the realities and are not motivated by self-interest like the "Americans and Europeans".

He would not expand on what was being proposed, but officials said Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire had sent signals to SA that they were interested in getting involved. Mr Van Heerden provided a pointer to a possible role when he said SA would welcome any African attempt to act as mediator in bringing about national conciliation inside Angola.

Toxic gas used in Angola — claim

BRUSSELS — A Belgian professor has claimed that Cuban troops are using chemical weapons in Angola.

Professor Aubin Heyndrickx, an international expert in toxicology, visited Angola three weeks ago at the invitation of the leader of the Unita movement, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

He examined eight Unita soldiers in a field hospital in the Mavinga area and was accompanied by another toxicologist and two doctors from Ghent University.

He said their first examination clearly showed the soldiers had been the victims of toxic gas. He described their state as critical, two of them being already completely paralysed.

Dr Savimbi had also shown him containers with Russian instructions used to detect residues of toxic gas. The containers had been found on Cuban prisoners. — Sapa-AP

Rapid moves for Angola, Namibia settlement

ARGUS
16/3/88

By BRUCE CAMERON, Political Staff

THERE are rapid developments internationally in the bid to resolve the Angolan and SWA/Namibian conflicts, senior South African sources indicated today.

A senior member of the Government said today: "The next two weeks are crucial. There may never have been a better chance of settling the conflict."

And it has been confirmed that there has been direct contact between South Africa and Angola on a number of occasions.

Topics of discussion have been diverse, including yesterday's body swop, in which the bodies of Angolans were exchanged for the bodies of two South Africans.

Intervened

It is understood that there have also been talks between Unita and the Angolan government in another African country.

A number of African countries have intervened and it is understood there has been increased contact between the US and the Soviet Union, with further talks expected shortly.

The Argus Foreign Service reports from Geneva that Dr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, in his meeting with Mr Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has called on South Africa to help accelerate the quest for an Angolan settlement.

Cubans using chemical weapons, expert claims

BRUSSELS. — Belgian Professor Aubin Heyndrickx claims Cuban troops are using chemical weapons in Angola.

Professor Heyndrickx, an acclaimed toxicologist, visited south-east Angola three weeks ago at the invitation of Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The Ghent University professor examined eight Unita soldiers in a field hospital near Mavinga.

According to stories published yesterday, Professor Heyndrickx said his first examination clearly showed the soldiers had been the victims of toxic gas.

He described their condition as critical and said two were already completely paralysed.

Further laboratory analysis made later in Ghent confirmed the first diagnosis, the professor said.

Angola confirms swop of prisoners

LUANDA. — A South African Air Force aircraft arrived here to exchange 12 Angolan soldiers for the bodies of two South African corporals, Angolan officials said.

This confirmed an earlier SA Defense Force announcement of the swop.

The officials said the exchange took place at Luanda Airport at 6.30am yesterday.

South African military sources identified the two dead soldiers as corporals Rowland Liebenberg and Louis van Breda, both 25.

An Angolan government spokesman said they were killed in northern Cabinda province on May 21, 1985, when Angolan troops surprised their commando unit outside a fuel depot. The unit's leader, Major Wynand du Toit, was captured.

Major du Toit was swopped last September for 133 Angolan soldiers reportedly captured by Unita rebels.

CONTACTS

A Dutchman and a Frenchman held by South Africa were handed to Angola in the same swop, which took place in Mozambique.

The bodies of the two corporals were originally expected to be handed to South Africa when Major du Toit was freed. Neither side said why the remains were held until yesterday.

In Lisbon a radio station quoted unidentified sources as saying yesterday's exchange followed contacts between Angolan and South African officials at the weekend.

The exchange appeared to be a further step in intense diplomatic efforts to reach a peace settlement in Angola's 13-year-old conflict.

● The Angolan officials also said US envoy Dr Chester Crocker was expected to arrive here soon for talks with Angolan leaders after talks on a Southern African peace settlement with South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha in Geneva. Sapa-AP.

124 5 23

Defence mum on Unita row

COPY Times 16/3/88

Political Staff

THE Department of Defence has withdrawn from the dispute over a controversial interview with Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi by the French weekly Paris-Match.

The ministry and the Unita leader earlier announced that they had severed contact with the Argus group newspapers after the published interview was disputed by Dr Savimbi.

Dr Savimbi claimed that the reports were a distortion of what he had said in the interview. The Argus and Star newspapers yesterday carried the excerpts of the original text to show their reports had been correct.

However, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said yesterday: "All further inquiries on the Paris-Match interview and reports in newspapers of the Argus Group on the interview should be directed to Dr Savimbi."

And, in an accompanying statement, the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, said he had no reason to dispute Dr Savimbi's intentions or

motives towards South Africa.

"His exposition to me and what he said at the news conference afterwards corresponds with his style and philosophy," he said.

Dr Savimbi had also repeated at a news conference in Jamba, which Argus newspapers were barred from attending, that South Africa had not presented him with a bill for its limited aid to him in Angola.

Mr Dave Dalling, PFP media spokesman, yesterday told Sapa that General Malan should lodge a complaint with the Media Council if he disputed the accuracy of reports published by the Argus Group.

"If he disputes the accuracy of the relevant Argus report, the minister should avail himself of the normal channels to obtain redress.

"The latest step by the Defence Department, apart from displaying an official intolerance, can only further damage the cause of press freedom in South Africa and should be revoked immediately," Mr Dalling said.

GENEVA — Angola peace talks are back on the frontburner, the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, said yesterday as the first round of discussions in two years between South Africa and the United States Under-Secretary of State, Mr Chester

Angolan peace negotiations back on frontburner

D/D 16/3/88



MR BOTHA

Crocker, ended here on Monday.

A South African spokesman said the US and South Africa would possibly end their meeting with "unofficial" talks.

Mr Van Heerden said it was too early to make an assesment of the chances of success, but said a basis for a further round of consultations had been established.

Details of what is being proposed are being kept secret, but it is known the Angolans

have offered a stepped-up timetable for the total withdrawal of the 40 000 Cuban troops from the region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has rejected these as not being detailed enough.

The United States also said this week that the timetable for the withdrawal of the Cubans was not "adequate".

US officials say Mr Botha has broadly outlined three scenarios for con-

tinuing peace talks.

These are: A plan negotiated by the superpowers; direct talks between Angola and South Africa; and the intervention of other African states with Nigeria, Kenya and Zaire being mentioned as interested parties.

It was clear in discussions here that sanctions — and what Pretoria perceives as hypocritical attacks on domestic policy have placed the continuing role of the US as a mediator in question.



DR CROCKER

The officials said Mr Botha said he would welcome direct talks with Angola.

The main priority from the South African side in these, officials say, would be to discuss African National Congress bases in Angola. — DDC-Sapa-RNS

Pik: No big deal yet on Angola

CAN Times 11/3/88
5

JOHANNESBURG. — No "substantial" progress had been made on a regional peace settlement for Angola and Namibia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterday.

Mr Botha returned to South Africa after a week-long overseas visit during which he held talks with the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker.

"We are still very far from an agreement," Mr Botha said at a brief press conference at Jan Smuts Airport.

However, there were "signals" of direct talks between the South African and Angolan governments on a regional peace settlement. America and Russia "could also have important talks in the immediate future" on a Southern African peace initiative.

Cuban withdrawal

The withdrawal of the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola remained the main issue to be agreed on.

"We are still exchanging ideas on a time schedule for the withdrawal of Cuban troops and the numbers of Cubans to be withdrawn. No agreement has been reached."

Mr Botha said the American government had first set the condition of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

The South African government strongly supported that condition. Whether South African troops were inside Angola "to see that our borders are not being threatened" or whether they were on the Namibian side of the border was not important.

"The important issue is that the Cuban troops must be withdrawn."

Asked about new initiatives on direct talks between the South African and Russian governments for a Southern African settlement, Mr Botha said the principle was "not that new" since the two countries had had direct talks on matters such as trade.

"However, what is new is that all the parties involved in the Southern African conflict are getting tired of the stalemate situation.

"Out of that impasse must come an agreement."

Sapa-Reuter reports that the United States issued a statement saying that South Africa and Angola remain divided on a regional peace settlement for Angola and Namibia.

The statement issued on Tuesday by the US diplomatic mission in Geneva described Dr Crocker's talks with Mr Botha as "frank, businesslike and useful".

"The South African government expressed continued interest in achieving a settlement. It is obvious, however, that substantial gaps remain on specific provisions of a settlement between Angola and South Africa," the statement said.

Dr Crocker would discuss the issue with his "Soviet counterpart" on Southern Africa "in the context of the upcoming US-Soviet (foreign) ministerial meeting," the US statement said.

Meanwhile the OAU secretary-general, Mr Ide Oumarou, said the Organization of African Unity fully supports Angola's latest proposals to link the withdrawal of Cuban troops from its territory to an end to US and South African support for Unita rebels. — Sapa-Reuter

JOHANNESBURG.—No substantial progress has been made on a regional peace settlement for Angola and Namibia, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterday.

Mr Botha returned to South Africa yesterday morning after a week-long overseas visit, during which he held talks with the American assistant secretary of state, Doctor Chester Crocker.

On his return, Mr Botha said: "We are still very far

Pik: no substantial progress on Angolan peace settlement

D/P 1773/88

from an agreement." However, he added, there were "signals" that direct talks between the South African and Angolan Governments on a regional peace settlement could be held.

America and Russia "could also have important talks in the immediate future" on a southern African peace initiative, Mr Botha said.

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can troops were inside Angola "to see that our borders are not being threatened" or whether they were on the Namibian side of the border was not important.

"The important issue is that the Cuban troops must be withdrawn," Mr Botha added.

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itiatives on direct talks between the South African and Russian Governments for a southern African settlement, Mr Botha said that "the principle is not that new" since the two countries had already met for direct talks on other subjects.

"However, what is new is that all the parties involved in the southern African conflict are getting tired of the stalemate.

"Out of that impasse must come an agreement," Mr Botha said. Sapa



Cuban soldiers disembark from an Angolan airliner this week in Kuito city, near Unita's new offensive along the Benguela Railway.

SA ready to attack again, say Angolans

CUITO CUANAVALÉ — Angolan government forces entrenched in and around this strategic southern town have repelled three major offensives by combined South African and Unita rebel troops since December, military officials say.

The Angolan field commanders said on Wednesday that they remain confident of holding the region despite daily shelling by long-range South African artillery.

More than 7 000 enemy troops, including Unita guerillas, black soldiers from South-West Africa and South African regulars positioned 20 to 40 km to the south, were expected to mount another major offensive against Cuito Cuanavale, the commanders said.

The garrison is located 300 km north of the border of Namibia.

The commanders said fighting has died down since government forces pushed back the South African-led army early in March. Angolan troops now respond with artillery fire to regular barrages of South African shells.

A group of foreign reporters witnessed the shelling of the partially destroyed bridge over the Cuito River, 2 km south of the town, when they were caught in a South African artillery barrage on Wednesday.

"Fighting picked up around Cuito Cuanavale in December," said Lieutenant Colonel Ngueto, the military commander of the town. "Then the South Africans brought in mechanised units for their most recent offensive from February 25 to March 1. The enemy has not given up the idea of taking Cuito Cuanavale. The same units are still here."

Government forces have filled the former farming community of Cuito Cuanavale, manning anti-aircraft batteries, tank positions, defensive trenches and sophisticated radar and communications equipment.

Main objective

Colonel Ngueto said the main objective of the South African and Unita forces was to capture Cuito Cuanavale's military airport.

The airport is a key facility for ferrying government troops and heavy equipment to the southern front from Luanda.

"This airfield can handle an awful lot of traffic," Colonel Ngueto said, "and they want to control it to launch attacks further north."

He said South African and Unita patrols had already travelled up from the south along narrow corridors through the bush to launch attacks in the Cuemba region of central Bie province.

Cuemba is reportedly the farthest South African troops have penetrated into Angola since 1976.

In December, South African forces blew up two sections of the Cuito River bridge, made of heavy timbers and reinforced concrete pilings. The Angolans have replaced them with makeshift ropes and planks that sag down to water level.

About 40 000 Cuban soldiers are based in Angola, according to Cuban statements. There are also 1 000 Soviet military advisers according to Western estimates.

Angolan soldiers and Cuban support troops were seen on the road out of town for 22 km, confirming statements last week by Angola that Cuban troops in the Cuito Cuanavale area were placed at the rear of Angolan lines.

A South African Defence Force spokesman said last night that Wednesday's report by Angola was similar to those which had been published over the last three weeks.

"There is nothing new in it and it is a continuation of Angola's attempt to divert attention from Unita's much publicised successes.

"South Africa's position on Angola is a matter of public record," the spokesman said. — Associated Press.

but that Mr Dalling had not
a breach of privilege.

Dalling during the course of debate in the House
on May 21 1987, said Mr Eglin.

NEWS 18/3/88

NATIO

Attacks by SA, Unita repulsed, say Angolans

From PATRICK REYNA
Associated Press

CUITO CUANAVALA. — Angolan government forces entrenched in and around this strategic southern town have repelled three major offensives by combined South African and Unita rebel troops since December, military officials say.

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A ... will be inserted to ...

FOREIGN Minister Pik Botha's statement this week that Angolan peace is still a long way off has deflated the optimistic mood inspired by loose talk of a settlement.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker's talks during the past week, first with the Angolans and Cubans, and then with the South Africans, have centred on the issue of the withdrawal of the more than 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola.

The basic question which could snag any such a deal is not so much the manner and details of the withdrawal — which imply that it could take place in isolation — but the *quid pro quo* for a Cuban pull-out.

Everyone is agreed the Cubans should go, but the impasse on the terms is formidable.

President PW Botha indicated to the *Washington Times* this week South Africa would remain in Angola until the Cubans left — a significant shift from the earlier position that indepen-

WEEKLY MAIL, March 18 to March 24, 1988

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Pik puts a big damper on Angolan settlement hopes

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

dence for Namibia would be delayed until the Cuban pullout.

Perhaps the only surprise was the near-silence with which South Africans accepted the announcement — in a newspaper in a foreign country — that their army is occupying, and is likely to remain in occupation, of a large segment of territory of another country.

Botha confirmed a position that has been clear for some time: that Pretoria is not prepared to implement Security Council resolution 435 in Namibia, because Swapo would probably win free and fair elections.

Nor is the withdrawal of the Cubans Pretoria's final demand. General Magnus Malan has made it clear

South Africa is angling for Unita to be part of or, failing that, the whole of the government in Luanda.

Pretoria has posed the only alternative to war as the unlikely prospect of the Soviet Union, Cuba and Angola agreeing to bring Unita into a national unity government and Cuban troop withdrawal without Namibian independence.

Even if the latter is agreed to, there can be no "de-linking" of Namibia and Angola: a "neutral" Angola would mean the end of Swapo's armed struggle because most of their major bases are in southern Angola.

The stakes in an Angolan settlement thus mean not merely "de-linking" Namibian independence but putting it aside altogether.

Meanwhile, recent comments that

direct talks between South Africa and the Soviet Union or Angola, or European mediation in Southern African peace talks, would cut the US out of any role in a settlement have misconceived America's role in the war.

The US is not so much a mediator as a party to the talks because it is involved in the conflict through its Congressional-approved supply of arms to Unita through Zaire.

The danger for the superpowers of an escalation of the war is that America's Unita clients and the Soviet Union's MPLA government clients could draw each other into a war with one another which neither wants.

This is precisely the sort of explosive regional scenario which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is seeking to avoid, and thus for the Soviets peace means having to deal with the Americans.

It is in this context that the Americans and the Soviets will shortly be meeting one other.

ANGOLA

The long road to Luanda

Apartheid, the abhorred ideology which for years has often dominated auditoriums and council chambers worldwide, may prove to be a stumbling block in Pretoria's surprise overtures to Mikhail Gorbachev and the Kremlin on the future of Angola.

Without any progress in the dismantling of race laws in SA, the Soviet Union will find

it difficult to be seen to be jumping into bed with Pretoria, says the Institute of International Affairs' John Barratt. "The Soviets are nervous to deal with SA. They would not like to become unpopular with their African and UN allies.

"If SA is able to settle the Angolan and Namibian issues at the same time, it may make a difference to its position internationally — it may provide the country with some breathing space. But I am not very optimistic that those issues can be resolved without progress here," says Barratt.

Philip Nel, of the University of Stellenbosch's Institute of Soviet Studies agrees. "We should not expect the Soviets to react positively in the event of actions taken against organisations like Co-satu, or talks about 'do your damndest'."

Nel, however, still regards the speech of General Magnus Malan two weeks ago as an important instrument in dispelling uncertainty in the minds of the Soviets as to SA's position. "They (the Soviets) did not reject a possible settlement. All they did was to reject an analogy drawn between Angola and Afghanistan."

Barratt says any future settlement in Angola will have to include Namibia. "We would be very naive to think arrangements on Angola can be made separate from the Namibian issue. We were the ones who linked the two together. I don't see any way in which the Russians will accept Cuban withdrawal from Angola without any concessions from SA on Namibia. Neither the Soviets nor the US will put Namibia on the backburner."

Barratt agrees with the view that the present speculation about talks between SA and

the Soviets, Cubans and Americans may indirectly help Namibia's Transitional Government (TG) in their dealings with Pretoria. "The South African government may have to rethink their staunch position on ethnic elections which they have prescribed for second-tier government in Namibia — a position that the majority in the TG has

rejected. Ethnic elections will not be accepted internationally."

Both Barratt and Nel see Foreign Minister Pik Botha's meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker this week in Geneva as evidence that the US cannot be ruled out as brokers in an Angolan settlement. "The most important aspect of the Angolan issue is that, if it is to be resolved, negotiations will have to be conducted with both superpowers," says Barratt.

"Both have military and political interests in the region. And, more important, the present trend is for the

US and the Soviets to resolve international issues in this manner . . . by negotiating with each other.

"I do not think the Soviets will attempt to leave the US behind. They are still going ahead full steam with nuclear disarmament talks. And it makes no difference whether George Bush or a Democrat is in the White House next year, both the US and Soviets would like to solve the Angolan issue."

One further stumbling block on the path to a peaceful settlement foreseen by both Barratt and Nel remains the position of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi. "SA, and especially P W Botha and Magnus Malan, are heavily committed to Savimbi. They cannot afford to dump him," says Barratt.

Nel is more forthcoming. He is convinced that Savimbi will not be acceptable to a future government in Luanda, "even if that is Pretoria's bottom-line." Nel says Unita may be part of future talks, but not Savimbi.

But, while Malan presently dominates foreign policy in the southern region, one can assume that the Unita leader is safe in the bosom of Pretoria. Evidence of this was Ma-

lan's quick reaction this week after Savimbi was allegedly misquoted in an interview with *Paris Match*. Savimbi himself did not hesitate to fly to Cape Town to explain the situation to Malan, then visiting Luuvhuys for a hastily arranged audience, after which he flew back to his Jamba HQ for a triumphant press conference, which received major attention on the Cliff Saunders show on SABC's *Netwerk*.

So, as Pik Botha himself said in an interview this week, many details have to be worked out and "numbers, timetables and dates are what I understand by details."

The road ahead remains long and rocky . . .



Savimbi . . . safe in Pretoria's bosom

SOWETO HOUSING

Giveaway prices

Diepmeadow administrator David Thebehali may have a point in wanting to give away houses to the residents of Diepkloof and Meadowlands. But he's on a collision course with the authorities

Thebehali's announcement that he intends to give away some 20 000 houses from April 1 flies in the face of policy determined by the three ministers responsible for housing, says John Mavuso, Transvaal provincial member of the executive committee with responsibility for housing. According to a joint statement made by the ministers, free houses are unacceptable.

Further, adds Mavuso "Assets of local authorities, such as houses, cannot be disposed of unless in consultation with, and approval by, the administrator of the Transvaal."

Where this leaves Thebehali, no one knows. But he remains adamant that he intends to go ahead. The Diepmeadow local authority was dissolved in December last year because of mismanagement; Thebehali was appointed administrator in January, by the province.

The idea of giving away houses as a method of solving the rent boycott has been in the air for some time. But even if Thebehali does succeed in his scheme, it's a moot point whether it will solve the problem — less than 15% of the monthly payment is for house rental. The bulk is for services which must still be paid for.

Thebehali sees the scheme as a way around the boycott impasse. According to him, only registered tenants would qualify and would have to agree to pay off any arrears. Thereafter, residents would only be liable for current service charges.

Handwritten signature and date: V.M. 18/3/88

SA, Angola to sign 'Nkomati'?

CAM Times
21/3/88 (5)

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON. — Diplomatic sources here have claimed that preparations are under way for an Nkomati-style peace accord between Angola and South Africa.

They said the deal with Angola would bring an end to South African support for Unita in exchange for the dropping of demands for Namibian independence.

The accord is supported by Mozambique and other frontline states and has involved negotiators from Moscow, Washington, Pretoria, Luanda, Havana and from the rebel group Unita, sources said.

Other points likely to be involved in the peace plan include the repatriation of the 40 000-strong Cuban contingent in Angola, preceded by their withdrawal to the 13th parallel (approximately along the Benguela railway), a South African commitment to end attacks in southern Angola and a pledge to bury plans to divide Angola into two states — the south controlled by Unita and the rest by the MPLA.

A well-informed military source said: "The Faplas (Angolan government forces) have taken such a beating in recent months that moderates in Luanda are convinced that only direct talks with Pretoria can end the bloodshed."

His remarks followed confirmation last week by MPLA official Mr Pedro de Castro Van Dunem to journalists in Lisbon, that his government was ready to meet South Africa for talks to end

WINDHOEK. — South African air raids on the radar-guarded Angolan town of Lubango were successful because of the help given by Israeli radar experts, according to a report at the weekend.

The report said the planes which hit Lubango, about 300km north of the Namibian border, carried equipment which the Israelis had tested in raids on Syria.

An SADF spokesman said that it was "no more than speculation".

Meanwhile, the Cuban government has credited its air force with the success of holding the Angolan town of Cuito Canavale.

A statement by the Cuban Embassy in Harare at the weekend said: "Each attempt to seize Cuito Cuanavale has been met by a deluge of artillery fire and air strikes. The Cuban-Angolan air force has played a brilliant and heroic role in the combats."

An SADF spokesman said the statement was the "direct opposite to the realities of the situation". — Sapa

the war. His statement came amid reports that official contacts were being made for a meeting between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and President P W Botha.

According to a Friday newspaper report, Lisbon is increasingly convinced that Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi will be sacrificed to facilitate an agreement between the guerrillas and Luanda.

SA's penetration of radar 'dismays'

w/6 Argus 12/13/88

by MICHAEL MORRIS
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — South Africa's penetration of Angola's "dense" Soviet radar and air defence system in attacks last month on Lubango and Cuito Cuana-vale has dismayed defence chiefs in Luanda, according to the latest issue of Jane's Defence Weekly.

In a detailed report on Angola's Soviet-supplied air defences, Jane's describes the South African airforce bomber strikes as "rare events in the face of what is probably the most sophisticated Soviet air defence network outside the Warsaw Pact countries".

75 radar sets

Jane's reports: "The Angolans say the South African pilots must have flown under the radar coverage. Another theory is that the raids exploited the down periods of the local radar system, suggesting that Unita rebel

sources had provided South Africa with the necessary information."

Angola's radar and air defence network comprise 75 mobile radar sets of seven different types, based on 23 different sites.

Soviet pilots

The fighting arm consists of three types of fighter jets — 40 MiG-21s flown by Soviet-trained Angolans, 40 MiG-23s and a smaller undisclosed number of Su-22s, both thought to be flown by Cuban and a small number of East German or Soviet pilots, six anti-aircraft missile systems (Guideline, Goa, Gainful, Gecko, Gaskin and Gopher) and a variety of anti-aircraft guns.

Field units are also reported to carry shoulder-launched Grail and Grem-lin weapons. The radar network is understood to consist of eight sector operations centres and 15 control and reporting centres.

Angola situation changing

HARARE — There had been "substantial" change in the Angolan situation in the past 14 weeks, with SA using Unita infantry, the SWA Territory Force and its own regular units, in an attempt to capture the town of Cuito Cuanavale, 200km south east of Menongue City, the Cuban embassy in Harare has said.

Cuban forces were sent to the town in mid-January to reinforce FAPLA combatants "in the face of the SA persistence in seizing Cuito Cuanavale".

"Since early December up until now, all the enemy attacks have failed due to the unyielding Angolan-Cuban resistance."

Each attempt by SA troops and their allies to seize Cuito Cuanavale, has been

met by a deluge of artillery fire and air strikes. The Cuban-Angolan air force has played a brilliant and heroic role in the combats. The pilots have performed real exploits in their constant and relentless attacks on enemy columns and groupings," the statement said. — Sapa

□ AN SADF spokesman said yesterday the Cuban statement contained nothing new and was the "direct opposite of the realities of the situation".

"It is Unita which has achieved much-publicised successes against the Cuban-led and supported Angolan forces," he said.

SA's position on Angola was a matter of public record.

bidu 2/13/88

Major battle is raging at strategic Angolan town

From PATRICK REYNA of Sapa-AP in Cuito Cuanavale, Angola

AP/S 21/3/88

THE way to Cuito Cuanavale is on board a Soviet-built MI-17 troop transport helicopter, filled with the stench of fuel.

Formidable MI-25 helicopter gunships ride alongside, skimming the tops of trees at 160km/h.

Angola is at war, and Cuito Cuanavale is a Government-held town under siege by rebels.

Soviet-made BMP-1 armoured artillery vehicles provide the ground transport. The vehicles, a sort of light tank, are well suited to negotiating the bomb craters along the town's single street.

Driving them are soldiers of the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, known as FAPLA, who coolly round up panicky visitors when the daily South African artillery barrages start falling a little too close for comfort.

A major battle is raging around Cuito Cuanavale, a strategic garrison town 300km north of Angola's border with SWA/Namibia. It is a centerpiece in the 13-year-old war between Angolan rebels, supported by South Africa and the United States, and the Cuban- and Soviet-backed Government.

A group of foreign reporters made a one-hour visit to Cuito Cuanavale last week. That was enough time to see the once-prosperous settlement was firmly in Angolan hands and to receive a briefing from local commanders on the disposition of South African troops and guerrilla units of the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

The commanders said seven enemy units of 1000 men each were stationed south of Cuito Cuanavale.

The strength of Angolan Government forces in the region became evident long before reaching the town. Military needs clearly dwarf civilian traffic at the airport of Menongue, the capital of Cuando-Cubango province, 160km west of Cuito Cuanavale.

On the one-hour flight from Luanda to the outskirts of Cuito Cuanavale, camouflaged artillery units, dug-in tank positions and camped field patrols flashed by on the ground below outside the circular, thatched huts of villages.

Twisted, burnt remains of dozens of transport trucks stood on the impassable road from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale.

Two MI-25 gunships, bristling

with machine-guns and rocket launchers, flew alongside the MI-18, itself equipped on either side with menacing Gattling guns, loaded with rusty-tipped shells.

The helicopter did not land at Cuito Cuanavale airport, the alleged objective of South African and Unita forces. Instead it touched down outside the town on the Menogou road, beside a truck holding wounded Angolan soldiers waiting to be airlifted out for treatment.

Unita said its anti-aircraft batteries shot down a MI-17 helicopter that day as it flew wounded Angolan army officers between Cuito Cuanavale and Menogou. In a statement distributed in Lisbon, the rebels said the helicopter crashed in flames, killing all those on board.

A faded milestone showed Cuito Cuanavale was 22km away. The party travelled in a BMP-1, some inside the low-slung vehicle's hatches, others on the cannon turret.

Cuito Cuanavale lay exposed on the summit of a gentle slope of tall, green grass, the bullet-riddled walls of the 40 houses strung out along a crumbling road.

An army truck lay on its side in the middle of the now-dirt road, blocking access to the bombed-out

remains of the timber and concrete bridge over the Cuito River, a principal target of South African G-5 artillery emplacements.

Stepping gingerly from beam to beam, the reporters crossed the 27-metre structure, swaying precariously while holding guide ropes across two makeshift sections of ropes and planks where the bridge had been hit by South African drones in December.

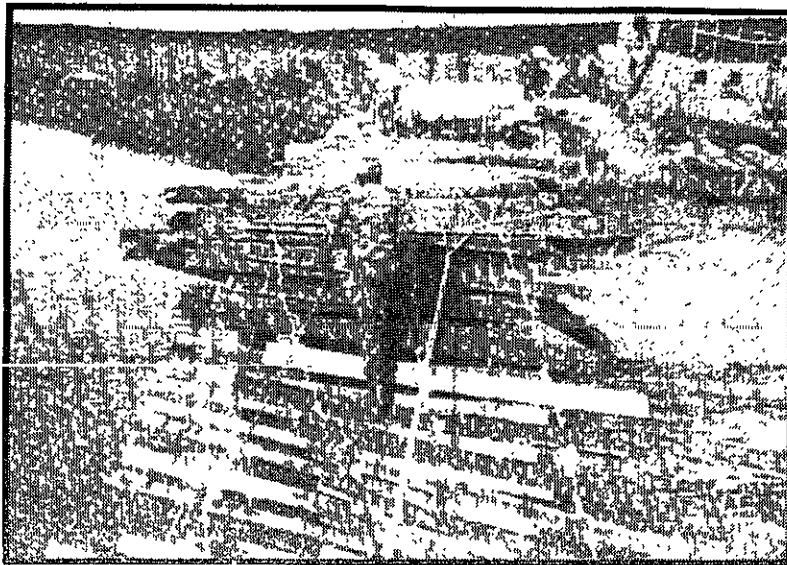
Spread out along the bridge, the party was momentarily stunned by a thunderous explosion 40 metres downstream by the east bank.

As spray shot 4.5 metres skywards, a strange form of polite panic took hold and the reporters ran, stopped, took photographs, ran again, and dived into and on to the waiting BMP-1 for deliverance from the shells.

Another seven shells appeared silently, following the BMP-1's course away from the river and exploding nearby.

"They've fired about 5000 G-5 rounds at the bridge since December," said First Lieutenant Jorge of the Engineer Corps, "and they've only come near it twice."

Small comfort for the troops posted on the east bank.



DAMAGED BRIDGE: An Angolan officer crosses a makeshift rope and plank section of the Cuito River bridge outside Cuito Cuanavale. The bridge was partly destroyed by South African artillery aided by drones in December.



KEEPING WATCH: An Angolan army guard peers over the barrel of his Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifle while flying over a village of thatched huts on the way to the besieged town of Cuito Cuanavale.

Soviet nerve-gas weapons 'almost certainly used'

RUSSIAN-made nerve-gas weapons have almost certainly been used in the Angolan war, killing, blinding and paralysing guerrillas of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement, according to independent medical investigators.

Doctors from Ghent University in Belgium have reached this conclusion after a six-day mission to Angola last month.

In a report for the United Nations, they say that from the condition of soldiers and from toxicology tests there is a "high probability" that the men are nerve gas victims.

Further evidence has been provided by the seizure from captured Cuban soldiers of kits for the detection of toxic gases. The kits are Russian-made and carry instructions in Russian and Spanish. Identical kits have been found on Russian soldiers captured in Afghanistan.

The inquiry team, headed by Professor Aubain Heyndrickx, head of the toxicology department at Ghent, is funded by the university and has no political allegiance.

It was invited by Unita to visit a field hospital at Mavinga in southern Angola because of con-

cern about the condition of some of the men reaching the hospital.

Using a blood test capable of detecting nerve-gas exposure long after an attack, the doctors found positive results in two of eight patients examined. Clinical investigation of the other six suggested that although the nerve-gas no longer showed up on tests, they too had been victims.

Professor Heyndrickx said: "All of them were suffering ill-effects but some more than others. The very severe ones were practically paralysed and incontinent. They cannot be treated any more." — The Argus Foreign Service.

SA — Angola prepare for peace accord?

DID 21/3/88

(5)

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

LISBON — Preparations are underway for a Nkomati-style peace accord between Marxist Angola and South Africa, diplomatic sources in Lisbon claim.

The accord is likely to involve a deal including an end to South African support for Unita in exchange for the dropping of demands for Namibian independence, they said.

The peace accord is being pushed by Mozambique and other frontline states and has been the subject of multiple contacts throughout the week involving negotiators from such diverse capitals as Moscow, Washington, South Africa, Luanda, Havana and from the rebel group Unita, the sources said.

Other major points likely to be involved in such a peace conference include:

- the repatriation of the 40 000 strong Cuban contingent in Angola preceded by their withdrawal to the 13 th parallel (which runs roughly along the Benguela railway);

- a South African commitment to end attacks in Southern Angola and;

- a pledge to bury plans to divide Angola into two states — the south controlled by Unita and the

rest by the ruling Marxist MPLA party.

Western military sources here said the pressures on Angola to settle its 13-year-long civil war with Unita were now virtually uncontainable.

"The Faplas (Angolan government forces) have taken such a beating in recent months that moderates in Luanda are convinced that only direct talks with South Africa can end the bloodshed," one military source said.

His remarks followed confirmation last week by the MPLA's second ranking official, Mr Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, to journalists in Lisbon that his government was ready to meet with South Africa for talks to end the war.

His statement came amid reports that official contacts were underway for an unprecedented meeting between the Angolan president, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and his South African counterpart, Mr P. W. Botha.

According to a newspaper report, Lisbon is increasingly convinced that the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, will be sacrificed shortly to facilitate an agreement between the guerillas and Luanda.

The paper said Dr Savimbi was now the main stumbling block to peace because the MPLA could not afford to lose face by negotiating with the Angolan regime's enemy number one.



CUITO CUANAVALÉ: Angolan army Major Armindo Moreira, his AK-47 assault rifle pointing out of the bay door, keeps a sharp lookout aboard a Soviet-built MI-17 troop transport helicopter flying into besieged Cuito Cuanavale. (5)

Unita rejects MPLA demands for talks

LUANDA — Unita has rejected demands by the Angolan Government that the rebel movement drop its leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, before negotiations can take place between Unita and the MPLA.

SABC Radio News reports that this was stated in a communique issued by Unita's central committee and signed by the movement's vice-president, Mr Jeremias Chitunda, its secretary-general, Mr Miguel n'Zau Puna, and the chief-of-staff, Mr Demosthenes Chilingutula.

The communique said there was no difference between Dr Savimbi and Unita, adding if the MPLA was really interested in peace in Angola, then it should accept the "strong hand" that Unita had extended. Angolans, it said,

should take responsibility for their own destiny as a people and as a nation.

Angola has put forward a plan for discussions on regional peace, which is reported to include a time-table for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the country.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry, carried by Luanda Radio and monitored by the SABC's Africa Desk, said the plan included five essential points.

These had been presented at talks in Luanda last week and conveyed to the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Dr Crocker and the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, met in Geneva recently.

— Sapa.

March 22 1988

⑤ B/dum 22/3/88

Angolan solution will be helpful — Oppenheimer

Boost in offering for SA?

THE Soviet Union was unlikely to walk away from Angola without anything to show for its involvement, such as Namibian independence, former Anglo chairman Harry Oppenheimer said yesterday.



OPPENHEIMER

Nor should it be expected SA would become disinterested in the form of settlement in Angola or in the outcome of a settlement in Namibia, said Oppenheimer, speaking as chairman of the SA Institute of International Affairs' national executive. "Domestic considerations here

DIANNA GAMES

will play an important role. With the government under pressure from the right, it is highly unlikely to agree to anything which smacks of capitulation," he said.

Progress on Angola and Namibia could have a positive effect on SA's international and regional relations, even if the central issue of domestic political change still had to be resolved.

The need to find a political solution, even if it did not fully satisfy all the parties involved, became increasingly urgent as the cost in lives and resources rose on both sides.

"In January 1986, the President delivered a reformist speech at the

opening of Parliament, which turned out to be his last in that vein.

"Now security is the overriding priority, while social and political reform has been dropped well down in the order of priorities," he said.

While government had embarked on welcome reform of the economic system, the social and political changes which should accompany that reform to ensure its acceptance and support were missing.

Oppenheimer warned there was the threat of a new wave of sanctions strengthened by restrictions imposed on several organisations, proposals to cut off external funds to extra-parliamentary bodies and defiant statements in the UN Security Council.

Unita rejects ^(S) call to remove Savimbi

D/D 2 2/3/88

JOHANNESBURG — Unita has rejected demands by the Angolan Government that the rebel movement remove its leader, Doctor Jonas Savimbi, before negotiations can take place between Unita and the MPLA.

According to the SABC, a communique issued by Unita's central committee said that there were no differences between Dr Savimbi and Unita, and added that if the MPLA was really interested in peace in Angola, then it should accept the "strong hand" that Unita had extended.

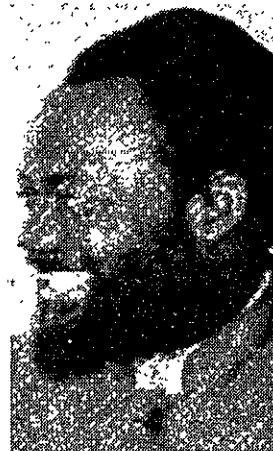
Meanwhile, Angola has put forward a plan

for discussions on regional peace, which is reported to include a time-table for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the country.

A foreign ministry statement said the plan included five essential points which had been presented at talks in Luanda last week and conveyed to the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Doctor Chester Crocker.

Dr Crocker and the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, met in Geneva recently.

The statement gave no other details beyond saying that there would



DR SAVIMBI

be further meetings between the interested parties in the coming weeks. — Sapa

D/D 223/88

Progress on Angola ~~SA~~ SWA/Namibia may ~~SA~~ help SA — Oppenheimer

Daily Dispatch
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The Soviet Union was unlikely to walk away from Angola without anything to show for its involvement, such as SWA/Namibian independence, the former chairman of Anglo American, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, said here yesterday.

Nor should it be expected that South Africa would become disinterested in the form of settlement in Angola or in the outcome of a settlement in SWA/Namibia, he said as chairman of the national executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs.

"Domestic considerations here will play an

important role. With the government under pressure from the right, it is highly unlikely to agree to anything which smacks of capitulation."

Progress on Angola and SWA/Namibia could have a positive effect on South Africa's international and regional relations, even if the central issue of domestic political change still had to be resolved.

The need to find an acceptable political solution became increasingly urgent as the cost in lives and resources rose on both sides.

He said two years ago, despite intense unrest, the government still claimed reform as its top priority.

"In January 1986 the

State President delivered a reformist speech at the opening of Parliament, which turned out to be his last in that vein."

Now security was the overriding priority.

Angola: country ⁵ at war

By Patrick Reyna

The way to Cuito Cuanavale is aboard a Soviet-built MI-17 troop transport helicopter, filled with the stench of fuel. Formidable MI-25 helicopter gunships ride alongside, skimming the tops of trees at 160 km/ph.

Angola is at war, and Cuito Cuanavale is a government-held town under siege by rebels.

Soviet-made BMP-1 armored artillery vehicles provide the ground transportation. The vehicles, a sort of light tank, are well-suited to negotiating the bomb craters along the town's single street.

Driving them are soldiers of the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, known as FAPLAs, who coolly round up panicky visitors when the daily South African artillery barrages start falling a little too close for comfort.

A major battle is raging around Cuito Cuanavale, a strategic garrison town 300 kilometers north of Angola's border with South-West Africa, also known as Namibia. It is a centerpiece in the 13-year-old war between Angolan rebels, supported by South Africa and the United States, and the Cuban- and Soviet-backed government.

A group of foreign reporters made a one-hour visit to Cuito Cuanavale

last week. That was enough time to see the once-prosperous settlement was firmly in Angolan hands and to receive a briefing from local commanders on the disposition of South African troops and guerrilla units of the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

The commanders said seven enemy divisions of 1000 men each were stationed south of Cuito Cuanavale — three South African and four mixed units of South African, Namibian and Unita fighters.

Manuel Francisco Tuta, commander of surrounding Cuando-Cubango province, described the consequences of South African offensive besetting the region.

"There hasn't been a moment of peace since September for the people of Cuando-Cubango," he said. "Our children have lost their parents and their schools, wives have lost their husbands," in three major attempts to capture Cuito Cuanavale since the enemy offensive began in December.

"We fully expect the South Africans to mount another offensive against Cuito Cuanavale," said the commander, also known by the name-de-guerre Col. Batalha de Angola.

Asked if signs of progress in recent Southern African peace talks might affect the fighting,

he said battlefield losses — not negotiations — might explain a failure by South African and Unita forces to move on the area again.

The strength of Angolan government forces in the region became evident long before reaching the town. Military needs clearly dwarf civilian traffic at the airport of Menongue, the capital of Cuando-Cubango province, 160 kilometers west of Cuito Cuanavale.

On the one-hour flight from Luanda to the outskirts of Cuito Cuanavale, camouflaged artillery units, dug-in tank positions and camped field patrols flashed by on the ground below outside the circular, thatched huts of Umbundo villages.

Twisted, burned remains of dozens of transport trucks stood on the impassable road from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale.

Two MI-25 gunships, bristling with machine guns and rocket launchers, flew alongside the MI-18, itself equipped on either side with menacing gattling guns, loaded with rusty-tipped shells.

The helicopter did not land at Cuito Cuanavale Airport, the alleged objective of South African and Unita forces. Instead it touched down outside the town on the Menongue road, beside a truck holding wounded Angolan soldiers wait-

ing to be airlifted out for treatment.

Unita said its anti-aircraft batteries shot down a MI-17 helicopter that day as it flew wounded Angolan army officers between Cutio-Cuanavale and Menogue. In a statement distributed in Lisbon, the rebels said the helicopter crashed in flames, killing all those aboard.

A faded milestone showed Cuito Cuanavale lay 22 kilometers away. The party traveled in a BMP-1, some inside the low-slung vehicle's hatches, others atop the cannon turret. Tank, artillery and radar positions hidden in the low forest cover flashed past, along with row upon row of infantry trenches.

Cuito Cuanavale lay exposed on the summit of a gentle slope of tall, green grass, the bullet-riddled walls of the 40 houses strung out along a crumbling road.

A massive army truck lay on its side in the middle of the now-dirt road, blocking access to the bombed-out remains of the timber and concrete bridge over the Cuito River, a principle target of South African G-5 artillery emplacements.

Stepping gingerly from beam to beam, the reporters crossed the 100-foot (27-meter) structure, swaying precariously while holding guide ropes across two

makeshift sections of ropes and planks where the bridge had been hit by South African drones in December.

A soldier on guard duty beside the rusting hulks of two shelled gunboats on the eastern bank was asked if his small unit had taken any fire from the G-5s.

"They started last night and kept on pounding 'til this morning," he said, pointing to a 6 m clearing in the reeds by the river bank. "That one came down about half an hour ago."

Spread out along the bridge on the insistence of Maj. Moreira, the party was momentarily stunned by a thunderous explosion some 40 meters downstream by the east bank.

As spray shot 4.5 meters skywards, a strange form of polite panic took hold and the reporters ran, stopped, took photographs, ran again, and dove into and onto the waiting BMP-1 for deliverance from the shells.

Another seven shells appeared silently, following the BMP-1's course away from the river and exploding nearby.

"They've fired about 5000 G-5 rounds at the bridge since December," said First Lt. Jorge of the Engineer Corps, "and they've only come near it twice."

Small comfort for the troops posted on the east bank —Sapa-AP

'Supply lines the target'

SA in new

Angolan

offensive,

says report

The South African army has embarked on a threatening new offensive 650 km inside Angola, according to a South African military source who gave an on-the-spot account of what amounts to an explosive escalation of Pretoria's role in the Angolan civil war.

But a South African Defence Ministry spokesman commented on the report today by saying: "South Africa's position is well known. The SADF is in Angola to give assistance and the process of withdrawal has already been announced. This takes longer, because advantages have to be maintained."

The report, carried by the *The Independent* in London, stated that the aim of the new SADF offensive in Angola is to cut Luanda's supply lines to the besieged southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, where Angolan and Cuban troops have been withstanding intense South African artillery bombardments for more than a month.

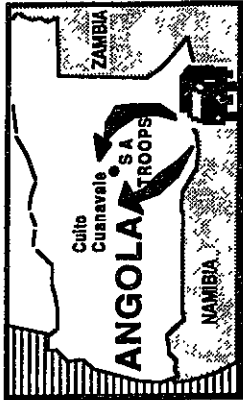
The South Africans have audaciously outflanked Cuito far to the west and north. The new fighting is taking place 80 km north-west of a settlement named as Ponto Verde — where South African troops and Angolan rebels have set up a forward base.

Starve out

If South Africa were to block Angolan supply lines to Cuito, they could starve out the predominantly Cuban forces still resolutely defending the town. The loss of Cuito would dramatically increase the amount of Angolan territory controlled by Pretoria and its Angolan rebel allies in Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita.

According to *The Independent's* source, convoys of heavy lorries have been departing regularly for Ponto Verde from the South African military bases of Grootfontein and Rundu, both in northern Namibia.

The source said the 650-km journey is being accomplished entirely by night to avoid attacks by Cuban and Angolan MiGs, whose pilots are reluctant to fly after dark.



For the last 32 km of the journey, the lorries drive through dense bush with no lights. The track is so bumpy that those on board the lorries have to wear special belts to protect their kidneys. It has been raining hard in the area and the lorries often get bogged down.

It is understood South African positions around Ponto Verde have come under repeated bombardment from the MiGs. But the threat of Stinger ground-to-air missiles — supplied to Unita by the United States — keeps Luanda's aircraft at high altitudes. Their bombing accuracy seems to be suffering accordingly.

The South African forces are well dug in and there have been few casualties. The source said the most recent was a black soldier burned by a phosphorus bomb.

The South African units involved include the special 32 Battalion of former Angolan refugees who fight under South African command, and Namibian soldiers from the 101 Battalion in northern Ovamboland. The *Independent* visited battalion headquarters in Ondangwa yesterday and was categorically informed by its commanding officer, Colonel Leon Marais, that none of his men was fighting in Angola. — The Independent News Service.

Proposal interpreted as a gimmick

Govt 'will reject' ⁽⁵⁾ Angolan peace plan

SPM 24/3/88

By David Braun, Political Correspondent

Cape Town

Diplomatic sources today shot down the pact proposed by Luanda to end the Angolan war and usher in Namibian independence.

According to one influential source the plan amounted to no more than a gimmick and a psychological trick and as such it would not be acceptable to the South African Government.

The Star today learned of the details of the proposed deal:

- Angola has offered to withdraw half the number of Cuban troops it has in the country to north of a certain parallel in exchange for the complete or very substantial withdrawal of South African forces from the region.

- South Africa also suspends its assistance to Unita.

- United Nations Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia is then implemented.

- Angola then completes total Cuban withdrawal over a period of four years.

The deal is supposed to be signed by South Africa, Cuba, Angola and Swapo.

Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha last night said in a statement the proposed pact was an example of raising expectations before progress had been made on the most important element of an agreement — a time schedule for the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Mr Botha said his statement did not mean an agreement was impossible, but "we are still very far from reaching one".

Diplomatic sources disclosed today that South Africa had warned the United States that any settlement in Angola would have very little chance of reaching agreement unless the Soviet Union was also in agreement.

A recent meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State in charge of African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker and his Soviet counterpart could have been very important.

According to senior diplomatic sources the reality of the situation in Angola is that the parties are in fact "very far removed" from an agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal.

Among the most sensitive and difficult problem areas troubling negotiations are the creation of a mechanism for verification of exactly how many Cubans there are in Angola and a mechanism to verify how many do in fact leave.

South African sources believe this is a totally unacceptable proposal in that the withdrawal of Cubans north of a certain line merely means they could relieve Angolan forces to take up the gaps in the south.

The South African position remains firm: All Cubans must leave Angola by the time of the elections, and not over a period of four years.

One source today said he believed the gap between the Angolan and South African positions was unbridgeable.

Extensive search for missing pilot

By Craig Kotze

A South African Air Force Mirage pilot, Major J W van Copenhagen, and his plane are missing in the operational area of Namibia, the South African Defence Force has announced.

An extensive ground and air search is under way after the pilot went missing while returning to base from an operational mission on Sunday, Air Force chief Lieutenant-General Denis Earp said yesterday.

He said the search was being hampered by dense bush. No further information was made available.

Major van Copenhagen is the third South African pilot confirmed missing in Angola/Namibia since November last year.

Major van Copenhagen's wife Adrie, (31) last night told The Star from her home in Hoedspruit that she last saw her husband on Saturday morning.

She said she did not want to speculate on whether he was still alive and was waiting for results of the search.

"We have very good friends here who give us all the support we need," she said.

Negotiation details premature — Pik

Angola plan: new pressure on SA

24/3/88

YESTERDAY'S "leak" of the purported details of an almost concluded four-way agreement on Angola and Namibia could be the beginning of a new phase of diplomatic pressure on SA to conclude an agreement, said SA Institute of International Affairs director John Barratt.

Sapa reported that Lopo do Nascimento, a representative of Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, had told the Interaction policy board meeting in Harare this week that work was in progress on the text of an agree-

ALAN FINE

ment to be signed by Angola, SA, Swapo and Cuba. The report was un sourced.

Key elements of the agreement were said to be:

- The withdrawal of SA troops from Angola;
- An acceptable calendar for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, beginning with the withdrawal of those troops south of the 13th parallel;
- Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia; and

● Suspension of military aid to the armed groups responsible for "destabilising Angola".

SA Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha described the leak as an example of the raising of expectations before progress had been made on the most important element of an agreement — a time schedule for the withdrawal of the Cubans.

Barratt identified another key element which he thought would be a precondition for SA acceptance — the role of Unita in any peace accord. Another may be the question of ANC bases in Angola.

D/P 24/3/88

Pik: Angola peace still long way off

CAPE TOWN — The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said last night that an agreement on peace in Angola and independence for SWA-Namibia, although not impossible, was still a long way off.

Mr Botha said that no progress on the most important issue — the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola — had yet been made.

He was reacting to a report from Harare quoting a representative of the Angolan president, Mr Eduardo dos Santos, as saying that work was in progress on the text of an agreement to be signed by Angola, South Africa, Swapo and Cuba.

"The implementation of this text, internally guaranteed, will make it possible to resolve the problems of Angola and of the independence of Namibia," Mr Lopo do Nascimento told an Interaction policy board hearing.

He told the board that the United States was acting as a mediator between Angola and South Africa and as a guarantor of the agreement's implementation.

This sentiment appears, however, to clash

with recent indications that Angola was rapidly losing faith in America's ability to negotiate a settlement — which led to an attempt by the South African Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, to set up direct links with Moscow.

The key elements of the agreement are believed to be:

- The withdrawal of South African troops from Angola;

- An acceptable calendar for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, beginning with the withdrawal of Cuban troops south of the 13th parallel;

- The implementation of Resolution 435, and;

- The suspension of military aid to the armed groups responsible for "destabilising Angola".

The agreement would

be internationally guaranteed, either by the United Nations, the UN Security Council or the major world powers.

But Mr Botha made it clear that he did not share Mr Do Nascimento's optimism.

"This reported statement is a good example of building up expectations before progress has been made," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by the director of the South African Institute of International Affairs, Mr John Barratt, who said that the release of the reported settlement details could be a deliberate "leak" aimed at putting diplomatic pressure on South Africa to conclude an agreement — a position which might be upheld by today's meeting of the frontline states. — DDC-Sapa

APGWS 24/3/88

Gas horror in

Staff Reporter

ALLEGATIONS of chemical warfare against Unita in Angola have been investigated by a team of Belgian physicians who found traces of nerve gas in some rebel soldiers.

Blood and urine samples collected from eight patients were analysed on February 16 in the laboratory of a Unita field hospital at Mavinga.

The physicians, led by Professor Aubain Heyndrickx, head of the toxicology department at Gent University in Belgium, found traces of nerve gases (or war gases) in the patients examined.

According to Professor Heyndrickx's report, the samples from two patients indicated that they had been affected by nerve gases such as Soman, Sarin and Tabun. There were also traces of arsenic in their urine samples.

Russian

Kits for the detection of toxic gases, seized in Cuito Cuanavale from captured Cuban soldiers, were handed to the investigating team by Unita soldiers. The kits were of Russian origin, according to the report.

In October, 1986, a battalion of 600 Unita soldiers was allegedly gassed in the Luanda province, Professor Heyndrickx was told.

Celestino Muhongo, 40, who could walk only with the aid of sticks, claimed 31 of the 600 men developed symptoms similar to his. Although the attack happened in a heavily populated area, Muhongo told the doctors that only Unita soldiers were affected.

Resting

Muhongo said he had no idea how the "enemy" could have caused his illness.

Severino Arao, a 25-year-old Unita soldier, alleged that he had been gassed on August 8, 1986. Arao told the team he was in a group of soldiers who were resting in the bush close to enemy positions 100km south of Luanda, the report said.

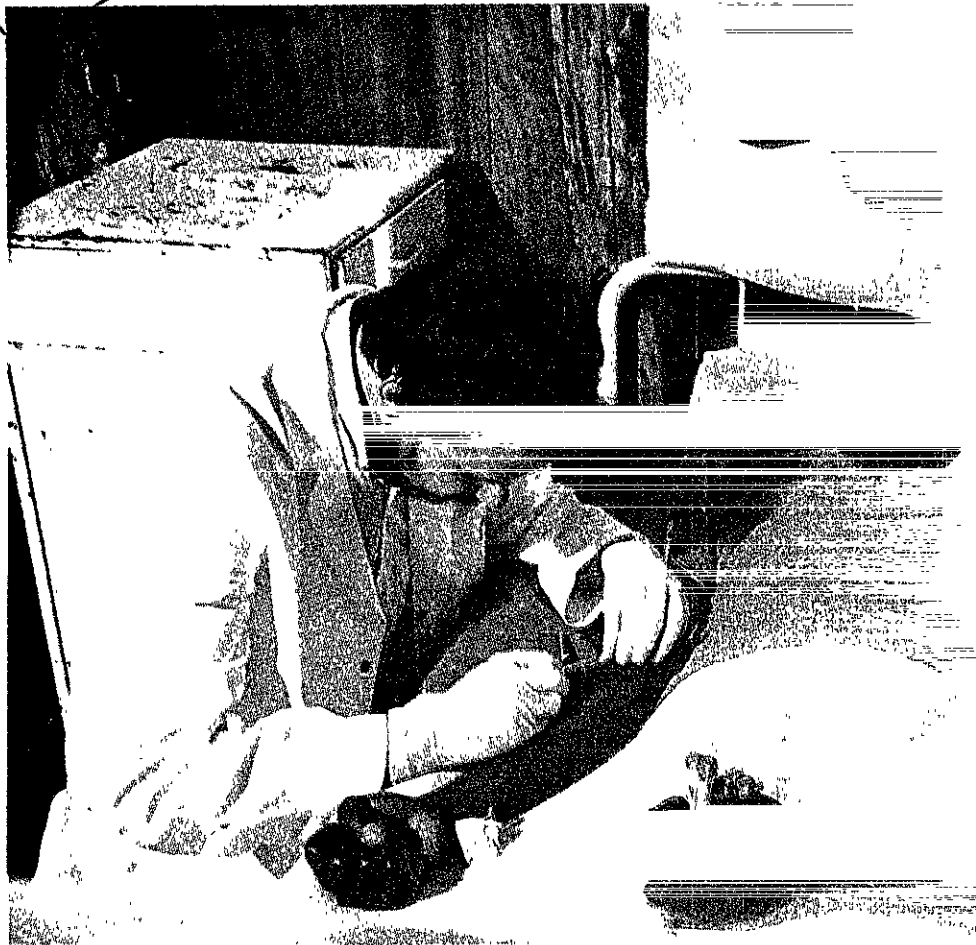
He did not see the explosion but remembered it was strange because there was no shrapnel. He was told by his colleagues that dark smoke had drifted over them.

Arao told the investigators he became confused over the next two hours and had difficulty remembering what happened. He did remember pains in his chest caused by difficulty in breathing, severe vomiting which lasted about two hours and weak, unco-ordinated lower limbs.

He recollected waking up two hours later after his colleagues had carried him from the spot.

Five members of his group were exposed to the smoke. Three started vomiting and experienced weakness of the lower limbs. One of the men died later that day, the report said.

Antonio Carvalho, 32, was allegedly gassed in November, 1986, in east Angola.



ABOVE: A Unita nerve gas victim being treated by Belgian physicians. RIGHT: The fare on a victim's legs.

Chemical warfare capability is the

THE reported slaughter of 5 000 Kurds in Iraqi poison gas attacks underlines a dangerous new dimension in the volatile Middle East: the growth of the chemical warfare capability of several important regional powers and the fear that they could be used more widely.

The Iranians have claimed that the Kurds were killed, and a further 5 000 injured, in raids on towns in north-east Iraq which the Iranians captured in their latest offensive, launched on March 16.

Although the numbers may have been exaggerated, there

is evidence that the Iraqis did drop poison gas bombs on the towns because the traditionally rebellious Kurds, who have been fighting for autonomy from Baghdad for years, welcomed the Iranian invaders.

Iraq and Syria are now producing their own chemical weapons, often aided by Western and East European companies.

The Iranians say they, too, are now capable of manufacturing poison gases. They are also believed to be supplying the Libyan dictator, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, with the know-how in return for mis-

siles and other weapons.

Iran has said it will use chemical weapons if the Iraqis continue to do so.

The intensity of Tehran's accusations in the past few days, including allegations that Iraqi warplanes have also dropped chemical bombs on Iranian border towns, has heightened fears that Tehran may be trying to justify using the weapons itself.

The Israelis claim the Syrians now have a significant chemical weapons arsenal and the missiles and air force to deliver them. Although the Israelis have a vested interest

'No shrapnel, but a cloud of red smoke'

He told the investigators that his group were lying on the ground waiting for a flank force to attack when there was an explosion about 20m away. There was no shrapnel but a cloud of red smoke drifted over them, Carvalho said.

The smoke smelt similar to insecticides used on farms.

Carvalho said he did not remember what happened after the explosion but said he became disorientated, confused and had difficulty breathing. His lower limbs became weak and he had not been able to walk since.

He said one of the men in his group died.

Carvalho told the physicians that for three days after the attack he could not close his eyes and his lower limb paralysis was rapidly progressive.

He became incontinent and developed speech problems.

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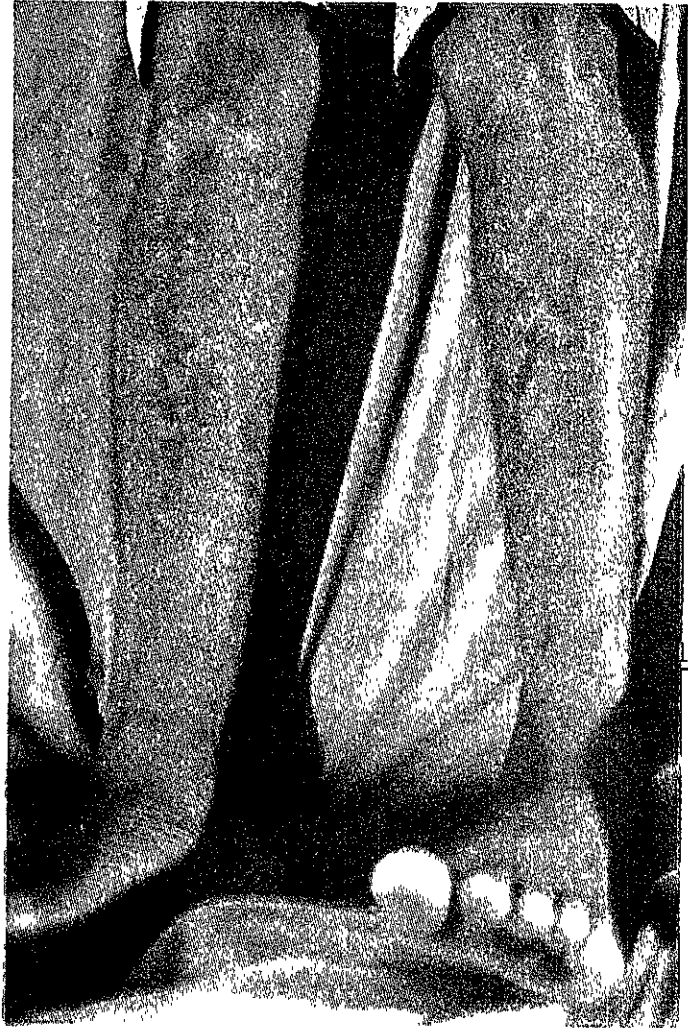
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effects of chemical war-

new danger in Middle East conflict

in heightening the Syrian threat, there is evidence that Syria is now manufacturing its own chemical agents at two top-secret plants near Damascus and Homs.

But the biggest chemical weapons producer in the Middle East is believed to be Iraq. Western and Arab diplomats say the Iraqis have at least three plants producing Sarin, a highly lethal nerve gas that can kill in two to 10 minutes; Tabun, first developed by Nazi Germany before World War 2; mustard gas, first used in World War 1, and Phosgene.

The Iraqis could manufacture up to 60 tons of mustard gas a month, and four tons each of Sarin and Tabun, well-informed sources said. The Iraqis' main plant is at Samarra, ironically a Shia Muslim holy city, which the Iraqis have said they will not attack.

There is another plant at al-Fallujah, 64km west of Baghdad, and the Iraqis have built a chemical warfare research centre at Salman Pak, 40km south-east of the capital, where the nerve gases are understood to have been developed.

There are also unconfirmed reports that the Iraqis, outnumbered three to one by the Iraqis, are developing a germ warfare capability at Salman Pak.

Iraq has apparently been helped by British, West German, Indian, Austrian, Belgian and Italian companies in spite of bans on the sale of chemicals that could have military uses.

The companies involved may not have knowingly helped the Iraqis to develop their chemical weapons industry. — The Independent.



charge was laid against their father.

"Had I known then what I know now I would have doubted the wisdom of laying charges which would result in this young boy being subjected to the horrendous secondary abuse he received in court," Dr J J H Key writes in *De Rebus*.

"The younger brother was too young to testify, but the older brother first gave evidence in court at the beginning of April 1986, eight months after the charges were laid.

making-up-the w

"At this stage pleaded to know lieve him."

Dr Jean Ham chology at the U court during his report:

"This boy's life years of unthink

"The threats,



Eduardo dos Santos



Pik Botha

'SADF offensive' deep in Angola

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — The SA Defence Force has embarked on a new offensive 640km inside Angola, outflanking the key government garrison-town of Cuito Cuanavale to the west and north, according to a report in the London Independent yesterday.

A spokesman for the newspaper last night said the story had come from "South African military people" in Windhoek.

The aim of the offensive was to cut Cuito Cuanavale's supply lines. The new fighting was taking place 80km north-west of Ponto Verde.

The report said SADF positions had come under repeated bombardment by Angolan MiGs, but their bombing accuracy suffered because they had to remain at high altitudes to avoid the threat from Stinger ground-to-air missiles.

The new attack, it suggested, reflected a belief by senior SADF officers that the Soviet Union had no intention of becoming more deeply involved in the region.

In Harare, Angolan government representative Mr Lopo do Nascimento said that SA, in addition to having four battalions of its regular army stationed in the Angolan province of Cunene since 1981, had launched a major attack against the province of Cuando-Cubango.

● A spokesman for the SADF in Pretoria said: "South Africa's position on Angola has been stated repeatedly and is therefore a matter of public record."

He declined to be drawn on the origin of the report, saying: "I have nothing further to add."

HARARE. — Work was going ahead on the text of an agreement to be signed by Angola, South Africa, Swapo and Cuba, a top representative of Angolan President Mr Eduardo dos Santos said here.

Mr Lopo do Nascimento, in an address to the Interaction policy board, said: "The implementation of this text, internally guaranteed, will make it possible to resolve the problem of Angola and of the independence of Namibia."

The board is made up of former and present world statesmen and advises the Interaction Council, an exclusive grouping of about 30 former presidents and prime ministers from around the world.

"Finally, we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel and we hope that South Africa does not, at the last minute, once again hide the light we are glimpsing, as it did with Resolution 435 of the Security Council," he said.

He told the board that the United States was acting as a mediator between Angola and South Africa and as a guarantor of the agreement's implementation, reports the semi-official

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ANGOLAN REPORT

Soviets will continue Angolan military aid

The Star's Foreign-News Service

LISBON -- Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday promised continued military support to Marxist-ruled Angola which faces mounting threats from South African incursions and US-backed Unita guerillas.

"Our co-operation with Angola is not in question. There is no reason to review or alter Soviet aid to Angola," Mr Shevardnadze told reporters when asked if Moscow was considering cutbacks in support to the Luanda government.

Speaking at the end of a stopover in Lisbon for talks with Portuguese leaders after three-days of pre-summit negotiations in Washington, he also denied Moscow was holding back-room talks with South Africa in search of an end to the conflict.

The Star's Africa News Service reports from Lusaka that Zambian president and Frontline states chairman Mr Kenneth Kaunda has urged South Africa to respond quickly to this week's Angolan peace proposal.

Speaking after a one-day meeting of the six Frontline states, Dr Kaunda said it had been agreed to support the Angolan peace plan.

Angola recently held a series of meetings with United States representatives to discuss a Cuban pull-out from Angola and Angolan envoys are reported to have also been to South Africa.

The Luanda authorities say they are ready to take part in an international conference with South Africa, Swapo and Cuba to discuss peace plans for the region.

South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha has said reports that an agreement could be near were premature.

Yesterday influential sources in Cape Town said the Angolan peace plan was nothing more than a gimmick and a psychological trick.

Unita forms own 'govt' in Angola

The Star's Africa
News Service

The Angolan rebel movement Unita has formed an "administrative co-ordinating body" which will operate as a government in the areas under its control.

A spokesman for the rebels said from a European capital yesterday that because Unita was now controlling vast areas of Angola, it was necessary to have an efficient organisation to administer its forces.

'USUAL DEPARTMENTS'

"This body will function as a government. It will have departments one usually finds in any government," the spokesman said.

He added, however, that the formation of this "government" did not mean that Unita would now seek international recognition for the areas it controls.

"That is out of the question. There is only one Angola and Unita will not seek to divide the country into two Angolas," the spokesman said.

The President of Unita, Dr Jonas Savimbi, has appointed vice president Mr Jeremias Chitunda as Prime Minister. The key post of secretary for foreign affairs has been given to Brigadier Pedro Ngueve Chingunji.

CABINET
The provisional list of the Unita cabinet is:
Leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.
Prime Minister Mr Jeremias Chitunda (also vice-president); Secretary in the Prime Minister's office Dr Aniceto Hamukwaya; Chief of the Secretariat Captain Tita Malaquias; Home and Social Affairs Dr Henrique Raimundo; Deputy Home and Social Affairs Brigadier Agostinho J Benguela; Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Mr Elias Salupeto Pena; Internal Trade Major Graca Severino; International Co-operation Brigadier Ernesto Mulato; Education and Culture Dr Jorge Valentim; Higher and Technical Studies Dr Serafina da Gama Paulo; Civil Service Brigadier Tony da Costa Fernandes; Information Dr Jaka Jamba; Deputy Information Miss Gina Sapalalo; Secretary for Foreign Affairs Brigadier Pedro Ngueve Chingunji; Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs Brigadier Carlos Kandanda; Natural Resources Colonel Teodoro e Torres Kapinala; Health and Social Welfare Dr Anastacio Sicato; Works and Supplies Dr Celestino Kapapele; Deputy Secretary of Works and Supplies Captain Aninhas Sachyameo.

Superpowers about to agree on Angola

Unita sets up a rebel government

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Business Day Reporters

UNITA yesterday set up a rebel government in Angola amid indications that the superpowers were reaching consensus on the form of a "political settlement" to end the civil war.

The Unita move coincided with a visit to Lisbon yesterday by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who met Portuguese government officials for talks on the Angolan question.

Shevardnadze — who discussed Angola with US officials in Washington recently — pledged full support for Angola's MPLA government.

Sapa-Reuter reports Shevardnadze said after the talks Soviet "co-operation with Angola is not in question and we see no reason to change our position".

He said there had been no contact with Pretoria on the issue. "We have discussed the general situation in Angola with the US and the Portuguese governments. There have been no concrete steps, merely consultations. No relations, no contacts have been made with Pretoria."

SIMON BARBER reports from Washington, however, that the US and the Soviet Union are inching closer to a formal understanding on Angola, encompassing national reconciliation, Cuban troop withdrawal and Namibian independence.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker had four hours of

talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin on Monday, mostly on Angola.

A State Department spokesman called the talks "useful and business-like" and said the officials had found "broad areas of agreement".

Both sides "agreed the current momentum towards a political settlement should be supported by the US and the Soviet Union" and that "the problems of southern Africa should be solved by political means".

Our Political Staff reports that the formation of the Unita government, announced on SABC radio yesterday, apparently took SA's Department of Foreign Affairs by surprise. Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said he had "no comment at this stage".

The new government — a military-civilian coalition headed by Unita leader Jonas Savimbi as president — claims jurisdiction over two thirds of the former Portuguese colony.

The Unita cabinet comprises a prime minister — Savimbi's former vice-president, Jeremias Chitunda — a chief of secretariat and 16 ministers and deputy ministers, three of them women.

Observers felt Savimbi had taken the

● To Page 2

Unita sets up rebel government in Angola

● From Page 1

step to put Unita in a stronger position when talks on a peace settlement and a possible MPLA-Unita coalition government eventually got under way.

Sapa-Reuter reports Frontline state leaders met in Lusaka yesterday to rally behind Angola in its efforts to end the war and secure independence for Namibia.

The talks took place after an announcement in Harare earlier this week by a senior Angolan official, Lopo de Nascimento, that progress was being made towards a settlement.

He said a text was being prepared for a peace agreement to be signed by Angola, SA, Cuba and Swapo. The Frontline leaders were expected to be briefed about the text's details.

Angolan officials said there had been no response from SA on the proposals.

Botha has said, however: "I do not say an agreement is impossible. But at the moment we are still very far from such an agreement."

D/D 25/3/88

Superpowers close to ⑤ Angola pact?

LISBON — Unita has set up a government in Angola amid indications that the superpowers are reaching consensus on the form of a "political settlement" to end the civil war.

The formation of the government, announced on SABC radio yesterday, apparently took South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs by surprise with the Minister, Mr Pik Botha, saying he had "no comment at this stage".

The new government — a military-civilian coalition with Unita's leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, as president — claims jurisdiction over two thirds of the former Portuguese colony.

Observers felt that Dr Savimbi had made his move to put Unita in a stronger position when talks on a peace settlement and a possible MPLA-Unita coalition government eventually get under way.

The Unita announcement coincided with a visit to Lisbon yesterday by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, who met the Portuguese Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, for talks on Angola.

Mr Shevardnadze — who discussed the Angolan topic with US officials in Washington recently — pledged full support for Angola's MPLA government.

While Mr Shevardnadze was in Portugal, his deputy, Mr Anatoly Adamishin and Dr Chester Crocker held their own talks in Washington.

They aimed to move closer to a formal understanding on Angola, believed to encompass national reconciliation, a Cuban troop withdrawal and Namibian independence.

See also page 17

Savimbi announces formation of civilian government

JAMBA — The Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, yesterday announced that he was forming a predominantly civilian "government" covering two-thirds of Angola.

This comes just one day after it was revealed by the Luanda Government that work is proceeding on an international peace agreement from which the rebel movement is excluded.

The Savimbi "government" claims jurisdiction not only over the area Unita controls in

south-east Angola but also over all areas in which its forces are operating, from the Cunene province adjoining Namibia to the oil-rich Cabinda enclave in the far north.

Last night observers thought it was unlikely the "government" would be recognised by any country, even Unita's most important backers.

● The South African Government yesterday adopted a low-key response to the announcement.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said the South African Government had no knowledge about the announcement.

● In Europe the Unita move is being seen as an attempt to keep up pressure on Luanda in the current momentum for peace.

While Angolan and Swapo spokesman dismissed the move as a cheap propaganda ploy, western diplomats see it as part of a wider South African strategy to step up the pressure on

the MPLA to hasten Cuban troop withdrawal.

According to sources in Lisbon, Unita, Pretoria and Washington worked out a secret plan to declare unilateral independence for the rebel-held part of Angola.

The Unita "cabinet" consists of a prime minister — Dr Savimbi's former vice-president, Mr Jeremias Chitunda — a chief of secretariat and 16 ministers and deputy ministers, three of them women.

Seven of the 12 full ministers are civilians, but three out of the four deputy ministers are serving officers of the Unita forces. The key post of secretary for foreign affairs has been allocated to a senior military man.

The full list of "government" members is as follows:

President, Dr Jonas Savimbi, Prime Minister, Mr Jeremias Chitunda, Chief of Secretariat, Captain (Mrs) Tita Malaquias, Secretary of Home and Social Affairs, Dr Henrique Raimundo, Deputy Secretary of Home and Social Affairs, Brigadier Agostinho Benguela, Secretary of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Mr Elias Salumpeto Pereira, Secretary of Internal Trade, Major Graca Severino, Secretary of International Co-Operation, Brigadier Ernesto Mulato, Secretary of Education and Culture, Dr Jorge Valentin, Secretary of Higher and Technical Studies, Dr (Mrs) Serafima da Gama Paulo, Secretary of the Civil Service, Brigadier Tony da Costa Fernandes, Secretary of Information, Dr Jaka Jamba, Deputy Secretary of Information, Miss Gina Sapalalo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Brigadier Pedro Nogueva Chingunji, Tito, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Brigadier Carlos Kandanda, Secretary of Natural Resources, Colonel Teodoro Torres Kapuata, Secretary of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Anagnelo Sicato, Secretary of Works and Supplies, Dr Celestino Kapapelo, Deputy Secretary of Works and Supplies, Captain (Mrs) Antinhas Sachiyameo

Political battle rages for peace in Angola

D/D 25/3/88

The United States and Russia are believed to be inching closer to an East-West understanding regarding a political settlement in Angola and full support is promised to the marxist state by the Soviet minister.

The "in-depth" talks between the United States Under Secretary for African Affairs, Doctor Chester Crocker, and Mr Anatoly Adamishin, were yesterday described by the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, as "useful but not determinative".

Both sides "agreed that the current momentum towards a "political settlement, should be supported by the US and the Soviet Union".

But whatever understanding Washington and Moscow may have conjured up, it seems that Angola will have to remain marxist.

The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard

Shevardnadze, promised Mr Eduardo dos Santos's government, faced by mounting pressure from Unita forces, Russia's full support.

"Our co-operation with Angola is not in question and we see no reason to change our position," he said, thereby repudiating any idea that Moscow may be considering cutting military aid to Luanda.

He also denied that the Soviet Union was in contact with South Africa as part of a behind-the-scenes move to end the 12-year-old war.

Mr Shevardnadze's remarks contrasted with recent reports suggesting that Moscow could

be ready to play a more prominent role in peace moves, including direct contact with South Africa.

Closer to home was yesterday's frontline states' meeting in Lusaka, held to discuss the Angolan question, amid signs that moves to achieve a regional peace settlement were gathering momentum.

A central committee member of Angola's ruling MPLA, Mr Lopo de Nascimento, said that a text was being prepared for a peace agreement to be signed by Cuba, Swapo, South Africa and Angola.

"Finally we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel," he added.

Angolan officials said, however, that there had been no response so far from South Africa to the proposal.

"We don't know what they're waiting for ... we're interested in getting things moving as soon as possible."

But the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, did

not seem overly optimistic.

"I do not say an agreement is impossible. But at the moment we are still very far from such an agreement."

The Angolan proposal includes a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops to north of the 13th parallel and for the gradual evacuation of the 40 000 Cubans in Angola.

In return, Angola wants independence for SWA/Namibia, the withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola and an end to US and South African support for Angolan Unita troops.

The Zambian President, Doctor Kenneth Kaunda, broke from discussing Angola, to say that the salvation of southern Africa depended on the world uniting against apartheid.

"It is not just economic or military might that matters. In this world there is political morality and that force is on our side," he said.

— DDC-Sapa

Savimbi declares UDI

UNITA unilaterally announced the formation of a rebel government in Angola yesterday as the Soviet Union pledged its full support for the Angolan government in Luanda.

The Unita announcement, broadcast by the SABC and coming one day after reports of major progress in peace negotiations between the South Africa and Angola governments, took Pretoria by surprise.

The new government — which was formed amid reports of heavy fighting in southern Angola and a new joint SA-Unita thrust 600km into Angola — is a military-civilian coalition headed by Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi as president. It claims jurisdiction over two-thirds of Angola.

The SABC report from Unita's headquarters at Jamba said the new government would try to achieve self-

sufficiency in food production despite the war raging in the country.

The Unita cabinet comprises a prime minister — Mr Savimbi's former vice-president, Mr Jeremias Chitunda — a chief of secretariat and 16 ministers and deputy ministers, three of them women.

Observers felt Dr Savimbi had taken the step to put Unita in a stronger position when talks on a peace settlement and a possible MPLA-Unita coalition government eventually got under way.

In a low-key response to requests for comment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said the South African government had no knowledge about the announcement and he had "no comment at this stage".

While Angolan and Swapo spokesmen dismissed the move as a cheap propaganda ploy, Western diplomats

saw it as part of a wider South African strategy to step up the pressure on the MPLA to hasten Cuban troop withdrawal.

According to well-informed sources in Lisbon, Unita, Pretoria and Washington worked out a secret plan several months ago to declare unilateral independence for the rebel-held part of Angola as part of an overall strategy to pressure the MPLA into negotiations.

Information subsequently published disturbed Luanda to such an extent that it moved to open direct peace talks with Pretoria.

Meanwhile a visit by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, to Lisbon yesterday has height-

To page 3

Savimbi's UDI ^{CAPE TOWN 25/3/88 (S)}

ened speculation that preparations for a peace accord between Angola and Pretoria are under way.

The Foreign Minister's visit follows secret talks in Lisbon 10 days ago between Soviet officials and Unita representatives.

"Our co-operation with Angola is not in question and we see no reason to change our position," Mr Shevardnadze told reporters when asked if Moscow was considering cutting its military aid to Luanda.

Mr Shevardnadze met Portuguese President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva for five hours of discussions, which officials said centred virtually exclusively on the conflict in Angola — and which the Soviet Minister described as "full and useful".

Officials in Lisbon said the Soviet visit was another piece in the puzzle aimed at ending the 10-year-old guerilla war in Angola.

Earlier, reliable sources said moves were under way for direct negotiations between President P W Botha and his Angolan counterpart Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to agree to a peace deal which would include an end to South African support for Unita in exchange for the dropping of Angolan-supported UN demands for Namibian independence.

The peace accord is being pushed by Mozambique and other frontline states and has been the subject of multiple contacts involving negotiators from such diverse capitals as Moscow, Washington, Pretoria, Luanda and Havana. Diplomatic sources also disclosed that Unita was involved in the negotiations.

Western military sources have said the pressures on Angola to settle its civil war with Unita were now virtually uncontainable.

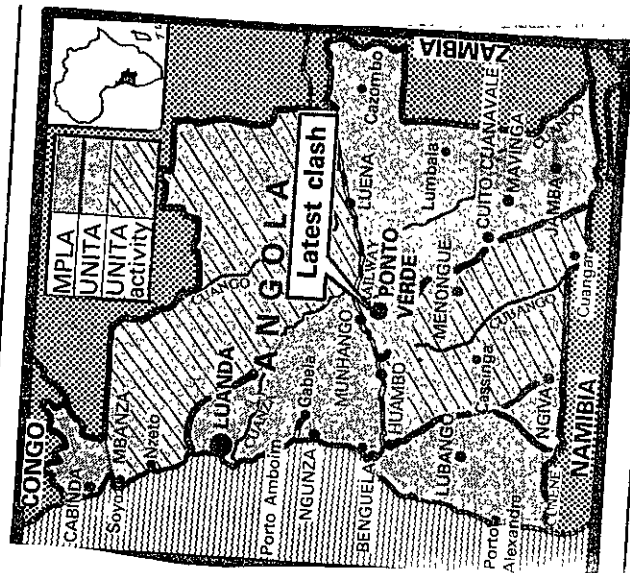
"The Faplas (Angolan government forces) have taken such a beating in recent months that moderates in Luanda are convinced only direct talks with Pretoria can end the bloodshed," said one well-informed military source.

Meanwhile, Lisbon is said to be increasingly convinced that Dr Savimbi will be sacrificed soon to facilitate an agreement between the guerillas and Luanda.

Dr Savimbi has been described as the main stumbling block to peace, because the MPLA refuses to lose face in negotiating with its principal enemy.

Swapo, which is set to be the major loser in the event of peace talks — with Namibian independence being relegated to the back burner as discussions focus on Cuban troop withdrawal and internal conciliation in Angola, is maintaining that peace talks are not imminent.

A spokesman said Angolan optimism for a settlement, as expressed by presidential representative Mr Lope do Nascimento in Harare yesterday, was merely a public front. — Sapa



LUSAKA — Southern Africa's frontline states and liberation movements, closing ranks behind Angola in its bid for a regional peace settlement, have thrown down a challenge to South Africa.

The leaders of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania, together with the presidents of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) and the African National Congress (ANC), yesterday unanimously endorsed Angola's proposals to secure independence for South African-ruled South West Africa/Namibia.

Angola is proposing an accord to be signed by itself, South Africa, Cuba and Swapo with the United States as mediator — a line up which pointedly excludes the pro-Western National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) rebels who have just proclaimed themselves a rival government in southern Angola.

The agreement, whose text the Angolans say is being prepared, foresees withdrawal of the 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola in return for SWA/Namibian independence and other conditions aimed at ending Angola's civil war.

"Our salvation lies in unity. Right is on our side," Zambia's President, Mr Kenneth Kaunda, said when



Mr Dos Santos... region's responsibility



Mr Botha... far from treaty



Mr Kaunda... strength in unity

Angola: Frontline states stand firm

opening the one-day summit here.

The meeting was attended in person by the presidents of all six Frontline states, plus Mr Oliver Tambo of the ANC and Mr Sam Nujoma of Swapo.

South Africa's response to the Angola initiative, however, is still unclear, and South African troops are still

deeply involved in the Angolan war.

Angolan leaders are cautiously optimistic about the prospects. A flurry of diplomatic activity in the last three months brought indications from South Africa that it might be interested in negotiating an end to the interwoven conflicts of Namibia and southern Angola.

But they stress that South Africa has not yet formally responded to the Angolan initiative or agreed to discuss it.

"We are ready, the United States is ready, the Cubans are ready. We don't know what they're waiting for," said Angola's ambassador to Lusaka, Mr Luis Kiamata.

South Africa's Foreign

Minister, Mr Pik Botha, sounded a cautious note this week by saying hopes should not be raised before progress had been made on such issues as a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

"I do not say that an agreement is impossible. But at the moment we are still very far from such an agreement."

African and Western diplomats say the South African Government is under growing domestic political pressure from rightwingers, but that putting off a peace settlement carries the risk for South Africa of an increasingly costly war in southern Angola.

South Africa demands that Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita be included in any peace negotiations. But Angola rejects this and wants the US and South Africa to stop supporting Unita.

Unita yesterday announced it had formed a rival government to the Marxist administration in Luanda, a move dismissed by Kaunda and the other Frontline leaders as "irrelevant".

Angola's leaders have also responded coolly to a recent proposal by South Africa's Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, that South Africa and the Soviet Union negotiate directly to set up a neutral government in Angola.

"We believe that the problems of Angola should be resolved within Southern Africa," the Angolan President, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos said. — Sapa-RNS

Cuba now wants R500m payment

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

LISBON — Moscow, seeking a way out of a costly military and political commitment to the marxist regime in Luanda, is suggesting Angola be split in two, as a way of ending the 12-year-old civil war.

The suggestion was mooted by Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, during a flying five hour visit here for talks with his Portuguese counterpart, Mr Joao de Deus Pinheiro and Portuguese leaders.

Well-informed sources said Mr Shevardnadze urged Portugal to accept a role as mediator between all those involved in the conflict — Cuba, the Soviet Union, South Africa, Angola and Unita — and made it clear that

Moscow was pushing its Angolan government ally hard to negotiate an end to the war.

Lisbon's reaction to Mr Shevardnadze's suggestion for splitting Angola was not disclosed.

But attempts to divide the former Portuguese colony, suiting Pretoria and, possibly Luanda (because it would ensure the MPLA retained power in at least part of the country) will likely meet stiff opposition from Unita.

A Unita spokesman here, Mr Alcides Sakhala, said at the weekend that Unita wanted talks about peace in a united Angola and did not support the idea of breaking up the country.

He said the military and political situation in Angola had apparently reached a crossroads, but that the bottom line for peace remained the demand that the Cuban forces must all go home.

Meanwhile, efforts to get the 40 000 strong Cuban force repatriated took a new turn on Friday with the revelation here that Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, is imposing a new condition for their removal.

President Castro is

said to be demanding redundancy pay from Luanda of some \$500 million before recalling his troops.

A Lisbon based commentator on Angola who returned last week from a visit to Unita war zones in the south of Angola said the Cuban demand had surfaced recently as a new way of playing for time.

He said he was sceptical that the Cubans would ever leave unless a major joint effort to dislodge them was made by Moscow, Washington and Pretoria.

"Luanda is a prisoner to Havana", he said.

The Shevardnadze visit to Lisbon came amid repeated reports that an Nkomati-style peace accord between Angola and South Africa was on the cards.

Moves are said to be well underway for direct negotiations between South African President Mr P. W. Botha and his Angolan counterpart, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to agree a peace deal involving an end to South African support for Unita in exchange for the dropping of Angolan-supported United Nations demands for SWA/Namibian inde-



MR SHEVARDNADZE



FIDEL CASTRO

DID 28/3/88
**Russian
 plan to
 divide
 Angola**

pendence.

Meanwhile, reports that Unita had set up a provisional government and declared formal control over the southern third of Angola were seen here as a move to keep up pressure on Luanda in the current momentum for peace.

Mr Sakhala said the reports were exaggerated and that the rebels had merely "reorgan-

ised their administrative machine to take account of the increasing territorial area and larger population" they were responsible for.

But according to sources here, Unita, Pretoria and Washington worked out a secret plan months ago to declare unilateral independence for the rebel held area as part of overall strategy. — Sapa-RNS

Angola: SA attack on Cuito repulsed

CAPC 28/8/88 5

LISBON. — The Angolan government claimed at the weekend that its forces had repulsed a South African advance against the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale.

According to the Angolan news agency, Angop, 18 South African soldiers were killed and four tanks destroyed.

The agency quoted an unidentified military source as saying South Africa used long-range G-5 artillery pieces, Mirage fighter planes, helicopters, cannons and mortars in a drive against the besieged town between March 18 and Wednesday, March 23.

Cuito Cuanavale, 300 km north of the Namibian border, has been under attack by South African and Unita rebel forces since December.

Angola's government says 7 000 enemy soldiers are trying to seize the town's airstrip to provide them with a staging post for launching attacks further north.

Recent news reports have said South African forces have moved west and north of Cuito Cuanavale in an effort to outflank Angolan and Cuban soldiers defending the town.

The Angop report said the South African drive beginning March 18 was promptly repelled by government forces, who cap-

tered artillery shells, other ammunition and documents from the enemy.

The military sources also said five South African Mirage planes and a helicopter had six times during the same period violated Angolan air space over the province of Cunene, west of Cuito Cuanavale.

An SADF spokesman said South Africa's position on Angola "is a matter of public record, as is the fact that the SADF announces its operational losses after the next-of-kin have been informed.

"Furthermore, Unita's military successes against the Angolan armed forces are equally well-known." — Sapa

Soviet 'split the country' solution

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON. — The Soviet Union, seeking a way out of a costly military and political commitment to Angola, is suggesting that the country be split in two, as a way of ending the 12-year-old civil war.

The suggestion was mooted on Thursday by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, during a five-hour visit here for talks with his Portuguese counterpart, Mr Joao de Deus Pinheiro, and Portuguese leaders.

According to a well-informed Lisbon government source, Mr Shevardnadze urged Portugal to accept a role as mediator between those involved in the conflict — Cuba, the Soviet Union, South Africa, Angola and Unita — and made it clear that the Soviet Union was pushing its Angolan government ally hard to negotiate an end to the war.

The Shevardnadze visit to Lisbon came amid repeated reports

that an Nkomati-style peace accord between Angola and South Africa was on the cards.

Portugal's reaction to Mr Shevardnadze's suggestion for splitting Angola was not disclosed.

But attempts to divide the former Portuguese colony, suiting South Africa and possibly Angola (because it would ensure the MPLA retained power in at least part of the country) will likely meet with stiff opposition from Unita rebels.

Mr Alcides Sakhala, a Unita spokesman here said his organization wanted talks about peace in a united Angola and did not support the idea of breaking up the country.

Meanwhile efforts to get the 40 000-strong Cuban force repatriated took a new turn on Friday with the revelation here that Cuban leader Dr Fidel Castro was imposing a new condition for their removal.

Dr Castro is said to be demanding redundancy pay from Angola of some R10 billion before recalling his troops.

Mr Fernando Trigo, a Lisbon-based commentator on Angola who returned last week from a visit to Unita war zones, said the Cuban demand had surfaced recently as a new way of playing for time.

He said he was sceptical that the Cubans would ever leave unless a major joint effort to dislodge them was made by Moscow, Washington and Pretoria.

Moves are said to be well underway for direct negotiations between President P W Botha and his Angolan counterpart, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to agree to a peace deal involving an end to South African support for Unita in exchange for the dropping of Angolan-supported UN demands for Namibian independence.

Senior State Prosecutor for a decision.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (3) No. The Senior State Prosecutor declined to institute prosecution.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.

South African Government: discussions with Angola

*15. Mr R A F SWART asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether the South African Government has held or is to hold any discussions with the Government of Angola; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) where, (c) who was or is to be involved in the discussions and (d) what was or is to be the purport of the discussions;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) The hon member will appreciate that in matters of this nature, particularly as regards the possibility of discussions with Angola, I am simply not in a position to give definitive replies to the categorical questions put by the hon member.
- (2) No, not at this stage.

Members of AWB who are: members of Police Force/reserve police force

*16. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether it is the policy of the South African Police (a) not to engage persons as, and (b) to require the resignation of, (i) members of the Police Force and (ii) members of the reserve police force who are current members of (aa) a certain organization, the name of which has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, and (bb) any other organizations; if so,
- (2) (a) in terms of what statutory provisions or regulations, (b) why and (c) what are the names of the organizations concerned?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) and (2)

When a person applies for enlistment in the South African Police and during selection it becomes evident that he is a member of an unregistered political party or a movement, organisation, body or association with political aims, this fact will adversely affect his application.

In the case of members of the Force, there are clear instructions that prohibit membership of and participation in the activities of an unregistered political party or a movement, organisation, body or association with political aims. These instructions are explicitly brought to the attention of new members when they are taken into service. Thereafter they are regularly reminded of this fact during staff lectures. (In terms of section 1 of the Police Act, 1958 (Act 7 of 1958) a member of the Reserve Police Force is also a member of the Force while serving in the Force.)

When it is brought to the attention of the South African Police that a permanent member of the Force contravenes instructions with regard to membership of an unregistered political party or a movement, organization, body or association with political aims, departmental steps in terms of the Police Regulations are taken against that member. Such a member cannot be summarily dismissed. However, should he persist in his membership or activities, the instructions make provision that a Board of Enquiry can be held to determine whether the member concerned is fit to remain in the Force. The merits of each instance are considered individually.

When it is brought to the attention of the South African Police that members of the Reserve Police Force are contravening the instructions with regard to membership of an unregistered political party or a movement, organization, body or association with political aims, their services are terminated in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations for the Reserve Police Force by giving them notice of such termination of services.

I wish to point out to the hon member that since the establishment of the South African Police in 1913, they have followed a policy of disciplined impartiality in the execution of their statutory duties. This policy of impartiality is proved by the loyalty they have maintained through the years towards the government of the day. It is a policy of which they are very

proud because it best serves the interests of a multi-racial South Africa with its diverse social, cultural and religious customs.

To strictly abide by this policy is in itself a very difficult task. Therefore the South African Police cannot allow members of the Force to also be members of unregistered political parties or movements, organizations, bodies or associations which pursue radical and extremist political goals and demand undivided loyalty from their members.

Even if such an organization should register or start functioning as a political party, and the activities and goals of such party are so radical and extremist that membership thereof is incompatible with membership of the South African Police, the necessary steps will be taken to prevent this clash of loyalties.

The Afrikaner-Weerstandsbeweging is an organization which from its statements of policy at my disposal, clearly indicates that it pursues radical and extremist political goals and demands undivided loyalty from its members.

These radical and extremist political goals cannot be reconciled with the policy of impartiality of the South African Police. A person who is loyal to the Afrikaner-Weerstandsbeweging or any other radical organization cannot serve the interests of South Africa's multi-racial society impartially.

Alleged abduction/assault of person on 9 February 1988; persons charged

*17. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether any persons have been charged in connection with the alleged abduction and assault on or about 9 February 1988 of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so (a) on what date, (b) in terms of what statutory provisions, (c) with what alleged offences, (d) at what police station were they so charged, (e) (i) what are the names of the persons charged and (ii) by whom are they employed, (f) what were the circumstances surrounding this incident and (g) what is the name of the person who was allegedly abducted and assaulted;
- (2) whether the persons charged are being held in custody; if not, why not;

- (3) whether the Police have submitted a docket on the case to the Attorney-General of the Witwatersrand; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that this will be done; if so, (f) when and (fi) with what result;
- (4) whether any other steps have been taken in respect of these persons; if so, what steps?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) No
- (a) to (g) Fall away.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) No, but to the Attorney-General of the Transvaal in Pretoria.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (i) 11 March 1988.
- (ii) On 22 March 1988 the Attorney-General declined to prosecute.

(4) Not by the South African Police.

National Flood Disaster Relief Fund

*18. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has issued an instruction or advice to the effect that the National Flood Disaster Relief Fund was to be the only fund-raising body for flood disaster relief in the Orange Free State and Northern Cape area; if so, (a) when, (b) in what form and (c) why;
- (2) whether bodies other than the official fund collected moneys for flood disaster relief in Natal; if so, (a) which bodies and (b) with effect from what dates;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) 7 March 1988.
- (b) A press statement by the Chairman of the Board of the Disaster Relief Fund.
- (c) Because the possible contravention of the provisions of the Fund-raising

CAP TIMES 30/7/88

Dos Santos won't meet Savimbi

LUSAKA.— Angola denied reports yesterday that President Eduardo dos Santos was willing to hold talks with Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel Unita movement.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali said in a Zambian television interview last week that Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi were ready to discuss plans to end the 12-year-old civil war once foreign intervention in Angola stopped.

But Angola's ambassador to Zambia, Mr Luis Neto Kiambata, told Reuters yesterday: "There will be no talks with the bandit Unita guerilla group and ... Ghali was not mandated by my government to make pronouncements on delicate issues like this.

"(Egypt should) not confuse public international opinion because Comrade Dos Santos is never going to meet Savimbi," he added.

Angola is ready for talks involving South Africa, the United States, Cuba and Swapo but not Dr Savimbi's group, he said.

● In Lisbon, Portugal has formally protested to the government of Angola about an incident on Sunday in which a presidential bodyguard shot dead a Portuguese citizen sitting with his family in a parked car in the streets of Luanda.

The official news agency said Mr Manuel Correia Guerra, 53, who had worked for the past four years in an Angolan company, was shot as President Dos Santos's cortège sped through a street near where his car was parked.

Mr Correia Guerra died after the guard had pumped three bullets into his car.

LONDON — A new twist to the already complex negotiations to end the war in Angola has emerged here with reports that Egypt has been acting as an intermediary between Unita and the MPLA.

The Guardian yesterday reported that the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Boutros Ghali, said on Zambian television that President Eduardo dos Santos had for the first time expressed a willingness to talk to the Unita leader, Mr Jonas Savimbi.

D/D 20/3/88

New twist emerges in Angola peace negotiations (S)

Mr Dos Santos, the foreign minister said, insisted that the United States and South Africa must first stop aid to Unita.

"The two sides are prepared to meet each other once foreign intervention is removed from that country because both men are Angolans."

Although he did not indicate when he had spoken to either side, the Guardian quoted Zambian officials as saying the Egyptians had been trying to mediate for some time.

Although the South African Foreign ministry officials have confirmed that Nigeria,

Kenya and Zaire have offered to mediate in Angola, this is the first indication of Egyptian involvement.

The Guardian report said the Nigerian offer of intervention had been turned down by the Angolan Government.

Meanwhile, an African delegation from Nigeria, Zambia and Cape Verde, led by the Organisation for African Unity general secretary, Mr Ide Omarou, is to visit Washington next week to discuss Angola with state department officials. —DDC

D/D 30/3/88

Pik leaves all guessing about Angola talks

CAPE TOWN — The Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, has once again left everyone guessing about whether or not the government is involved in peace talks with Angola.

A reply he gave to questions by the Progressive Federal Party's foreign affairs spokesman, Mr Ray Swart, in Parliament yesterday could be interpreted to mean two things — that he does not want people to know the talks are going on, or, that they are not.

Last week he poured cold water on reports from Harare that a peace plan involving South Africa, Angola, Cuba and SWA—Namibia was imminent.

Though a settlement was not impossible, he said, it was still a long way off, because no progress had been made with the most important issue — the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola.

He was reacting to a report that a representative of President Eduardo dos Santos said work was in progress on the text of an agreement to be signed by Angola, South Africa, Swapo and Cuba.

He said that after returning from talks in Geneva with Dr Chester Crocker he had warned people that expectations which could not be met should not be created.



● In another development, the PFP appealed to neighbouring countries not to allow their territories to be used as bases for violence against South Africa.

Reacting to Monday's SADF raid in Gaborone, the PFP defence spokesman, Professor Nic Olivier, also called on the South African Government "to do everything in its power to resolve problems with such countries in a peaceable way".

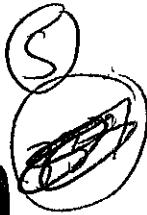
Prof Olivier said in a statement that "it would appear that this (the raid) was preventive action taken, after reliable information obtained by the security forces, against a proven and defined target, with a limited objective."

The statement continued: "We want to stress that this kind of action must invariably lead to increased international opprobrium and criticism, and that due consideration should be given to this aspect when actions of this nature are contemplated." — DDC

US and SA meet again over Angola

3/13/88

Star



By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — Senior South African and American officials have met in Washington to discuss the latest situation in Angola.

Sources on the South African side said the talks — held amid unusually tight security arrangements at the State Department yesterday afternoon — were a continuation of last month's talks in Geneva between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the

US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker.

At yesterday's meeting, the South African team was led by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, with the SA Ambassador, Dr Piet Koornhof, in attendance.

Joining Dr Crocker on the American side was Mr Michael Armacost, Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, who has led US negotiations with the Soviets on regional conflicts.

Both sides were tight-lipped last night about the contents of

the latest talks, but an important element on their agenda was their assessment of Soviet intentions in Angola.

Moscow has hinted several times in recent months that it might be prepared to support a political settlement of the 13-year-old conflict.

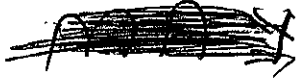
But the Americans say, after repeated meetings with Soviet officials, that they have yet to see proof that the Soviets will join the US in underwriting an acceptable peace initiative.

Both the US and South Africa have rejected as unrealistic the most recent Angolan government proposals for a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops — the key to winning South African co-operation in a peace initiative that would include the withdrawal of South African forces and lead to the implementation of internationally acceptable independence for Namibia.

The US is anxious to resolve the conflict this year if possible. Some Reagan officials fear that if a Democratic Party candidate wins the presidential race this year, there could be a cut-off of US aid to Unita in 1989, a move that would embolden the Marxist Angolan government and further endanger the chances of forging a reconciliation between Unita and the MPLA.

ANGOLA - GENERAL

1988 APRIL - MAY.



LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRE

Address: P.O. Box 9495, Johannesburg 2008
 or
 481 Elizabeth House, Prichard Street, Johannesburg 2001

Phone: (011) 836 9831

Director: G. Budlender

Enquiries: Lawyer on duty

Phone: (011) 836 9831

Membership and Constituency: Independent, non-profit, public interest law firm.

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Author	Title	Date of Publications	Price
LRC	Para-legal Manual	1/1986	

USSR and SA break the ice

Star 2/4/88 (S)

South Africa and the Soviet Union, ideological enemies, who haven't met formally since 1956, are hinting that their common interest in war-torn Angola may open the door to direct dealings on political issues.

South African officials, who for years have portrayed their country as a bastion against communism, now say they're ready to talk with the Soviet Union.

And Soviet diplomats and writers have indicated a possible change in Moscow's attitude, saying it might be feasible to negotiate with South Africa on some issues without waiting for an end to apartheid, which the Kremlin has long condemned.

The Soviets, however, have denied, and the South Africans have refused to confirm, persistent reports that low-level meetings have already taken place between the two countries in Europe, Lesotho and at the United Nations.

The two nations have long had dealings in international gold and diamond markets, and Soviet-bloc countries have reportedly done business with South Africa despite military and economic boycotts.

But the way may be open now for political discussions because of Angola, where the Soviet Union and 40 000 Cuban troops are backing the Marxist government in its war against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

The Soviet Union is believed to want to cut its involvement in Angola. Mr Franz-Josef Strauss, governor of the West German state of Bavaria, met with Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze just before a January trip to South Africa.

"Clearly they (the Soviets) do want some settlement," Mr Strauss said. "Things have not been going well for them there."

"I believe that we may be able to talk about a settlement," South Africa's State President Mr P W Botha

SA not at arms show

PRETORIA — A spokesman for Armscor "categorically" denied this week that it had any plans to exhibit weapons in "Red China".

He was reacting to reports that *Jane's Defence Weekly* had quoted an Armscor official as saying Armscor and Israel had been invited to exhibit at a weapons fair in Peking after its official closure.

The reports caused surprise in the light of South Africa's anti-communist stance and its links with Taiwan.

Armscor recently exhibited its wares in Chile for the third time, and also participated in a weapons fair in Greece a few years ago.

Jane's quoted Armscor chief executive Mr Johan van Vuuren as saying Armscor went to other shows it could not attend officially — "where we take hotel rooms to talk to potential customers privately..." — Sapa.

was quoted as saying in an interview with the London *Sunday Telegraph* on March 27. "I believe in talking to everybody, and trading with everybody."

He wouldn't, however, say whether South Africa was talking to the Soviets already.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha insists an Angolan settlement is far off. No agreement has been drawn up, he has said.

Each side demands that the other withdraws first.

The African National Congress is said to have been upset since 1986 by an emphasis by Soviet diplomats

and academics on a negotiated, rather than a military victory.

"There is no doubt at all that an elimination of the racist system by way of a political settlement would be in the interests of all South Africans, both black and white. One should look for and find the road to such a settlement," Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev said in August.

Late last year, Mr L G Asoyan, a senior member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said in the Moscow weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* that South Africa doesn't fit the Marxist-Leninist model for revolutions because white workers are the strongest supporters of apartheid, black policemen raid the homes of their own tribesmen and some members of the ruling class support the oppressed.

In South Africa, a new Soviet desk has been created at the Department of Foreign Affairs, and President Botha has been quoted as saying he was impressed by Gorbachev's book, "Perestroika."

Along with the potential for some form of rapprochement between the countries, however, there is a possibility of embarrassment for both sides.

The Soviet Union ended diplomatic relations with South Africa in 1956, and Moscow's relations with almost every other nation on the continent could suffer if it negotiated with a Government it says is illegal.

On the other side, President Botha has made "red-bashing" a major theme. The white electorate has long been told that a Soviet-inspired conspiracy is behind every anti-apartheid organisation.

Mr Philip Nel, director of the Institute for Soviet Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, urges caution toward Soviet motives.

"The apparent softening of Moscow's attitude to the Republic may be nothing more than a new way of achieving a socialist revolution in the country," he said. — Sapa-AP.

SEE PAGE 6.

had to complete his degree and, if successful, would... FORNEY, MIT... HE IS PRESENTLY READING FOR

within two years

WORLD

US is pressing Angola to send home Cuban troops

LONDON — Angola is being pressed by the United States to send home the 40 000 Cuban troops stationed in the country within two years — and provide a timetable showing how many troops will leave on specific dates.

US attempts to negotiate the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola in exchange for Namibian independence have sprung to life again after appearing to have failed.

Angola recently put forward a two-year total withdrawal plan in which 12 000 of the troops would be moved north of the Benguela railway line in the first year.

In return, it wanted South Africa to pull its troops out of Angola in one year, and then moves would begin to bring Namibia to independence under United Nations supervision.

At the end of three years, Namibia would be indepen-

dent and the Angolan government would be recognised by the US. In return, Angola would have negotiated a settlement with Unita, and would cease all military assistance to anti-apartheid rebels.

South Africa and the US rejected the plan and demanded a tighter schedule for Cuban withdrawal. Six months ago no one was prepared to give American policy on Southern Africa the faintest chance of success.

"We are watching hair continuing to grow on the corpse of linkage," one diplomat commented on the attempts of Dr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, to go on negotiating after eight years of failure.

The concept of a negotiated settlement in Angola based on the linkage of Cuban withdrawal has recently been given a boost by the Soviet Union, which is now encouraging US efforts and giving a green light for its

they met in Washington last week. Mr Shevardnadze is understood to have given his backing to the US efforts.

"Dr Crocker has elegantly rearranged the furniture in the region," a State Department official said in Washington last week. "All he has to do now is to persuade people to sit down on it."

But the Soviet Union and Angola are asking whether the Americans can offer guarantees that the seats will stay in place. If Cuban forces leave Angola, will the US and the South Africans guarantee to stop supporting Unita? Can America ensure that if the Cubans go, the South Africans will simply not walk through Namibia into Angola and install Unita as the government?

The answer to all three questions at the moment is "no". An even more relevant point is that Pretoria, facing an increasingly reactionary electorate, cannot afford even to suggest leaving Namibia.

Star
2/4/88

RICHARD DOWDEN

(5)

Angolan and Cuban allies to seek peace with Unita rebels and South Africa, their backers.

Until now the Angolans, Russians and Cubans have rejected linkage and refused to contemplate sending home the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops unless the South Africans get out of Angola, stop supporting Unita, and give independence to Namibia.

Now their attitude has changed. "There is no problem about Cuban withdrawal in principle, and the timetable is negotiable (for the Soviet Union)," said one diplomat.

The subject was discussed thoroughly at the meeting between US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze when

Some observers say the Soviet Union and Cuba want to get out of Angola and are looking for a face-saving formula. According to this theory, Namibia is removed from the package, and the Cubans will leave Angola if the South Africans also do so and stop supporting Unita. In the meantime, the MPLA government will do a deal with Unita which excludes its leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

But others suggest that the reason the Angolans and the Soviet Union have become keen on linkage and the US initiative is because they know that Pretoria is in an intransigent mood and that US-South African relations are at an all-time low. If Moscow and Landa suddenly appear reasonable and flexible, the US plan will come to grief on South African obstinacy, in full view of the world.

● The author is Africa Editor of The Independent newspaper in London.

Unita seeks peace talks

LISBON — Angola's South African-backed Unita rebel movement on Thursday called for direct peace talks with the Angolan government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to end their 13-year bush war over power-sharing demands.

In a statement released in Lisbon on Thursday, Unita's central committee said the insurgents "are ready now to start talks with the MPLA government without preconditions".

The central committee note, dated March 31 and signed by Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, touched on several major points that President Dos Santos's MPLA Cabinet had mentioned in refusing earlier calls for direct negotiations between the two former independence movements.

Africa nationalism

According to the note, "all of Africa can be confident of Unita's profound feelings of African nationalism" while the rebel leaders stated that the future of Angola "depends on the will of all Angolans to free themselves from foreign tutelage".

Angolan government officials estimate that more than 9 000 South African troops are in Angola aiding Unita.

Unita also receives military aid from the United States, and Soviet military advisers take part actively in Angolan army operations.

"Peace will come necessarily from direct contact between the MPLA and Unita," the statement said, adding that Unita "rejects all fictitious interpretation of reconciliation in Angola by way of amnesty, clemency or any so-called programme of harmony".

The point was an apparent rejection of reports on Wednesday that senior Angolan officials, attending a meeting in Harare with West European Parliamentarians for Action Against Apartheid, said their government was willing to offer amnesty to Unita guerrillas if South Africa and the United States halted all support for the insurgents.

The Unita note came in the wake of a flurry of diplomatic activity involving Angolan, South African, Cuban, and US negotiators in recent weeks.

At a meeting in the Angolan capital of Luanda early last month, Angola and Cuba presented US officials with a possible timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops

No strings, Savimbi tells MPLA govt

from Angola in exchange for a South African withdrawal from southern Angola, a halt to US and South African aid to Unita, and the implementation of a United Nations independence plan for Namibia.

A subsequent meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker and South African Foreign Minister Mr Pk Botha in Geneva, Switzerland led to a cautious statement by Mr Botha that problems remain to be worked out in the multilateral talks.

Support for Savimbi

The Unita note also reiterated the rebels' support for Dr Savimbi — countering recent reports Angolan authorities might agree to meet Unita without Dr Savimbi in charge — stating: "Only Savimbi, and no one else, can give the order for a ceasefire in the name of peace."

Unita also denied it had formed its own government, claiming the Cabinet it announced last week is "an independent administration of Unita to govern the two million people in the liberated areas" of southern Angola.

After South African forces crossed into Angola's southern Cunene and Kuando-Kubango provinces in October, repeated attempts to take the Kuando-Kubango town of Cuito Chanavale and the farming community of Chumbia in central Bie province have been halted by combined Angolan and Cuban forces, creating an apparent military impasse. — Associated Press.

We used our tanks in Angola, says SADF

The South African Defence Force has admitted for the first time that its tanks were being used in the fierce battle for Cuito-Cuanavale in south-eastern Angola.

The SADF was responding to Angolan claims that tanks were captured in a recent clash between South African and Angolan troops near the beleaguered town of Cuito Cuanavale.

The Angolan news agency, Angop, reported from Luanda yesterday that identity documents from members of a South African regiment were found in tanks captured after a battle on March 23.

Among the documents was the identity card of Sean Colin of 82 Brigade, Pretoria's presidential regiment — Angop said, quoting Colonel N'Gueto of Angola's south-eastern military sector. It was not clear what the fate of the soldier was.

SA DENIES TANKS WERE CAPTURED

"This evidence shows the intensifying involvement of South Africa in Angola, as these are not just plain soldiers but members of the elite," Angop quoted one Angolan officer as saying.

No details of the battle were given.

South African troops and pro-Western Unita rebels opposed to Luanda's Marxist government have besieged the south-eastern garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale for almost three months.

An SADF spokesman said a South African tank, apparently an Olifant, was damaged by an anti-tank mine in south-eastern Angola 10 days ago. This was the same day Angola claimed to have captured the tanks.

"There was no loss of life," the spokesman said.

The spokesman refused to comment on the claims that tanks had been captured.

Unita has claimed to have killed 57 Angolan soldiers. It said it killed the soldiers on March 27 in an attack on the town of Tota in the northern province of Lunda. — Sapa-AP.

Landmine kills SADF officer

A Defence Force infantry officer, Second Lieutenant Jacobus Hendrik Diederichs (24), was killed in a landmine explosion in the operational area in Namibia at the weekend, the Defence Force has announced.

The Defence Force did not specify the location or the circumstances of the incident.

Lieutenant Diederichs, who was due to leave the army in July, is survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs J J Diederichs, of Begonia Road, Thabazimbi, and a sister, Miss Magdalena Marie Diederichs (21).

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Fears that South African 'obstinacy' will foil Angolan

Angola is being pressed by the United States to send home the 40 000 Cuban troops in less than two years and to provide a timetable showing how many troops would leave on specific dates.

US attempts to negotiate the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola in exchange for Namibian independence have sprung to life again after appearing to have failed.

Angola recently put forward a two-year total withdrawal plan under which 12 000 of the troops would be moved north of the Benguela railway in the first year.

In return South Africa would pull its troops out of Angola in one year, and moves would begin to bring Namibia to independence under

United Nations supervision.

At the end of three years Namibia would be independent and the Angolan government would be recognised by the United States.

In return Angola would have negotiated a settlement with Unita and would cease all military assistance to anti-apartheid rebels.

South Africa and the United States rejected the plan and demanded a tighter schedule for Cuban withdrawal.

Six months ago no one was prepared to give American policy on southern Africa the faintest chance of success.

"We are watching hair continuing to grow on the corpse of linkage," one diplomat commented on the attempts of Dr Chester

Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, to go on negotiating after eight years of failure.

Until now the Angolans, Russians and Cubans have rejected linkage and refused to contemplate sending home the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops unless the South Africans get out of Angola, stop supporting Unita rebels and give independence to Namibia.

Now their attitude has changed. "There is no problem about Cuban withdrawal in principle and the timetable is negotiable," (for the Soviet Union) said one diplomat.

The subject was thoroughly discussed at the meeting between Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, and Mr Edward Shevard-

nadze, Soviet Foreign Minister, when they met in Washington last week. Mr Shevardnadze is understood to have given his backing to the American efforts.

"Crocker has elegantly rearranged the furniture in the region," a State Department official said in Washington. "All he has to do now is to persuade people to sit down on it."

But the Soviet Union and Angola are asking whether the Americans can offer guarantees that the seats will stay in place.

If Cuban forces leave Angola, will the Americans and South Africans guarantee to stop supporting Unita?

And can America ensure that if the Cubans go, the South Africans will simply not walk

peace plan

through Namibia into Angola and install Unita as the government?

The answer to all three questions at the moment is: No.

Some observers suggest that the reason the Angolans and the Soviet Union have become keen on linkage and the American initiative, is because they know that Pretoria is in an intransigent mood and that US-South African relations are at an all-time low.

If Moscow and Luanda suddenly appear reasonable and flexible, the American plan will come to grief on South African obstinacy in full view of the world. — *The Independent*, London

The Star M

© Tanks try to smash through enemy lines in fierce fighting at Cuito Cuanavale

Olifants go into action in Angola

By Dan Sida

The Defence Force has admitted for the first time that South African tanks are being used in the fierce battle for the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale — besieged by South African and Unita forces for more than three months.

In what may have been South Africa's first tank offensive since World War 2, using technology first developed by the British in 1943, a force of Olifant tanks apparently attempted to crash through Angolan lines near Cuito Cuanavale on March 23.

The SADF admitted at the weekend that one tank was damaged by an anti-tank mine in "south-eastern Angola" on the same day Angola said the battle had taken place.

According to the authoritative *Jane's Armour and Artillery* the SADF has 300 Olifants, an adaptation of the Centurion which came off the production line too late to see action against Germany, and was first used by the British Army in Korea.

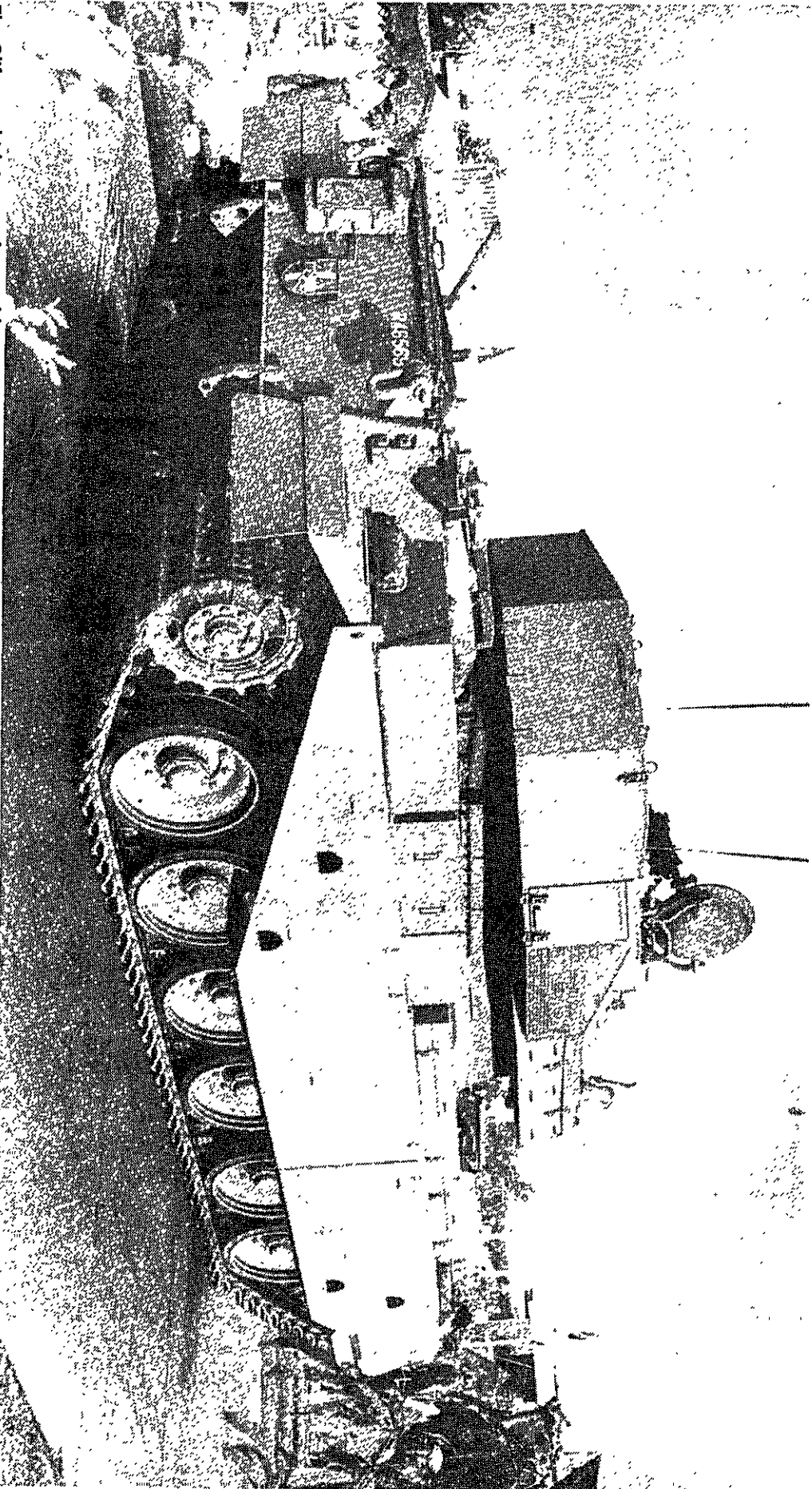
Distinction

It has since campaigned with distinction in the Middle East, with the Indian Army during the Indo-Pakistan War and in Vietnam with the Australian Army.

The Centurion has always shown itself capable of wearing increasingly heavier armour and carrying increasingly bigger guns.

Its original specifications called for it to be armed with a 17-pounder gun and have a good cross-country performance.

Speed was not as big a consideration as the armour



The Olifant, which is manufactured by Armcor, is an adaptation of the Centurion. It was first used by the British army in Korea, and has campaigned successfully in the Middle East, in the Indo-Pakistan and Vietnam wars.

and gun in the middle stages of World War 2.

The gun was subsequently replaced with a 20-pounder and L7 series currently being used on medium tanks of various countries, including the South African Olifant.

The Olifant, manufactured by Armcor, and incorporating a new diesel engine developing

750 hp, also has a bank of six smoke dischargers on either side of the turret.

It has a top speed of 45 kph and a range of 250 km from its standard 1 240 litre fuel tank.

It is 8.61 m long, 3.39 m wide and stands 2.94 m high. It has a combat weight of 56 000kg.

It carries one 105 mm gun and two 7.62 mm machine-guns — one a coaxial and the other

anti-aircraft.

Other countries using Centurion variants are Austria, Denmark, India, Israel, Jordan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

In the late 1960s, the British Army began replacing the Centurion with the Chieftain.

Angola claimed at the weekend that South African tanks crushed and killed Unita

soldiers retreating from Angolan defences near Cuito Cuanavale after a major offensive against the town was repulsed late last month.

The SADF also abandoned equipment and an unspecified number of tanks after the March 23 attack — said to have come within 600 m of the Angolan defence-line before being thrown back by an

intensive artillery barrage, said the Angolan news agency, Angop.

An SADF spokesman yesterday dismissed Angolan claims that retreating Unita soldiers were killed by South African tanks as "typical of the propaganda which Angop and AIM (the Mozambican news agency) have been distributing in recent months".

CMB Tim AS
5/14/88 (5)

Tanks used in Cuito battles

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Battles around the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale had necessitated conventional warfare for some time, including the deployment of tanks "in small numbers", the SA correspondent for Jane's Defence Weekly, Mr Helmoet Heitman, said yesterday.

Mr Heitman was commenting on an SADF admission that one of its tanks was damaged during recent operations in south-east Angola.

He said, however, that he was surprised at the presence of 82 Brigade — a citizen force brigade which is mechanized, consisting of an estimated 6 000 troops, "some 40 tanks", armoured cars and three infantry battalions.

Identity documents, allegedly seized from captured SA tanks after a battle on March 23 around Cuito Cuanavale revealed the presence of SA's 82 Brigade in Angola, the Angolan News Agency, Angop, reported from Luanda at the weekend.

Angop claimed that SA had increased its military presence in Angola — escalating the 13-year civil war between the MPLA government and Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita guerillas.

Recent Angolan government claims that 9 000 SA troops are inside Angola, assisting Unita have been met with silence from SA, which has repeatedly refused to disclose the extent of its involvement.

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, acknowledged early in October last year that the SADF was "maintaining a limited presence in southern Angola".

Claim of 'running over Unita men' denied

SADF tanks step up battle for Cuito

SMC 5/4/88

The bitter battle for the town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-east Angola has taken a new turn with confirmation of South African tank deployment in south-east Angola.

It is apparently the first time since World War 2 that South African armour has been deployed in force.

The official Angolan news agency Angop has made new, more detailed claims about the use of South African armour in an attack on March 23.

While not confirming that SADF tanks were used in the attack on the stronghold, the Defence Force has said one of its tanks was damaged in a landmine blast in the south-east of the country.

Angop claimed the latest attack on the town started on March 23 with a 15-hour artillery bombardment.

South African tanks were then used "to try to smash a path through the Angolan army's (FAPLA's) defensive minefield", said Angop.

Heavy artillery

The tanks were forced to retreat after coming under intensive Angolan artillery fire, claimed Angop, which has alleged that about 3 000 South Africans have been involved in protracted fighting in the south-east of the country.

Claims that as the tanks withdrew "they simply ran over Unita forces who were unable to get out of the way in time" were described yesterday by an SADF spokesman in Pretoria as "typical of the propaganda which Angop and AIM (the Mozambican news agency) have been distributing in recent months".

He referred to an earlier SADF statement which said: "Any rational person hearing claims like this would reject them out of hand and seriously question the motive of the organisations making them as well as the people using them as if true."

He also said it was "obvious" that Angop and AIM would try to restore Angola's damaged international image "by sending out precisely this kind of propaganda" after Unita successes.

AIM said that Angolan television had shown bodies of Unita rebels which it said had been crushed by retreating tanks.

Angop also claimed that South Africans abandoned equipment and an unspecified number of tanks after the March 23 attack, said to have come within 600 m of the Angolan defence line. — The Star's Africa News Service, Staff Reporters.

● See Page 9.

D/D 6/4/88

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SADF mum on use of tanks in Angola

PRETORIA — The South African Defence Force has declined to discuss to what extent it was using tanks in the Angolan war.

It was not SADF policy to discuss force strengths, a spokesman said here yesterday.

He referred journalists to earlier SADF comment on reports that South Africa had deployed tanks in the protracted battle for Cuito

Cuanavale.

The SADF would not confirm that tanks were being used in Angola, but it did confirm that a tank was damaged in a landmine blast in the south-east of the country 10 days ago. There were no injuries.

Angola's news agency, Angop, said the tanks were used in an offensive against Fapla troops at Cuito Cuanavale from March 23.

The SADF described an Angop claim that the tanks ran over Unita troops when they had to retreat under artillery fire as "typical of the propaganda which Angop and Aim (the Mozambique news agency) have been distributing in recent months".

Angola also said it had captured documents belonging to one Sean Colin of 82 Brigade. — Sapa

DID 6/4/88

African envoys to request an end to US Unita aid

230 (10/10) (S)

LISBON — A top-level African delegation will travel to the United States on Saturday hoping to persuade Washington to stop sending aid to Angola's National Union for Total Independence of Angola (Unita) rebels, the Portuguese news agency, Lusa, reported yesterday.

Quoting diplomatic sources in Cape Verde, Lusa said the foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)'s southern Africa contact group — Cape Verde, Zambia and Nigeria — would leave for Washington after talks in Angola.

They would meet leading United States politicians, anti-apartheid groups and probably pay a courtesy visit to the State Department during their five-day trip, the sources said.

The US, which is talking to Angola's Marxist government as part of regional peace efforts, gave South African-backed Unita \$15 million in military aid last year.

Angola has repeatedly said that it is ready to send home the estimated 35 000 Cuban troops stationed there if conditions such as a South African pull-out from neighbouring Namibia and an end to Unita aid are met.

Lusa also reported that officials from the US, Angola, Cuba and South Africa could meet in Cape Verde soon to try to reach a peace agreement.

"Any meeting would depend on the next round of talks in Luanda between the Angolans, the Cubans and the US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker," an official source said.

The aim was to hold the meeting before the Moscow summit between the Russian premier, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and the United States President, Mr Ronald Reagan, at the end of May, the source told Lusa.

South Africa says it will not grant independence to Namibia until the Cubans return home. — Sapa-RNS

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Unita rebels attack town

LISBON — Guerilla units of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, Unita, attacked a town on the Benguela railway in central Bie province and placed a bomb inside a Roman Catholic church in neighbouring Huambo province on the same day, the Angolan state-run news agency, Angop, has reported.

The reports yesterday said five Unita guerillas died in the attack on the Bie town of Cunge, and eight "local youths" were wounded. They added, however, that the bomb was discovered in time and deactivated.

Meanwhile, two separate statements issued in Lisbon by Unita, denied that the rebels placed the bomb in the Huambo church, and said their forces had attacked the Bie provincial capital of Kuito, not Cunge, "destroying the local railway station and the rolling stock machine shop".

"Unita strongly repudiates this bombing attempt on the Cathedral at Huambo," the statement added.

Unita also confirmed that five of its guerillas died in the fighting in Bie on Sunday, and said eight more of its fighters were wounded. — Sapa-RNS

D/D 8/488

US plans to triple military aid to Unita forces

(5) ~~4~~

from Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is spreading word that it plans to more than triple its covert military aid to Unita as part of an effort to wean the movement from South Africa.

They hope that this will increase the pressure on Luanda to move towards internal reconciliation.

The mooted increase — from \$15 million a year to \$40 million — appears to be little more than a negotiating manoeuvre.

It is unlikely that the increase will be approved by the intelligence committees of the Democrat-controlled House and Senate.

At the same time the administration is stepping up its effort to per-

suade African nations to push for a negotiated settlement between the MPLA and Unita.

Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, General Vernon Walters, has just returned from a tour of 12 African nations where he has been privately trying to sell the idea of an "African solution".

This effort appears to parallel Unita's announcement in late February of a "provisional" government.

The purpose of this move was not the eventual partition of Angola but the creation of an alternative structure to negotiate with the MPLA in lieu of Dr Jonas Savimbi, who remains anathema in Luanda.

The US attempt to

help Unita become more independent of South Africa is seen in some quarters as underlying the South African Defence Force (SADF)'s continued delay in withdrawing from Cuito Cuanavale as promised by the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

Also contributing to the delay, in this view, is the SADF's hope that it might be able to use its military presence in Angola as a sufficient bargaining chip for Cuban withdrawal without Pretoria having to move simultaneously on Namibian independence under UN resolution 435.

US officials note that the SADF has increased its "assets" in southern Angola but that the new offensive recently claimed by the London-

based Independent has not materialised.

The officials say they can draw no firm conclusion about South Africa's motive in remaining engaged at Cuito Cuanavale.

If indeed the SADF is standing pat to either improve its bargaining position or to inhibit Unita from striking an unacceptable deal with the MPLA, or both, the risks for Pretoria are mounting.

Furthermore, the administration remains adamant that any proposal for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Angola that does not include Namibian independence is "not realistic".

Fapla and its Cuban allies appear determined to dislodge the South African forces as part of their own "end game".

According to one official, "there is little doubt that the quality of the Cuban forces is improving... the potential is there for much more blood on the deck".

1/26/88 11/4/88

SA still involved in Angolan talks — US

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — The United States has not ruled out the possibility of South African co-operation in Washington's efforts to resolve the Angolan and Namibian issues, says Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa.

In an interview with the Mozambican news agency, AIM, Dr Crocker was asked whether he thought South Africa was trying to sabotage negotiations.

He replied: "I think I would not at this stage draw that conclusion".

He said the US was "trying to accelerate the negotiations" and had held several rounds of discussions with the South Africans, Angolans and Cubans.

RUSSIAN SUPPORT

Asked about South Africa's increased military involvement in Angola, Dr Crocker said South Africa had intervened in unprecedented strength in the fighting around Cuito Cuanavale after the Cuban forces in Angola had been strengthened.

"In fact, the most recent round of fighting began as the result of a long-planned MPLA offensive, obviously with leadership and support provided by the Cubans and the Russians."

Dr Crocker did not agree with the suggestion that his policy of constructive engagement with South Africa had been a failure.

CAR BOMBS

"The very definition of diplomacy means that you are engaged with people presumably for constructive ends. And that's what we've been doing and I'm sure we will continue doing it under one form of words or another."

● Swapo insurgents are expected to step up sabotage attacks in Namibia in the coming months and Windhoek and Swakopmund could be targets for car bombs, according to the SWA Territory Force.

In a statement issued in Windhoek, SWATF said the insurgent wing of Swapo would have to resort to such tactics because it was not making any progress in its campaign in the northern operational area and was suffering considerable losses in skirmishes with the security forces.

27 reported dead since 'pull-out'

Start Times 13/4/88

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Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — At least 27 SA Defence Force soldiers have been killed in Angola since the SADF announced on December 5 that it was pulling out of that country.

Reports show that a further 17 have died in accidents, or of malaria, outside the operational area since the troop withdrawal announcement.

The "Africa Confidential" journal and Angolan authorities say at least 230 SA troops had died in Angola by mid-November last year.

But the SADF acknowledges only 33 soldiers died in combat in Angola between September 3 and November 13 — about the period the current fighting offensive began and just three weeks before the pull-out announcement.

Thirteen soldiers died in February. They were Corporal Jan Kleynhans, Riflemen Pieter Groenewald, Andre Groenewald, Vincent Nieuwenhuizen, Sergeant Gerhardus Maritz, Corporal Van Zul Venter and Signalmen Jacques de Lange, Michael Suter and Michael McCann (both members of 101 Battalion), Lance Corporal William Price, SAAF Major Edward Every, Lance Corporal Leon van Wyk and Bombardier Clinton Hendricks.

According to Swapo, 11 SADF soldiers died in two

Figures vary on SA deaths in Angola

separate incidents on March 3 and March 4 — five died in an attack on their base near Kaokoland, and six more the next day when their armoured personnel carrier detonated a landmine. The SADF subsequently denied this.

In April, the SADF announced that two soldiers died in Angola after

their base was bombarded with mortar and RPG rockets. They were Cpl Thomas Moon and Rfn Jacobus Meyer.

On several occasions since the announcement of the withdrawal, SADF Chief General Jannie Geldenhuys has said the withdrawal had been slower than anticipated "because the operational advantages that were achieved earlier in the limited operations supporting Unita could not be sacrificed now merely to hasten this process".

In February Gen Geldenhuys formally acknowledged that the SADF was still involved in the fighting in Angola.

In a statement announcing the death of four soldiers killed when their vehicle was hit by anti-aircraft gun fire, Gen Geldenhuys said the withdrawal "necessitated limited offensive action by the SADF from time to time to safeguard operational advantages which had already been achieved and to protect SA's interests".

Cubans will stay in Angola, says envoy

mutare 14/4/88 (5)

MUTARE. — The Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Alfonso Fraga, said Cuban forces would remain in Angola as long as the Luanda Government needed them.

Officially opening a three-day exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Mr Fraga said: "We reiterate our readiness to remain in Angola with our internationalist troops for as long as the people and the government of that country wish us to, and also while there remains a threat against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of that brotherly

country, we will not move out."

According to a report by the Ziiana news agency, Mr Fraga added that Cuban troops would not pull out of Angola as long as "the Pretoria regime continued to occupy Namibia".

Solidarity

He also expressed his government's support to the people of Panama in their struggle for independence.

In spite of "imperialist hostility", the Cuban revolution had taken its message of solidarity to various parts of the world, he said.

In his reply, the mayor of Mutare, Councillor Lawrence Mudehwe, said the people of Zimbabwe, especially those in Mutare, valued their relationship with Cuba and the technical aid Mutare was receiving.

"We regard this assistance as a clear manifestation of the internationalist character of the Cuban socialist government. Such policies are well received in our country where the desire for academic and economic advancement is extremely high," Councillor Mudehwe said.

There are 23 Cuban lecturers at Marymount Zintec College in Mutare. — Sapa.

Propaganda says SADF

DID 18/4/88



SA forces preparing new attack claim Angolans

LISBON — More than 6 000 South African soldiers were preparing for a renewed attack against the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, the Angolan foreign minister, Mr Afonso van Dunem, said at the weekend, according to the official news agency Angop.

Mr Van Dunem said the troops besieging the garrison town were part of a South African force of 9 000 soldiers, 600 artillery pieces and 500 tanks and armoured cars currently fighting in Angola.

He spoke on Friday night at a dinner for the visiting Argentinian foreign minister, Mr Dante Caputo, in the capital Luanda.

The agency gave no further details of the situation around Cuito Cuanavale which has

been under attack for four months by South African forces and troops of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Cuito Cuanavale, a settlement of some 40 houses 300 km north of the border with South African-ruled South West Africa, has a strategically important air strip and is used as a staging post for army operations against Unita.

Unita, supported by South Africa and the United States, has been fighting since 1975 to force the Cuban- and Soviet-backed government to share power.

Mr Van Dunem reiterated that his government rejected any form of negotiations with the rebels, Angop said. Unita has repeatedly

called for peace talks.

The minister also repeated that Angola would agree to a gradual withdrawal of the estimated 40 000 Cuban soldiers in Angola if South Africa pulled its troops out and halted aid to Unita, Angop reported.

Mr Van Dunem praised Argentina for cutting diplomatic, sporting and cultural ties with South Africa and for co-writing United Nations resolutions condemning South African aggression against its black-ruled neighbours, the agency reported.

● A South African Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday: "This latest statement is typical of the kind of propaganda Angola has been putting out over the last few months." — Sapa-AP

18/4/88



SADF

'set to attack Cuito'

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LISBON. — Angola's Foreign Minister says more than 6 000 South African soldiers are preparing for a renewed attack against the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, the official news agency Angop said late on Saturday.

The minister, Mr Afonso van Dunem, said the troops besieging the garrison town were part of a South African force of 9 000 soldiers, 600 artillery pieces and 500 tanks and armoured cars fighting in Angola.

He was speaking at a dinner for Argentinian Foreign Minister Mr Dante Caputo in Luanda on Friday night, Angop said.

No details

The agency gave no further details of the situation around Cuito Cuanavale that has been under attack for four months by South African troops and Unita guerillas.

Mr Van Dunem reiterated that his government rejected any form of negotiations with the rebels, Angop said. Unita repeatedly has called for peace talks.

A South African Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday: "This latest statement is typical of the kind of propaganda Angola has been putting out over the last few months." — Sapa-AP

Geldenhuys reveals details

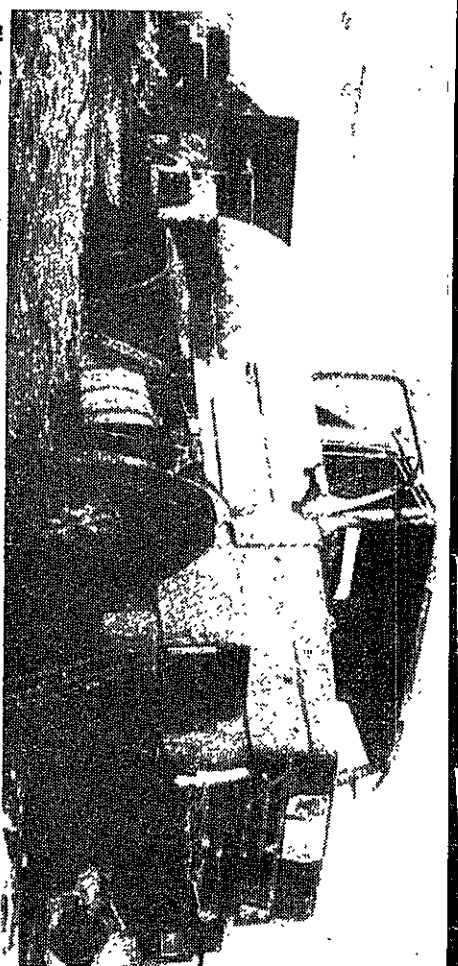
of casualties and battles

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crushing victories in Angola



The Krax cargo vehicle, one of many destroyed in south-east Angola. Its weight when fully loaded is over 23 000 kg and it has a range of 1 000 km with a maximum speed of 60 km/h.



A Soviet Mi-24 tactical helicopter shot down by South African forces in their recent campaign in south-east Angola.

By Craig Kotze

Details of South Africa's biggest military campaign since the 1976 Angolan war have been released, with the SADF giving details of running battles involving war-planes, tanks, artillery, missile systems and infantry.

In a briefing at SADF headquarters in Pretoria yesterday, Defence Force chief General Jannie Geldenhuys claimed crushing victories by South African forces over combined Angolan government and Cuban troops.

He said 31 South Africans were killed and about 90 injured in battles since May. Angola suffered at least 4 768 dead, he said. South Africa had a maximum of 3 000 troops deployed in Angola, a force level which he said had since been considerably reduced.

Angola deployed about 25 000 soldiers. South Africans were deployed to smash a massive Angolan offensive against Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita forces, he said. Vast amounts of Angolan equipment, including technology unknown to the West, were captured or destroyed, including about 25 percent of the country's tank force.

South Africa had also succeeded in its primary aims in the region, including keeping Unita from being overrun and thus preventing Swapo from establishing bases in the strategic Cuando province adjacent to Namibian territory, now almost in-surgency-free, said the general. Unita took over the positions of the withdrawing South Africans. General Geldenhuys did not give Unita and South West Africa Territory Force losses over the same period.

Withdrawal continuing

General Geldenhuys said South African forces were continuing their withdrawal from Angola. Recent diplomatic initiatives to end the Angolan war had not influenced the SADF's operations, said General Geldenhuys. "There is no point in staying put and making war just for the sake of making war," he said, emphasising that the war was essentially a Unita struggle in which South Africa played a limited and controlled role. The conflict was in fact not localised but had spread to virtually every part of Angola not under Unita control.

General Geldenhuys declined to give a timetable for the withdrawal, saying the information could be of tactical use to Angola. No reference was made to the recent statement by the President, Mr P W Botha, that South African troops would not be withdrawn from Angola until the Cuban forces left the country.

Speaking on captured technology, General Geldenhuys said the SADF had captured important equipment which was not known in the Western world and to which a number of countries would seek access. The matter would be handled on a confidential basis. His statement followed months of official South African silence on the conduct of the war. The SADF has been asked repeatedly by The Star to give details of the fighting in south-eastern Angola, in the light of continuous claims made by the Angolan government.

● Angolan losses in equipment were: 14 fighter aircraft, eight helicopters, 94 tanks, more than 372 logistics vehicles and a variety of other equipment, including missile launchers and mobile radars.

CAP. T. 1. 3/5/88
Summit is 'no recipe for peace'

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — South Africa views the Angolan summit talks beginning here today as "the opening of a diplomatic window" and not an instant recipe for peace.

This emerged yesterday as the veil of secrecy finally began lifting to reveal the roles and expectations of the participating nations.

It is reliably understood that South Africa sees the meeting as "exploratory" rather than an attempt to find a solution.

It was learnt yesterday that the South African contingent is made up of members of the Foreign Affairs Department, the SADF and the National Intelligence Service.

The director general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, and the chief of the Defence Force,

General Jannie Geldenhuys, will head the team.

The United States will attend strictly in a "facilitating role" with only South Africa and the Angolan delegation — which includes a strong Cuban presence — doing the talking.

The United States is led by the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker. Also present will be Mr Herman Cohen, a member of the US National Security Council, the US ambassador to South Africa, Mr Edward Perkins and the US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defence, Mr James Woods.

The Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso Van-Dunem, will head the Angolan delegation. Other members include the armed forces chief of staff, Colonel Antonio dos Santos Franco, and the Minister of

Justice, Mr Fernando Van-Dunem.

Mr Jorge Risquet, a member of Cuba's politburo and its top Africa expert, will lead the Cuban delegation.

● Swapo and Unita, who are absent from the talks, say no agreement can last without their involvement.

"We are going to let the negotiations evolve ... but for there to be peace in Angola, Unita must be part of the negotiating process," Unita's spokesman in Lisbon, Lieutenant-Colonel Alcides Sakala, told Reuters.

But the Angolan ambassador to Zambia, Mr Luis Kiambata, said: "If the South Africans bring Unita, we will walk out."

A Swapo spokesman told Reuters in London: "If the talks are about Namibia, then the talks should have Swapo round the table."

SADF slowly leaving Angola

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Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The withdrawal of SADF forces from southern Angola is continuing but not as fast as was at first planned, the SADF Chief, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said at a military correspondents' briefing here yesterday.

Fapla losses in equipment and manpower suffered in battle last year and early this year were detailed.

At the start of the current phase of the war in May last year SADF personnel never exceeded 3 000, he said. It was now considerably less.

"We have also scaled down equipment. We feel we have safeguarded our interest in south-eastern Angola."

The objective of keeping the Cuando Cubango province free of Swapo infiltrators had been achieved — "and we must now ensure the area remains secure after withdrawal".

At the end of last year it was estimated Swapo had 8 700 men but only a small number were now in that area.

Fapla offensive less likely

Gen Geldenhuys said the possibility of another major Fapla offensive was now far less likely.

In the period between August last year, when the Fapla offensive was launched, and February 25 this year 4 768 Fapla troops were killed while the SADF lost 31 and about 90 wounded.

Experts estimated the hidden costs of the failed Fapla campaign would cost the Angolan government its entire military budget for 1988-89.

South Africa had lost three tanks, four infantry combat vehicles, one fighter aircraft and one light aircraft.

Fapla losses included 14 MiG fighter aircraft, eight helicopters, 94 tanks, more than 370 logistical vehicles and a variety of weapons systems including missile launchers and mobile radars.

The Fapla offensive was halted on October 3 last year.

In the battles which preceded the massed Fapla retreat, a critical factor had been SA's G5 gun. About this time too SA tanks were ordered into action for the first time.

● Angola's rebel Unita movement claimed that it killed 26 government soldiers and blew up a helicopter in two separate attacks, the SABC's Africa desk reports, according to Sapa.

Angola withdrawal not as fast as planned says General Geldenhuys

D/D 19/4/88

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

PRETORIA — The withdrawal of South African forces from Southern Angola was continuing, but not as fast as was at first planned, the Chief of the SADF, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said at a briefing of military correspondents here yesterday. (C)

The massive losses in equipment and manpower by Fapla forces in the battle last year and early this year were detailed at the meeting:

At the start of the current phase of the war in May last year SADF personnel never exceeded 3 000.

This figure had now been considerably thinned down.

"Equipment-wise too we have also scaled down. We feel we have safeguarded our interest in south-eastern Angola."

The objective of keeping the Cuando Cubango province free of Swapo infiltrators had been achieved — "and we must now ensure the area remains secure after withdrawal".

Unita activities throughout Angola, tied down MPLA forces, who were running short of personnel and had to

place a greater reliance on Swapo support.

At the end of last year it was estimated that Swapo had a total of 8 700 men but only a very small number now contaminated the target area.

Asked if Fapla could mount another major offensive this year Gen Geldenhuys said this possibility was now far less likely.

In the period between August last year — when the Fapla offensive was launched — to February 25 this year Fapla troops known to have been killed totalled 4 768.

The SADF lost 31 troops and 90 were wounded.

Experts estimated that the hidden costs of the failed Fapla campaign would cost the Angolan Government its entire military budget for 1988-89.

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three tanks, four infantry combat vehicles, one fighter aircraft and one light aircraft.

Fapla losses included 14 MIG fighter aircraft, eight helicopters, 94 tanks, more than 370 logistical vehicles and a variety of weapons systems including missile launchers and mobile radars.

The Fapla offensive was halted on October 3 last year.

It had been clear since March last year that Fapla intended launching an offensive. Alarming quantities of new and sophisticated Soviet hardware had arrived in Luanda on an almost daily basis.

In the battles which preceded the massed Fapla retreat a critical factor had been South Africa's G5 gun. About this time, too, South African tanks were ordered into action for the first time.

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Withdrawal of SA forces continues

PRETORIA — The withdrawal of SADF forces from southern Angola was continuing, but not as fast as was at first planned, SADF Chief Jannie Geldenhuys said at a military correspondents' briefing here yesterday.

Losses of Fapla forces in the recent battle were detailed.

At the start of the current phase of the war in May last year SADF personnel never exceeded 3 000. It had now been considerably thinned down.

"Equipment-wise too we have also scaled down. We feel we have safeguard-

GERALD REILLY

ed our interest in south-eastern Angola."

The objective of keeping the Kaunda Kubango province free of Swapo infiltrators had been achieved — "and we must now ensure the area remains secure after withdrawal".

Unita activities throughout Angola tied down MPLA forces which were running short of personnel and had to place a greater reliance on Swapo support. At year-end it was estimated Swapo had a total of 8 700 men, but only a very small

number were in the target area.

Asked if Fapla could mount another major offensive this year, Geldenhuys said this was now far less likely.

Between August last year, when the Fapla offensive was launched, to February 25 this year Fapla troops known to have been killed totalled 4 768. SADF lost 31, with about 90 wounded. Experts estimated the hidden costs of the failed Fapla campaign would cost Angola its entire military budget for 1988/89.

● To Page 2 →

Angolan withdrawal goes on at slower pace

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hardware had arrived in Luanda daily.

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□ Unita, monitored in Lisbon, said on Sunday it had killed 26 government soldiers and blown up a helicopter in two separate attacks.

● See Page 8

● From Page 1

5 Bldg 19/9/88

SECRETARY of State George Shultz is a man not greatly given to fatuity.

Last week, however, he seemed to come close to it, opining that the Soviet agreement to withdraw from Afghanistan boded well for progress on other "regional conflicts".

By "regional conflicts," we must assume, he was referring principally to Angola. Following the surrender of the Nicaraguan Contras last month, Angola is hosting the only really interesting regional conflict left.

The Vietnamese may still be doing horrible things in Cambodia, but does anybody care? I mean, it's hard to work up much of a froth for the successors of Pol Pot even if they are getting thugged up, by Moscow's surrogates.

Now what exactly do the regional conflicts in Afghanistan and Angola have in common that "progress" — if that is quite the word — in the former is full of happy augury for the latter?

To begin with, one should note that "progress" is not the word. As the New York Times' Henry Kamm put it in a despatch last Thursday: "If all goes well and the letter and spirit of today's Geneva accords are observed by all parties, Afghanistan will return to the chaos that prevailed when the Soviet Union intervened in 1979."

What basically has happened is that the Soviets have discovered, as another imperial power did before them, that Afghanistan is the kind of place best left to Afghans.

At least 10 000 Russians had to die, some in extremely medieval ways, for this lesson to sink in. Now that it has, Mikhail Gorbachev has copied President Richard Nixon's Vietnam exit technique — "Afghanising" where Nixon "Vietnamised".

The war will continue. Both super-powers will continue to arm their sides. If Pakistan's President Zia is right, Kabul and the Soviet-backed government will sooner or later fall to the Mujahedeen, who will then promptly set upon each other, ushering in a new and glorious era of self-determined mayhem.

The important aspect, however, is not so much what the Afghans do to each other, but the fact that the Soviet Union has suffered an unmistakable military reverse and in the process has been forced to abandon an ally (as unsatisfactory as that ally may have been — few tears will be shed for Najibullah).

Moscow's strongest selling point

After Afghanistan, Angola now top 'regional conflict'

SIMON BARBER in Washington

has long been its reliability. Unlike the US, which suffers from chronic qualms, the Soviets have gained a reputation for sticking by their friends, however unpleasant. It is a valuable reputation. Defeat in Afghanistan has tarnished it.

Also tarnished is the Soviet Union's image of military invincibility. This is perhaps far more significant. The Soviet workers' paradise, like most, is at root a military dictatorship. And if the military proves fallible, so, automatically, does the legitimacy of the dictatorship.

Accordingly, however much Gorbachev may want to roll back the Brezhnev doctrine in hopes of gaining a breathing space to perfect socialism at home, the Afghan debacle — obviously a step in that direction — may ironically make his task far more difficult.

In practical terms, it would follow that the Kremlin is not going to be hastening away from Luanda so long as there is the slightest chance of it being seen as a retreat or a betrayal. If there is to be a settlement in Angola, it would not be surprising if the Soviets' conditions were to become considerably stiffer.

The chief of those conditions would logically be that the MPLA not be abandoned to the fate that very likely awaits Najibullah.

P W Botha's disingenuous suggestion to the Washington Times that everyone — Cubans, East Germans, Soviets, South Africans — all simply get out and leave the MPLA and Unita to their own devices (on the Afghan model, no less) will simply not wash if there is any chance Unita will win outright.



SHULTZ... signing Afghan accord in Geneva last week.

This does not alter the fact that Gorbachev does, almost certainly, want a way out of the Angolan mess he inherited from his predecessors. What it does alter is the lengths to which he may be prepared to go to achieve that goal. After Afghanistan, he is badly in need of a military victory to prove that the Soviet Union has not gone soft. A Grenada, if you will.

Such a victory could take the form of a unilateral South African withdrawal from southern Angola. But if the South Africans will not retire quietly, it is not beyond the realms of possibility to suppose that the Soviets may be ready to see the fighting escalate dramatically to smash them — especially since Russian boys will not be doing the dying.

From all accounts — and the lack thereof from the South African De-

fence Force — the battle centred on Cuito Cuanavale has not gone well for SA. A concerted and massively reinforced assault targeted directly at South African forces, while sidelining Unita as far as possible, could prove devastating.

Furthermore, in the event of such an assault, the Western response would likely be minimal.

It is not much of an exaggeration to say that even the Reagan administration would not be particularly bothered, the less so if Unita was not the principal casualty. The West wants Pretoria's arrogance tamed, and since sanctions have only succeeded in doing the opposite, why not let the East have a go with what it does best?

This is no fantasy. The Americans have for months been warning SA that unless it gets out of Angola there could be "a lot more blood on the floor," as one senior official put it recently.

The United Nations Security Council has unanimously demanded SA's withdrawal. There is no influential sympathy left, especially since Gorbachev has, quite credibly (certainly by SA's standards), renounced any aim of regional dominance.

If P W Botha would listen to his Department of Foreign Affairs rather than let himself be guided by the impetuous zero-sum artists in the military, there are the glimmerings of an alternative that would permit disengagement from southern Angola with a certain amount of honour intact, while quite probably saving hundreds of South African lives.

It is called UN Resolution 435 — and, yes, it means surrendering Namibia to independence.

Under the envisaged arrangement and the auspices of the UN, South African forces would withdraw from southern Angola to monitored bases in Namibia while the Cubans pulled back in equal and opposite phases over the 13th parallel. This could be achieved in a matter of weeks.

The process would culminate, within the roughly seven-month period laid down in UN 435, with Namibia moving to elections and independence and the Cubans embarking for home. As the last Cuban mounted the gangplank in Luanda, the SA flag would come down in Windhoek.

Pretoria would meanwhile be obliged to terminate its support for, and thus sanitise, Unita, with the US and its allies taking over the role of Jonas Savimbi's guarantors, just as the Soviet Union would continue to support the MPLA. Not for nothing is the Reagan administration seeking to treble its aid to Unita, and under these circumstances Congress would quite likely approve.

Ideally, and under the cajoling of their respective champions, Unita and the MPLA would move to the negotiating table.

How they come to terms remains the most enigmatic question, but with all foreign forces out of the picture — though not the threat of their continued arms deliveries — reconciliation might at last be a real possibility.

The bottom line is that Gorbachev is not going to take part in another Afghan solution as P W Botha seems to think he might. He and his allies will have the SADF for breakfast first without a beat from the West.

Pretoria would do well to look for another way out, especially given the possibility of a Democrat getting elected next November and aligning himself completely with Gorbachev's interests.

Besides, what would be more damaging domestically military defeat and a legion of young men returning in body bags, or the honourable fulfilment of a long-struck deal?

If the Conservatives cry "sell-out", ask whether they really want all that blood of Afrikaner boys on their hands for the sake of territory SA will control even in the absence of its flag.

As for George Shultz and his opinion that Afghanistan augured well for other "regional conflicts," perhaps he was not being so fatuous after all.

Long term strategy in Angola uncertain

By Gerald L'Ange, Editor,
The Star's Africa News Service

South Africa's military involvement in Angola has two main aims, according to the SADF.

One is to block Swapo insurgents from entering Namibia and the other is to block Soviet expansion into the sub-continent.

It is in the pursuance of these aims that South Africa has supported Unita in its war. And it was also in the pursuance of these aims that the SADF in the past few months fought its two biggest battles since the Second World War, at the Lomba River and in the region of Cuito Cuanavale.

Withdrawal

The SADF now says it has begun a tactical withdrawal or disengagement whose pace is dictated partly by the need not to risk losing what was gained in the fighting of the past few months. If there is no certainty about the Government's intentions at Cuito Cuanavale there is even less certainty about its wider intentions... in other words, how much deeper it is prepared to get involved in the Angolan war.

At his briefing for military correspondents in Pretoria this week the Chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said the SADF never intended to try to capture Cuito Cuanavale. This ties in with a similar sentiment expressed by Unita. The SADF and Unita seem to be agreed that it makes more sense to employ stand-off attrition to prevent the Luanda government's Fapla forces from using the town than to change places with them.

General Geldenhuys said the SADF had already achieved its first objectives by making it unlikely that Fapla and its Soviet and Cuban allies will be able to launch another offensive this year from Cuito Cuanavale.

Incursions

At the same time, he said, it had been made impossible for Swapo to widen its incursions into Namibia.

He declined, for obvious reasons of military security, to discuss timetables for the troop withdrawal. But his remarks implicitly reject speculation that the SADF is stuck in a stalemate.

According to General Geldenhuys, reports that South Africa deployed 6 000 troops in Angola were exaggerated. He said there had never been more than 3 000 which have now been reduced.

A separate issue is the cost. This has been given by the SADF as 31 men killed in action since May 1987 and, in addition, three tanks, four infantry combat vehicles, one fighter aircraft and one light aircraft. Fapla's losses in men, as given by the SADF at 4 768, are much higher than the combined losses of South Africa and Unita. In addition, according to the SADF, Fapla lost 14 fighter aircraft, eight helicopters, 94 tanks, more than 370 logistics vehicles and a variety of weapons including missile launchers, mobile radar equipment and other highly sophisticated equipment.

Impressive though these figures may be, it is the cost in South African men and material that dictates the political reaction within the Republic.

Reaction

So far there has been no adverse reaction strong enough seriously to worry the government. South Africa's next moves will therefore depend more on what other players in the Angolan drama do.

A major question is whether the Soviet Union will again replenish the Fapla arsenal. There is some evidence that the mood in Moscow favours a political settlement in Angola. But it has still to be seen whether this is so. Attitudes within the Luanda government will also be crucial.

It must now become questionable whether the MPLA will be willing or able to continue its purchases of Soviet weapons, particularly if analysts quoted by the SADF are correct in estimating that the latest round of fighting will end up costing the Angolan government its entire military budget for 1988 - 89.

Whether South Africa accelerates its withdrawal will depend, according to General Geldenhuys, on whether the SADF feels it can safely leave Unita to preserve the gains made. The longer term moves appear likely to be decided by political factors that are still far from bringing the issue to any kind of solution.

Secretary of State George Shultz is a man not greatly given to fatality. Last week, however, he seemed to come close to it, opining that the Soviet agreement to withdraw from Afghanistan boded well for progress on other "regional conflicts."

By "regional conflicts," we must assume, he was referring principally to Angola. Following the surrender of the Nicaraguan Contras last month, Angola is hosting the only really interesting regional conflict left. The Vietnamese may still be doing horrible things in Cambodia, but does anybody care? I mean it's hard to work up much froth for the successors of Pol Pot even if they are getting thugged up by Moscow's surrogates.

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The important aspect, however, is not so much what the Afghans do to each other, but the fact that the Soviet Union has suffered an unmitigable military reverse and in the process has been forced to abandon an ally. (As unsatisfactory as that ally may have been, few tears will be shed for Najibullah.)

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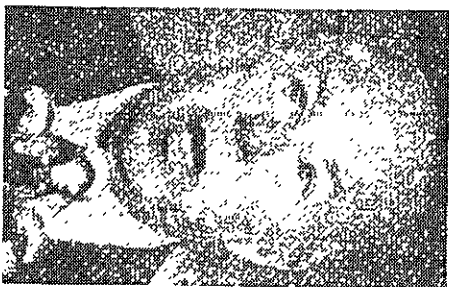
Angola and the conflict

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GEORGE SHULTZ

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SIMON BARBER writes from Washington

of foreign affairs rather than let himself be guided by the impetuous zero-sum artists in the military, there are the glimmerings of an alternative that would permit disengagement from southern Angola with a certain amount of honor intact, while quite probably saving hundreds of South African lives.

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The bottom line is that Gorbachev is not going to participate in another Afghan solution as P W Botha seems to think he might. He and his allies will have the SADF for breakfast first without a beat from the West. Pretoria would do well to look for another way out, especially given the possibility of a Democrat getting elected next November and aligning himself completely with Gorbachev's interests.

Besides, what would be more damaging domestically, military defeat and a legion of young men returning in both bags, or the honorable fulfillment of a long struck deal. If the conservatives cry sell-out, ask whether they really want all that blood of Afrikaner boys on their hands for the sake of a ruddy SA will continue in the absence of its flag.

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Bid to end Angolan war

From JILL JOLLIFFE

LUANDA. — An attempt by international powers to bring Angolan government leaders and Unita officials to the conference table has raised hopes of an end to the 13-year war which has wracked Angola since its independence and has involved various foreign powers in a conflict threatening to turn southern Africa into an open battlefield between East and West.

Since late last year a South African offensive across Angola's southern borders from Namibia, in support of the anti-government Unita movement, and an Angolan government counter-offensive backed by Cuban troops, has altered the military balance drastically.

The rapid move of military events was summed up in the MPLA government's announcement in early March that South African forces are now involved in central Angola, 600km north of the Namibian border, in Bie province.

Far-reaching diplomatic changes are also underway, including the Soviet Union's decision to counsel President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to negotiate a settlement with Unita.

The Angolan government has been preparing public opinion for some time for an accommodation with Unita, although it continues to view the position of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi as indistinguishable from that of the apartheid regime.

Only a year ago the word Unita was unmentionable in public in Angola, the movement being referred to only as "the armed bandits" or "the South African puppets". Today, not only is Unita referred to openly in the press and by government leaders, but Savimbi's figure even appears in cartoons in the government-run *Journal de Angola* newspaper.



President Santos

Political leaders in various parts of Angola now admit that Unita operates in certain areas in its own right, on the basis of support from the local population — although the war in the south is basically a conventional clash between regular South African forces, accompanied by Unita, and the Angolan army backed by Cuban troops and Soviet advisers and hardware.

At a news conference in Cuito, central Angola, Kundi Payama, the country's most senior cabinet minister, told journalists: "Savimbi

has lots of cover in Bie province — Unita agents can be infiltrated among family and friends. We can't distrust our own people."

The current offensive began in September with a crushing defeat for government troops at Mavinga in Cuando Cubango province when regular South African forces swept in with Unita.

They subsequently moved northwards towards Cuito Cuanavale, where provincial commissioner Col. Manuel Francisco

Tuta says seven South African battalions were involved in a major battle. The South African battalions consist of three regular white battalions (the 61st and the 101st artillery and 91st tank) and four made up of Namibians, Portuguese and Angolans.

When the attack on Cuito Cuanavale began, a part of this force advanced 600km deep into Angola and captured several towns along the Benguela Railway line, including Munhango, Savimbi's birthplace.

By this means Unita secured effective control of a large slice of south-eastern Angola, ensuring that Western attempts to help the MPLA government re-open the Benguela line will be postponed indefinitely.

A fierce battle over the railway town of Cuemba took place in early March, with Cuban reinforcements being poured into the area to help government troops retain the position.

Unita's occupation of Munhango has also led to fears that the anti-MPLA guerrillas may be contemplating the declaration of a separate state. However, a Unita spokesperson in Lisbon said that while the movement had drawn up a government structure for administration purposes, it would never accept the balkanisation of Angola and would hold out for a power-sharing arrangement with the MPLA.

The military drama was accompanied by a flurry of diplomatic activity involving direct contacts between Angolan, Cuban, US, and South African representatives, and the shuttle-diplomacy of Chester Crocker, US assistant secretary of state for African Affairs.

There have also been prisoner

exchanges, beginning last September with the exchange of South African Captain Wynand du Toit for Cuban and Angolan POWs.

A second exchange took place in March at Luanda airport when the bodies of two of Du Toit's accomplices, killed in an abortive 1985 commando raid, were exchanged for one Cuban and 12 Angolan soldiers. Other exchanges are anticipated.

The Soviet proposal indicates that the policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are to be applied in Southern Africa as well as in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. A year ago the Soviet ambassador to Luanda, Arnold Kalinin, said that there would be no similar change in Angola, but he has since been replaced by Vladimir Kazimirov, a man considered to be closer to Gorbachev.

The Soviet desire for disengagement stems in part from the costliness of the war. Since the US began supplying Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to UNITA in 1986, the Soviets have seen a succession of sophisticated aircraft shot from the skies.

Global considerations are even more significant. Angola was the one regional issue on which no progress was made at the Washington summit. By May, when Reagan and Gorbachev meet again in Moscow, there should be substantial points to exchange.

And although the new situation has been brought about largely by South African intervention (deliberately over-stated in the eyes of UNITA, which is having its own problems with Pretoria), the strategy could result in a Soviet-US deal to tackle the Angola problem independently of South Africa. — *Gemini News*

Angola's long war forgotten by night

EVERY morning the Angolan war begins anew. But at night war and politics go on the back burner in the Angolan capital.

Night in Luanda is a time for restaurants, discos, cinemas, neighborhood recreation centres and pop concerts — or for staying home and watching American television programmes such as *The Love Boat*.

By day Luanda grimly shows the scars of the incessant warring that has afflicted Angola since its independence from Portugal in 1975. In fact, Angola has been at war for 27 years, since insurgents first struck out against the Portuguese in February, 1961.

Burnt-out houses, derelict shops and unfinished skeletons of abandoned blocks of flats hulk silently in almost every street. They contrast starkly with the Marxist Government's revolutionary billboards and murals, urging workers to produce more.

Fully armed soldiers are everywhere, ferrying officers or Government officials about at great speed, sweeping the streets and

clearing rubbish or shoving captured draft evaders into trucks for the war against Western-backed Unita guerrillas.

But when night falls tension and hardship give way to the bright lights typical of any big city out for a good time.

Luanda's Kizombo Recreation and Cultural Centre offers a sparkling tropical night show to the accompaniment of a group called The Kiezoes.

At the Mae Preta (Black Mother) recreational centre, four women and a man go through a gymnastic dance routine to the rhythm of heavily amplified traditional drum and percussive music known as batuque.

After a few numbers, the group leaves the floor of the cavernous pink, purple, red and blue dance hall and elegantly dressed couples take over.

Patrons at the privately run club help themselves from the well-stocked buffet included in the R16.60 admission charge. The buffet includes fish stew, salads, baked beans

and tinfuntula — a kind of peanut butter mixed with manioc meal and sugar.

The average monthly salary of a civil servant in Luanda, with 960 000 inhabitants, is R1 200. A good pair of shoes, hard to find at State-run stores, costs R300.

Government stores face continuous shortages of everything, while candonga, or black markets, operate openly throughout the city selling everything from cars to vacuum-cleaner handles.

At discos like Caixaote (Little Box), Flamingo and Adao bouncer-doormen size up prospective entrants, letting in the subdued, the well-dressed and the well known for free.

The rowdy, the T-shirt crowd and the unknown usually end up back on the street, wondering where to go before the midnight to 6am curfew.

The fare at Luanda's 12 cinemas ranges from the expected Cuban, Czech, Soviet and Yugoslav films to Jessica Lange's *Frances* and *LoneWolf McQuade*, a Chuck Norris action feature set among the Texas Rangers.



LEFT: Luanda, the sprawling capital of Angola ... out for a good time at night.

Time for cinemas and pop ... and American television

PATRICK REYNA of the Associated Press reports from Luanda

Government to fly in food for the city and left hundreds of villagers with amputated arms and legs.

When a group of foreign reporters stepped inside the Hostal America one evening, a Cuban in an olive-drab uniform rushed out the rear door to the Cuban billet.

He returned a few minutes later, dressed in civilian clothes, and introduced himself as Israel Castellano, head of the local Cuban civilian delegation. A few minutes earlier another Cuban had identified him as the Cuban military commander.

As a third Cuban soldier in fatigues won the night's impromptu ping-pong championship against Portugal and the United States, Castellano explained that the Cubans had a video room and their own bar in the former Residential Belmonte across the street.

Then he pulled out the previous day's edition of Gramma, the Cuban Communist Party's official organ printed in Havana — dispelling any doubts about the efficiency of Cuban communications throughout Angola.

CML-Twink 22/4/88

'Heavy losses for SA'

HARARE. — South Africa had suffered heavy human and material losses in its attempts to capture the southern Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale, Cuban ambassador Mr Alfonso Fraga said here yesterday.

"They have had several heavy losses in southern Angola. They have lost a significant number of people and military equipment, including aircraft," the diplomat told a press conference to mark the 27th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs.

Mr Fraga said the "Pretoria regime" was lying to its electorate about the casualties in southern Angola since it

invaded last year.

"SA has used long range artillery and sophisticated weaponry which they get from the Western Alliance, but in spite of all this, they have not been able to seize Cuito Cuanavale."

He said Cuban troops would remain in Angola as long as SA was there.

● Angola claimed there were more than 9 000 soldiers in south-east Angola, when in fact there were never more than 3 000 "at any one time", the Chief of Staff: Finance, Vice-Admiral M A Bekker, said at a passing out parade at the Navy Gymnasium in Saldanha yesterday. — Sapa

CMC front 23/4/88

MPLA use ⁽⁵⁾ nerve gases in Angola war

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON. — A report by a group of international experts confirms that government troops have used chemical weapons in Angola.

It says the Luanda government launched toxic nerve gases during the November 1987 offensive against Unita rebels along the Mavinga-Cuito Cuanavale axis, causing dozens of casualties.

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force said yesterday that although it was true Unita had invited a team of medical specialists to inspect alleged chemical-weapons casualties, no South African troops had suffered chemical wounds and no Unita soldiers had been treated for such wounds in any South African military hospital.

The confidential March 8 report made available to this reporter here is by Professor A Heyndrickx, head of the Toxicology Department at the State University of Ghent, Belgium.

It was sent to UN Secretary-General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar. Western specialists, including a West German Colonel H Rolf Hallerbach, travelled to the war zone in south-western

Angola for their investigation.

Dr Heyndrickx's report says that from the toxicological and clinical investigation on soldiers in the Mavinga camp on February 16, 1988 the team concluded it was highly probable that nerve gases had been used on them.

This corresponded with the investigation they did earlier (September 8, 1986), "where we came already to the same conclusion. A further clinical and toxicological investigation on more recent intoxication cases is advisable.

"The identification kit for war gases found on Russian prisoners (by Mujaheddin in Afghanistan) and the ones taken by Unita soldiers on Cubans, are the same and are of Russian origin."

The 26-page report also contains various photographs of Soviet-made chemical warfare weapons captured by Unita.

The gases used were "Sarin-Soman" and "Phosgene-Diphosgene" or similar gases like Tabun (all nerve toxins). No evidence of mustard gas or Yperite, widely used in the Iran-Iraq war, was found.

The report also analyses in detail the captured equipment used to spread the gas.

South Africa which has consistently pressed for recognition as a major player in the Angolan tragedy is playing its military card to the full, maintaining an armoured thrust deep into Angolan territory.

When the South Africans unleashed their latest drive, they did so very much independently of Dr. Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebel movement. Dr. Savimbi, fearing that Pretoria might be tempted to cut Unita out in return for a settlement of some of its own regional ambitions, particularly with regard to Namibia, then declared Unita to be a government of "liberated Angola".

To further confuse the picture on the ground in Angola, the long-dormant FNLA rebel movement which was based in Zaïre

Unita hints at move to reach Angolan settlement with

Francis manoeuvring for position has broken out among interested parties in the Angolan conflict, report correspondents of The Observer in Rabat, Lisbon

and northern Angola during the 1960s has suddenly begun calling for a negotiated settlement involving "all parties".

All that seems certain is that there is a genuine desire on the part of almost all parties to this conflict to find some way out of the morass. And one of the main sticking points is South Africa.

There is a widespread feeling that if some formula could be arrived at which excluded South Africa, the path to a negotiated settlement would be much smoother. For

one thing, it would keep separate the issue of independence for Namibia.

In an apparent effort to avoid the embarrassing involvement of South Africa, Morocco's King Hassan II is now putting himself forward as an honest broker. Already, Angola's Interior Minister, Mr. Manuel Rodrigues, who is generally regarded as a pragmatist, has had talks with the king and a senior member of Unita is expected within the next few weeks.

United States defence secretary Frank

Carlucci has also paid a visit to Dakar where senior diplomats are said to be cautiously optimistic about the initiative.

They point out that Unita has become extremely wary about South Africa's ultimate aims and its leaders have said that they would favourably consider a settlement proposal which did not involve Pretoria.

South Africa is, of course, fully aware of these manoeuvres and its dramatically increased military pressure on Angola is seen as a bid to further strengthen its claim to be

indispensable to any regional settlement.

The South Africans are as aware as the Moroccans that Angola's economy is on the brink of collapse and are pressing home every advantage they can.

Angola's hope of some relief through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also seems now to have been dashed. The country's economic recovery programme (ERP), which would have created the conditions for a successful application for IMF membership, has been scrapped.

The Star Monday April 25 1988



Confronted in February by news from Mozambique that IMF-induced measures in that country had seen a 40 percent increase in the price of basic foodstuffs, ideological hardliners within the MPLA rallied their forces against the ERP. Deeming that the two economists in charge of the programme, Mr. Jose Cerveira and Mr. Mario Maximino, had "assumed incorrect positions", the party hierarchy removed them from their posts last month, effectively ending the ERP and the prospect of economic liberalisation.

The apparent stability brought by the about turn of the ERP has, however, increased the stresses within the MPLA.

— London Observer Service.



Mr Gavin Relly,
Anglo chief.

8/21/88
Anglo explores 'Mozambican option'

MAPUTO — The chairman of Anglo American Corporation (AAC), Mr Gavin Relly, yesterday held talks with government leaders here on the possible involvement of the AAC group in developing Mozambique's natural resources.

Mozambique's economy has been battered by a 12-year civil war which the Marxist-orientated government blames on South African backing for the Mozambican National Resistance rebel movement.

Anglo's chairman met with President Joachim Chissano, Prime Minister Mr Mario Machungo and other officials during a seven-hour visit, according to the Mozambican news agency AIM.

It said Mr Relly indicated that his group might

be interested in forestry, agriculture and natural gas projects, but he declined to give details.

The news agency said Mr Relly and Mr Machungo discussed "conditions for investment, including the security situation".

The South African Government says it stopped aiding the rebels after signing a non-aggression treaty with Mozambique in 1984. There is widespread international support for Mozambique's claim that the assistance continues, at least in regard to logistics and communications.

Mozambique and South Africa recently engaged in negotiations to restore a major hydroelectric project in north-west Mozambique that has been frequently sabotaged. — AP.

Defence Correspondent

WHAT next — and when? These are the crucial questions now that Operation Hooper, the second phase of the seven-month-old South African incursion into Angola, has been concluded.

At this moment there are several possibilities but the under-currents are so obscured by the proverbial "fog of war" and its old comrade, the fog of politics, that the observer is hard put to it to make any sort of prediction.

About all that appears clear is that Pretoria is correct in claiming it has inflicted severe — not fatal — damage to Angola's ability to advance on the Unita insurgents and their South African allies for the foreseeable future.

According to the Chief of the SADF, General Jan Geldenhuys, the Angolan front-line troops are now pinned down south of Cuito Cuanavale.

South Africans appear to be unclear in their minds about the nature and results of Operation Hooper, first revealed by General Geldenhuys this week.

An incursion named Operation Modular started in July last year when the Angolans advanced in great strength on Unita's Cuando-Cubango stronghold. Aided by SADF and SWA Territory Force troops which were few in number but high in expertise, the Angolans were defeated with great loss and withdrew westward.

Launching pad

When Operation Modular ended in mid-November last year, Fapla (the Angolan armed forces) had three well-worn formations — 21, 24 and 59 Brigades, each nominally about 1200 strong — dug in just east of Cuito Cuanavale, the main launching-pad for at-

Fog obscures the routes out of Angola

tacks on the Cuando-Cubango province.

What happened then, according to General Geldenhuys, was as follows:

● Fapla soon commenced sending forward reinforcements, most being concentrated in the Cuito Cuanavale area, which included Cuban troops — largely untouched by the previous months' fighting — and late-model T-62 tanks.

South African gunners pounded the concentrations with their long-range 155 mm G-5 gun-howitzers and according to General Geldenhuys inflicted "very heavy losses" on the reinforcements.

This was essentially defensive, however, and Operation Hooper was aimed at preventing a renewal of the original Angolan offensive by helping Unita to clear Fapla out of the area between the Cuatir and Chambinga Rivers east of Cuito Cuanavale, after which Unita would be able to hold the area by itself.

● On January 15 the allies attacked 21 Brigade, which was dug in next to the Cuatir II River, a tributary of the Cuatir. Contact was made at 6pm and after two hours of fighting 21 Brigade retreated to the Tumpo logistical base immediately south of Cuito Cuanavale, leaving Unita in control of the area.

From Pretoria's point of view the battle was a complete success. Neither of the allies

suffered any fatalities, while Fapla lost 250 men, as well as 12 tanks, two artillery pieces, one BTR-60 armoured personnel carrier, two BM-21 multiple rocket launchers and 10 logistical vehicles captured or destroyed.

● At Tumpo the remnants of 21 Brigade were reinforced, regrouped and re-equipped. Then the brigade launched a counter-attack and after fierce fighting succeeded in pushing the Unita insurgents out of the area they had captured.

● About 2pm on February 14 the allies attacked 59 Brigade east of the Cuito River, one of the positions to which reinforcements had been flowing. After 3½ hours the brigade retreated and Unita occupied the position.

Soon afterwards Fapla counter-attacked but was beaten off.

● Fapla now abandoned the brigade positions and withdrew to Tumpo for a final stand. However, on the night of February 25 the allies hit positions south of the Tumpo River, while Unita soldiers supported by a South African mechanized element attacked other positions at Dala, north of Cuito Cuanavale.

Boxed in

The situation at present, General Geldenhuys says, is that the Fapla forces are boxed in at Tumpo, while Unita is exerting "relentless

pressure" on Fapla strongholds elsewhere in Angola and in the past months has captured several towns, including strategic points along the Benguela railway line.

This having been said, it is necessary to consider the possibilities.

Firstly, the South Africans have no wish to capture Cuito Cuanavale but would be content to ensure that Fapla could not use it. Secondly, there is no telling which way the war will go from here. The following are possibilities:

● Fapla will launch another reinforcement attempt, which would inevitably spark the launching of Operation Hooper's successor.

● Angola and Unita will start talking peace, either because they realize they are now locked into a stalemated war of attrition or because their respective sugar-daddies, Russia and the United States, are exerting pressure.

● Russia will intervene, either directly or by using surrogate forces, to save the bacon of its ally Angola

The ideal development would be peace talks, but if one excludes external pressure, it would depend on whether the belligerents are hurting enough.

This remains to be seen. According to General Geldenhuys, experts estimate that Angola has suffered so heavily that it would take the entire 1988/89 military budget simply to get its armed forces back into fighting shape. But Unita is certainly not hurting to that degree, and it takes two to tango.

Pressure from Russia and the US would substantially alter matters, of course, and this remains at least a possibility in the circumstances.

This being so, South Africa's future actions might be critical.

ECC article in Times leads to police probe

CAPT 1m/88
77/4/88

Staff Reporter

POLICE are investigating an alleged contravention of the emergency regulations by the Cape Times arising out of the publication of an article on the End Conscription Campaign.

The article was written by Dr David Greene, press officer for the Western Cape Region of the ECC, and dealt with the ECC's view on conscription and the Angolan war. It was published on February 2 this year.

The Editor of the Cape Times, Mr J C Viviers, was visited by a member of the security police on Monday who informed him of the investigation and asked whether he wanted to make a statement. Mr Viviers declined.

The investigation is in terms of Section 5B (par b) of the media regulations which relates to the making of a "subversive" statement.

2,000 Angolans killed
in cholera epidemic

LISBON — Almost 2,000 Angolans have died in a cholera epidemic which began a year ago in the northern province of Zaire, the official Angolan news agency, Angop, reported yesterday from Luanda.

"Out of 24,729 cholera cases, 1,919 people have died and the disease is still spreading in the provinces of Luanda and Benguela," Angop said.

About 150 new cases are reported every day. — Sapa-Reuter (5)

6/04/27/4/88

ANC has detainee camp in Angola, says US

From ALAN DUNN
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — The African National Congress maintains a detention camp in northern Angola and may hold other detainees elsewhere in that country and in Zambia, according to a new US State Department report.

It said conditions at these facilities were likely to be harsh, with the degree of severity determined by the availability of amenities, by local laws and, in some case, by personal animosities.

The five-page report was prepared in terms of a law passed by Congress in December which required a study of detention by the ANC and by South Africa. The State Department has sent it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The report could not specify, and did not estimate, how many detainees the ANC held. It says: "The majority are suspected of being South African agents or infiltrators.

"ANC cadre who become politically dissatisfied, and therefore suspect, or who refuse military training may also be detained, according to defectors."

QUESTIONABLE

The report noted: "Some, although probably not a large number, are believed to be detained for non-political, for example disciplinary, reasons."

Reports that the ANC had a large detention camp in Zambia had not been confirmed, it said, and reports of a major facility in Tanzania were "questionable".

Turning to South Africa, the report devoted four pages to detention and treatment of detainees, quoting extensively from statistics kept by the Detainees' Parents Support Committee.

It referred to published medical and other reports concerning conditions in detention.

Many detainees, said the report, had told of harrowing experiences in detention.

"One detailed 1986 survey, prepared by a medical panel of the DPSC, indicated that 83 percent of 500 released detainees showed signs of some physical abuse."

● At the time the DPSC report was published, the director of the Bureau for Information said the allegations of maltreatment were "too vague" for investigation.

Talks on Angola hit big snag at UN

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

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A high-level meeting between South African, Angolan and American officials which is scheduled to take place in Europe soon may be jeopardised because of Luanda's latest complaints against South Africa at the United Nations.

A spokesman for the South African Foreign Minister today said that a meeting between South African officials and the American State Department had been scheduled for the near future, and representatives of the Angolan Government were supposed to be involved.

The spokesman added: "However, if the Angolan Government continues, as has been reported, to request a meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations to hand in further complaints against South Africa, then these talks will serve no purpose and it is doubtful whether they will take place."

According to other South African sources today there was no validity in Luanda's latest claims that attempts were being made to set up a four-power meeting between South Africa, the US, Angola and Cuba.

26 Cubans die as own fire hits Angolan plane

HAVANA — Cuba, in an unusually frank admission, said yesterday that 26 Cuban soldiers, including a top general, were killed when their plane was shot down by their own anti-aircraft batteries in southern Angola.

The accident on Wednesday was the worst since Cuba began giving military aid to Luanda 13 years ago.

An armed forces communique said Brigadier-General Francisco Cruz Bourzac, a hero of the 1961 Bay of Pigs battle, was among the victims. He was Cuba's Vice-Minister for Armament and a member of the Communist Party central committee.

The communique said there were no survivors and that the relatives of the dead were informed before release of the news.

A colonel and a lieutenant-colonel were also killed when the Soviet-built Antonov 26 twin-prop plane, on a scheduled flight to the town of Tchahutete, was hit by a missile as it was about to land on Wednesday morning.

Anti-aircraft batteries were on alert for enemy planes.

Some Western diplomats here expressed surprise at the unusually frank report on an incident that occurred only 24 hours earlier. — Reuter.

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Union members increase

PARLIAMENT — The upward trend in trade union membership had continued in 1987, although at a slower rate, the director-general of the Department of Manpower, Dr P J van der Merwe, said in his annual report tabled yesterday.

A total of 1 879 400 workers belonged to registered unions.

The number of strikes and work stoppages had increased to 1 148 in 1987 from the 793 of 1986, but fewer workers were involved in each strike.

While registered unemployment among whites, coloureds and Indians had shown a 14,7 percent drop from January to October, figures for blacks showed a 28,5 percent increase. — Sapa.

House 'aided black advances'

The House of Delegates had contributed to the advancements which had been made in black education, the Chairman of the Ministers Council, Mr Amichand Rajbansi, said yesterday.

Speaking in the Educa-

ANC detention camp in Angola, says US report

The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The African National Congress maintains a detention camp in northern Angola and might hold other detainees elsewhere in that country and in Zambia, according to a new State Department report.

It says conditions at these facilities are likely to be harsh, with the degree of severity determined by availability of amenities, local laws and in some cases, personal animosities.

The report was prepared in terms of a law passed by Congress ordering a study of forced detention by the ANC and by the South African Government.

SOUTH AFRICAN AGENTS

The report does not estimate how many detainees the ANC has held at any one time. "The majority are suspected of being South African agents or infiltrators.

"ANC cadres who become politically dissatisfied or who refuse military training might also be detained, according to defectors.

"Some, although probably not a large number, are believed to be detained for non-political (for example, disciplinary) reasons."

Reports that the ANC has a large detention camp in Zambia could not be confirmed.

Turning to South Africa, the report devoted four pages of detail on detentions and treatment behind bars, quoting extensively from statistics kept by the Detainees Parents' Support Committee (DPSC), one of the groups targeted in a Government clampdown.

On treatment of detainees, the report says detainees are often held incommunicado, "a situation that provides considerable potential for police abuse of detainees".

US and Soviets open new talks on Angola peace

Cape Times 29/4/88

LONDON. — The US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, began two days of talks with Soviet officials here yesterday on Angola, Namibia and other regional issues.

A US Embassy spokeswoman said the talks were part of a regular series of US-Soviet meetings on regional matters.

In Mindelo, Cape Verde, the deputy Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Armando Cadete, yesterday said preparations were under way for a four-party conference comprising Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States in hopes of achieving a regional settlement to end Angola's 12-year civil war.

Ending a six-day visit to the

island nation, Mr Cadete said: "Things are moving at a very fast pace (on Angolan peace negotiations) at the moment. But I don't know if the date and place for such talks have been set yet."

Cuban troops

The State Department said on Wednesday that the London talks between Mr Crocker and the deputy Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, would focus on plans to bring a settlement in Angola.

There have been signs recently that Angola, which receives military supplies from the Soviet Union, could agree to send home some 40 000 Cuban troops backing the government in exchange for the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia.

Mr Cadete said his government presented what he termed "valid proposals" to US negotiators last month on the eventual withdrawal from Angola of the Cuban troops.

He said President Jose Eduardo dos Santos's MPLA government was waiting for a response from the United States to the proposed Cuban withdrawal.

Another visit to the Angolan capital of Luanda by Mr Crocker before the expected four-party negotiations "shouldn't be necessary", he said.

On a separate regional question, Mr Cadete said Luanda was concerned by announced plans for joint Zairean-US military manoeuvres at Zaire's Kamina base near the Angolan border. — Sapa-Reuter-AP

APR 29/4/88

Cubans shot down by own ack-ack

HAVANA. — Twenty-six Cuban soldiers stationed in Angola were killed when their plane was shot down by their own anti-aircraft batteries by mistake, a Cuban government communique said yesterday.

The report said the Cuban military delegation on the plane included the Vice-Minister for Armaments, Brigadier General Francisco Cruz Bourzac, a member of Cuba's Communist Party central committee and a hero of the 1961 Bay of Pigs battle.

The Soviet-built Antonov 26 twin-prop plane, on a scheduled flight to the southern Angolan town of Tchahutete, was hit by a missile as it was about to land on Wednesday.

Its anti-aircraft batteries were on alert because of the reported presence of South African planes in the region.

Wednesday's accident was the worst since Cuba began giving military aid to the MPLA government in Angola. — Sapa-Reuter

CAPE TOWN — South Africa, Angola, the United States and, possibly, Cuba are to hold exploratory talks in London next week on SWA/Namibian independence and an end to the Angolan war.

Although regarded as highly significant in trying to end conflict in the region, the talks are not expected to produce any final decisions and have been described in diplomatic circles as "talks about talks".

They were surrounded in confusion and controversy almost as soon as they were announced.

There were threats from South Africa they might not even go ahead if Angola persisted in its reported aim of calling for a UN Security Council meeting to level further charges of aggression against South Africa.

There was also doubt about whether or not Cuba would send a delegation and there was criticism about the fact that Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi had not been invited.

It was announced yesterday that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had invited representatives of the Cuban Government to join US, Angolan and South African officials in London next week to discuss a Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

The official South African position, apart from a Cuban withdrawal from Angola, has been that there can be no lasting settlement in

Angola without Dr Savimbi's co-operation.

While the British Foreign Office said the talks would be in London next Tuesday and Wednesday, a spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed that a meeting between senior South African officials and the US State Department were planned for "the near future".

"Representatives of the Angolan Government will also be involved," the South African spokesman said.

Asked about the possibility of a Cuban delegation participating in the talks, the spokesman said: "As far as the South African Government is concerned the talks will be about a Cuban troop withdrawal and thus, it will be useful if representatives of the Cuban Government could be present."

South Africa has made it clear in the past that implementation of UN Resolution 435 to achieve SWA/Namibian independence is dependent on a total Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and is supported in this by the US.

The US assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, held talks with the Minister Pik Botha, in Europe recently and

yesterday concluded two days of talks with Russian officials in London about Angola and SWA/Namibia.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said the talks would be based on the gradual but total withdrawal of the estimated 35 000 Cuban military presence from Angola and eventual independence for Namibia.

The talks are American-inspired but diplomats say the Soviet Union, now equally determined to bring 13 years of bloody civil war in Angola to an end, had "waved the big stick" to bring the Cubans to the round table with the Angolans.

African diplomats revealed that both East Germany and West Germany had played a "commendable and constructive part" in helping make the talks possible.

It was confirmed in Lisbon that neither Unita nor Swapo would be represented.

Lisbon diplomats said the talks, the first between Pretoria and Luanda since an earlier meeting on Cape Verde in December 1982, were the "most hopeful in a long time" to end to the Angolan conflict was in sight.

D/D 30/4/88

SA, Angola to meet for talks on peace

5

SA and Cuba will meet face-to-face

Star
30/4/88
5

CAPE TOWN — South Africa and Cuba will face each other at the negotiating table for the first time next week.

DAVID BRAUN
Political Correspondent

They will take part in a four-power conference in Britain on Angolan and Namibian problems. The United States and Angola will also participate.

Unita was, from all accounts, a complete failure in spite of massive Cuban and Soviet backing.

But the foiling of the offensive was not without a high price for both sides. South Africa lost 31 troops and precious equipment, including a Mirage jet fighter. The Angolan government's losses ran into thousands killed and a vast amount of equipment lost.

South Africa and Cuba are the principal backers of the opposing sides in Angola's civil war. Their eyeball-to-eyeball meeting, though unlikely to be more than preliminary discussions on ways to end the war and grant Namibia independence, could none the less be a significant sign that both sides believe the time has come to find a negotiated settlement for the region's problems.

Officials would be useful

A South African Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman's only comment last night on next week's talks was: "The presence of representatives of the Cuban government would be useful."

The latest Angolan government offensive against

He confirmed that the South African delegation would be led by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Niel van Heerden. It will consist of four or five officials of the department.

A senior Cuban politburo member, Mr Jorge Risuudt Valbes, will head Havana's delegation, but it is not known yet who will represent the United States and Angola.

The talks are to be held on May 3 and 4 at an undisclosed venue in Britain, which has been asked by the US to host them.

South Africa's low-key comment confirms the Government's extremely cautious approach to talks of this nature.

South Africa has indicated the talks could be jeopardised if Angola persists in trying to call a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to complain about South Africa's presence in southern Angola.

Last month South African Government sources were highly sceptical of an Angolan "peace plan" which proposed the withdrawal of half of Cuba's estimated 40 000 troops in Angola to north of a specified latitude, in exchange for South Africa's withdrawal from the territory

Sandton family in frantic hunt for girl

CRIME REPORTER

A Sandton family is desperately trying to find a 19-year-old daughter who may have been sucked into Hillbrow's seedy underworld against her will.

Members of the Besarab family from Wendywood, together with friends, have spent almost every night this week scouring Hillbrow for Miss Vanessa Besarab, who apparently went missing on Sunday.

Eight of them have been to every club in the area, visited many blocks of flats and have paid security guards large sums of money for information.

The searchers again pounded Hillbrow last night for information on the missing Braamfontein receptionist. Police are also searching for her.

Vanessa's mother, Mrs Heather Besarab, said the family was sure Vanessa was still in Johannesburg's huge flatland area.



MISSING: Vanessa Besarab.

"Her boss said she had arrived at work earlier this week looking all blue. He said it looked as if she had been beaten up.

"We've been everywhere looking for her. We've been to restaurants, gay clubs, straight clubs, flats — some of them the dirtiest I've ever seen — and other places. We've shown people photographs of her and we've handed out tele-

phone numbers but still we haven't traced her."

She said they had heard stories that Vanessa was staying on a farm outside Johannesburg and also that she had been caught up in the drug underworld.

But she did not believe Vanessa was "into" drugs.

She said she last heard from her daughter when she telephoned on Sunday and said not to pick her up for church as she was going to a braai.

Vanessa was staying with a friend in a Goldreich Street flat after her mother agreed to allow her to stay in Hillbrow on a trial basis.

All her clothes are still at the flat.

Vanessa is 1,25 m tall with red-brown hair and a slim build.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Mr Alex Besarab at (011) 802 7880. The phone will be manned at all hours.

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S African peace breakthrough

Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — A flurry of diplomatic activity involving the superpowers, European and Southern African states and multinational companies this week brought Southern Africa closer to peace.

Informed sources said that if Tuesday's and Wednesday's London talks on Angola were successful, moves were already under way for a full-scale meeting at a higher level in the former Portuguese colony of Cape Verde where final details of an agreement to bring peace to Angola and Namibia would be arranged.

Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Armando Catete was this week in Cape Verde, and the sources said Cape Verde's Prime Minister Pedro Pires is expected in Lisbon this month with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Anatoly Adamishin, who was in London this week.

Cuban withdrawal

The sources said the Angolan government, with Soviet support, has said it is ready to agree on a Cuban withdrawal within a two-year period in exchange for a South African withdrawal from Angola and an agreement on Namibia's independence.

In exchange, the sources said, Angola is ready to close down African National Congress camps in Angola and force Swapo, as the possible future ruler of Namibia, to sign a non-aggression treaty with South Africa.

South Africa has already said it is ready to take part in an international conference involving Cuba, Angola, Swapo and the United States, but has insisted that the Angolan rebel group Unita takes part in the conference.

The Angolan government has, however, not given any signs that it is ready to negotiate with Unita, and analysts pointed out that South Africa was not under any pressure in Namibia and showed no signs of wanting to agree to independence for the territory.

As preparations for next week's meeting in London went ahead, Mozambican officials confirmed that a summit meeting between President P W Botha and President Joaquim Chissano aimed at reviving the Nkomati Accord could take place soon.



President Botha

Prospects brighten for fresh accord with Luanda and Maputo

The Joint Security Committee formed by the Nkomati Accord, which has not met since 1985, will meet within the next few days, thus opening the way for improved relations between the two countries and for a meeting between presidents Chissano and Botha.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi was this week in Lisbon to brief his Portuguese counterpart and President Mario Soares on the peace efforts.

"Mozambique always said the Nkomati Accord remains a valid document. It is now a matter of reactivating the mechanism that will make it work, reactivating the specific committees created in the framework of the accord," Mr Mocumbi told journalists after meeting President Soares.

South African, Mozambican and Portuguese officials are to meet next month in Lisbon to discuss plans to reactivate the giant Cahora Bassa dam, Mo-



President Chissano

zambican sources said.

This week the chairman of the British multinational group Lonrho, Mr "Tiny" Rowland, visited Maputo for discussions on the rebuilding of the transmission lines between Cahora Bassa and South Africa.

Mr Rowland is understood to have met Prime Minister Mario Machungo, but no details of the talks have been given.

It is understood that Lonrho and a Portuguese company,

Entreposto, will form a company which will be charged with repairing and protecting the power lines.

Previous reports said South Africa had agreed to supply "logistical" support to a force charged with protecting repair teams and the power lines.

Lonrho, which has other economic interests in Mozambique, employs its own private forces to defend its operations in Mozambique.

Mr Rowland's visit to Maputo followed a meeting in the Mozambican capital between President Chissano and the chairman of the Anglo American Corporation, Mr Gavin Relly.

The visit was seen by analysts as a clear indication that the business sector supports the reactivation of the Nkomati Accord.

According to the chairman of the Zimbabwean-based Beira Corridor Group, Mr Eddie Cross, South Africa has stopped supplying Mozambican rebels with arms.

Mr Cross told a meeting of the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs that although there were still contacts between the MNR and the South Africa Government, the last direct South African supplies for the MNR had been sent in June 1987.

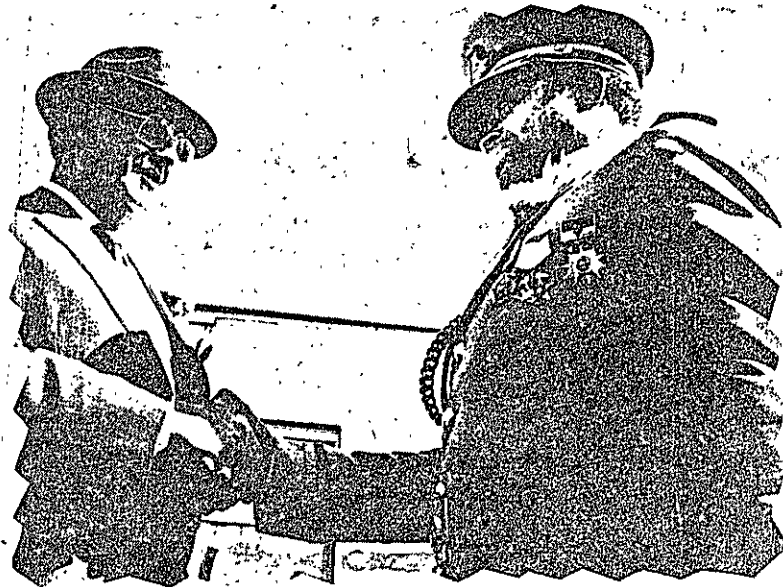
Important outlet

Mr Cross also told the London meeting that South Africa had promised not to interfere with a programme to rehabilitate the Limpopo railway line linking Maputo to Zimbabwe, which he described as "by far the most important outlet to the sea".

South Africa had long refused to give an undertaking not to attack the Limpopo line, Mr Cross was quoted as saying. However it was his belief that Pretoria had now given "an informal undertaking to leave the Limpopo line alone, as long as the frontline states do not interfere with South Africa's trade relations".

Analysts point out that the peace process in Mozambique has been facilitated by the death in Lisbon of MNR hard-line leader Evor Fernandes.

Mr Fernandes was shot dead after being kidnapped from a Lisbon restaurant. No one has been arrested in connection with the crime.



FLASHBACK: President Botha and the late President Machel shake hands after the Nkomati talks in 1984. Mozambique believes the accord remains a valid document, said Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi in Lisbon this week.

Angola peace talks breakthrough

W/6 AR 645 30/4/88

5

Weekend Argus Foreign Service and Political Staff

LONDON. — Speculation is mounting about the significance and possible outcome of the first round-table talks between the four parties most closely involved in the Angolan conflict.

Officials from Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States meet here on Tuesday for the first of a two-day session of talks aimed at finding negotiated answers to the war which has racked Angola for more than a decade.

Britain was asked by the United States to set up the meeting.

Most observers agree the meeting will probably be just a springboard to further talks, but they believe valuable contacts will be made.

Anthony Robinson of the Financial Times says the initiative "marks a major new attempt to explore the possibility of a negotiated end to the conflict".

"Unknowns"

He said the death this week of Brigadier-General Cruz Bourzac, Cuba's deputy minister for armaments, and 25 other Cuban officers when their plane was mistakenly shot down by Cuban-manned missiles in southern Angola "dramatically underlined the cost (of the war) to Cuba".

But he said there were still two "crucial unknowns": the degree to which Pretoria was prepared to trade a Soviet/Cuban withdrawal from Angola for independence in Namibia, and whether Moscow was prepared to be as flexible over Angola as over Afghanistan.

The Guardian's Victoria Brittain said although all sides were "virtually desperate for a resolution of the conflict", sources close to the talks were "extremely pessimistic" that any breakthrough was in prospect.

She pointed out that Swapo and Unita had not even been accorded observer status.

But The Times's diplomatic correspondent Andrew McEwen was more optimistic, and said a "big step" towards peace in Angola and a settlement of the Namibia dispute could be taken at the talks.

President Botha's office yesterday confirmed that the meeting was going ahead in London next week and said: "As far as South Africa is concerned, the talks are going to be about Cuban withdrawal from Angola and it will be useful if representatives of the Cuban government could be present."

● See Page 5.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Cape Times 30/4/88

(5)

Four-nation talks in London to end war

LONDON — A four-nation summit between South Africa, the United States, Angola and Cuba is to be held here next week to pave the way to peace in Angola and Namibia.

The watershed talks, leaked by the Portuguese news agency Lusa, have surprised diplomats with the formal involvement of both South Africa and Cuba and are being regarded as a breakthrough in the regional stalemate, senior Western diplomats said last night.

The summit is expected to take place next Tuesday and Wednesday, but the venue is being kept secret.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed the talks last night and said Britain's only involvement was to act as host and to "do anything in our power to assist the initiative".

He said the talks would be based on the gradual but total withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Cubans from Angola and eventual independence for Namibia.

Lisbon diplomats said last night the talks — the first between Pretoria and Luanda since an earlier meeting on Cape Verde in December 1982 — were the "most hopeful sign in a long time" that an end to the Angolan conflict was in sight.

The US is believed to be a prime mover behind the initiative but diplomats say the Soviet Union, now determined to bring 13 years of civil war in Angola to an end, had "waved the big stick" to bring its Cuban and Angolan allies to the negotiating table.

Soviets 'determined'

He said the talks would be based on the gradual but total withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Cubans from Angola and eventual independence for Namibia.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Address:

From page 1

Angola persisted in its reported aim of calling for a UN Security Council meeting to level further charges of aggression against South Africa.

The American delegation will be headed by US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker.

Dr Crocker has been involved in talks here this week with his Soviet opposite number, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, which established some of the ground rules for initiative and also peace moves in Mozambique.

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African diplomats said both East Germany and West Germany had played a "commandable and constructive part" in helping make possible the talks, which they described as a major pathfinding initiative of high promise.

The Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Armando Cadete, said yesterday: "Things are moving fast — we want peace and are working towards a solution for independence in Namibia and a withdrawal of the Cuban troops."

The two rebel forces in the conflict, Swapo and Unita, will apparently not be directly involved and an outcry from the movements is expected.

The Cape Times political staff reports that Government sources in South Africa regarded the summit as a highly significant, but said yesterday they were not expected to produce any final decisions. Local diplomatic circles have been described the move as "talks about talks".

There were also threats from South Africa that they might not even go ahead.

To page 3

REDS TIP-TOP TO PEACE!

By LESTER VENTER and JEREMY BROOKS

RUSSIA will be watching from the wings at the crucial Angolan peace talks this week.

A top Soviet official, Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamshin, will be in London for the vital mini-summit meeting between southern Africa's warring parties.

And observers believe his role could be decisive.

This will be the first time in endless rounds of southern African peace negotiations that the Soviet Union and South Africa will be involved in such proximity talks.

It follows indications of a changed Soviet attitude to the war in the region — in line with Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of glasnost — and offers by Pretoria of direct negotiations with the Kremlin.

Diplomats have insisted the talks are still merely at a functional, not ministerial, level and that speculation about early settlements is premature.

The excitement is that South African diplomat directly involved in the talks so far are the United States, South Africa, Angola and Cuba — a surprise late entrant — which has large numbers of combat troops still in the war-torn country.

At issue: A timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and a parallel and corresponding South African extrication.

The significance of the officially announced, two-day talks is that all the major parties appear confident enough about the prospects to face each other openly for the first time.

Protest

International interest focused on two notable exclusions. The Angolan rebel movement, Unita, and the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo).

Unita's exclusion arose, said one diplomat, through the original intention to hold a face-to-face only between the Pretoria and Luanda governments.

Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, who has feared just such an eventuality and recently unilaterally declared a Unita government in southern Angola to head it off, is certain to protest strongly.

The absence of Swapo, meanwhile, makes it clear that these talks are on Angolan peace and not tied, as before, to an internationally acceptable settlement in SWA-Namibia.

The organisation voiced its fury on Friday at the lack of an invitation, despite an earlier proposal by Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos that it be a fifth party.

Ignite

Diplomatic sources in London suggest the changing of the venue from Cape Verde Islands, scene of the 1982 first-ever negotiations, to London was another way of changing the agenda, virtually dropping the question of Namibia and thus persuading Pretoria to take part.

One diplomat said if a Unita-MPLA reconciliation process could be initiated, it could ignite a similar Renamo-Frelimo process in Mozambique — and that the "concidence" of an official Mozambique visit to Cape Town this week should be noted.

The London talks grew out of secret, direct contacts between South Africa and the MPLA government, reported first by the Sunday Times early last month. The talks were aimed at laying the ground for next week's meeting.

The direct SA-Luanda contacts followed a loss of confidence by both parties in the

□ To Page 2

Reds at Angolan summit

From Page 1
credentials of US mediator, Dr Chester Crocker.

But Dr Crocker and the US administration, eager for a foreign policy success before presidential elections in November, piled on pressure to regain the initiative.

A South African diplomat confirmed the Cuban participation took South Africa by surprise this week — but the Government quickly welcomed it.

The stage was set for negotiations after the decisive failure of last year's all-or-nothing military push by the MPLA and Cuban surrogate army and indications that Unita forces are now operating from Zairean sanctuaries, thereby threatening to open a second front against the MPLA.

The Cubans and MPLA government are now viewed as the parties who need a settlement most. The Luanda

government is nearly bankrupt, divided and without prospects while the war remains at a stalemate.

The Cubans fear becoming an expendable item as the Soviet Union's glasnost policy eases relations with Washington — particularly over regional conflicts.

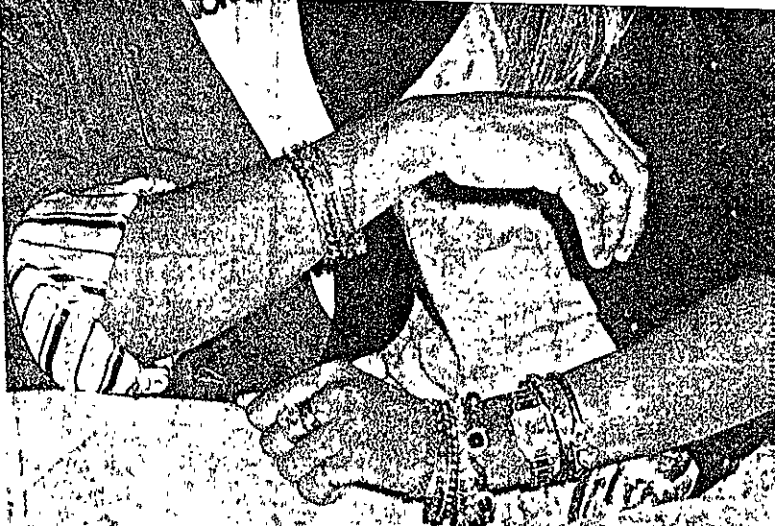
The Cubans are understood to be sticking to their offer to withdraw to the 13th parallel, placing them just south of Huambo and the Benguela railway, but could commit themselves to a phased and complete withdrawal.

South Africa would have to match this withdrawal and the focus would then switch to the tangled issue of SWA/Namibian independence.

Dr Crocker will chair this week's proceedings.

A Cuban representative, Politburo member Jorge Risquet, will be present as part of the Angola delegation headed by Foreign Minister Alfonso van Dunem.

Pretoria will be represented by Mr Neil van Heerden, Director General of the Department of Foreign Affairs.



HAPPY TOGETHER ... Thomas and Nora Anders before their Sun City appearance

A bloodied Johnny puts Mike down in two

By IVOR CREWS
JOHNNY du PLOOY exploded out of his corner in the second round to knock out former WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver in front of a wildly excited crowd at Sun City last night.

The ferocious South African — cut over the eye in the opening round by a razor-like jab from Weaver —

fought back in the second and decked the muscular ex-champ in only two minutes 15 seconds to win the grudge return.

Du Plooy, who started the fight a 10-5 favourite with the bookies, sent the punters home rubbing their hands with glee.

The muscular Weaver had the crowd on the edge of their seats in the opening round when he sliced open a cut over the South African's right eye and continued to pick at it with straight lefts.

Thunder

But the second round was all Du Plooy's as he caught the American on the ropes.

Sensing the end was at hand, Du Plooy landed a left to the body and followed it up with two thunderous rights to the jaw before referee Stan Christodolou stepped in to stop the carnage.

The fight, billed as "The Grudge Return" means Du

Plooy will leave shortly for Europe with the possibility of a bout against either Tyrell Biggs or Henry Tillman before fighting former world champ Tim Witherpoon in America.

If everything goes according to plan, last night's victory could give Du Plooy a crack at Mike Tyson's heavyweight crown, boxing's ultimate golden carrot.

For Weaver it is probably the end of the road. He had never before lost to a South African and had hoped for a shot at Tyson's title himself.

Now he will undoubtedly lose his top 10 ranking with Du Plooy filling the gap.

□ Full report Page 33

International Commission. Anders had left the country last Sunday and flown to Germany.

Exactly why lion-maned Thomas, 24, left so suddenly is a mystery. But since then, Sun City has been ablaze with gossip about the close friendship between Nora and tennis pro Charlie Watts, who is 28.

"Yes, he's the hot one," confirmed a senior Sun City staff member.

And this was echoed by several hotel staffers. Gorgeous Nora has spent much of her sojourn in Sun City sunbathing topless around the pool deck of the plush Cascades Hotel with her pampered Maltese.

But when the temperature drops it's on to the tennis court.

"She's a good social player," said the untanned Watts, adding that he first met the Anders couple during Modern Talking's Sun City tour last year.

"She's a very good friend. We have had dinner together

□ To Page 2

s held

THREE men, arrested three years after the murder of Mr Phillip Botha du Plessis, 65, of Somerset West, will appear in court tomorrow. He was found dead on his bed just before Christmas, 1985.

Killed in fall

MR KEITH HOLLEAR, 34, died when he fell from the 33rd floor of a block of holiday flats in Durban. Football player not suspected.

Killer mud

JENNIFER HAGAN, 31, and her two-year-old son, James, were killed by a mudslide when torrential rain hit the Australian city of Sydney.

Virus kills 80

A SECOND outbreak of anthrax has killed 80 people in Ghana. A report said they died after eating contaminated beef.

THE contents of this issue of the Sunday Times have been restricted in terms of the emergency regulations.

R130 000 to be won! See Business Times • Di feuds with stepmum: Pages 19, 20

SA delegation leaves for talks



Mr Niel van Heerden

By DAVID BRAUN
Political Staff

11/6/78
2K/88
The South African delegation to the four-power talks on Angola and Namibia leaves for Britain today under the leadership of the Director-General for Foreign Affairs, Mr Niel van Heerden.

The delegation is understood to include the department's expert on Angola and SWA/Namibia, Mr Andre Jaquet, and a senior representative of the Defence Force.

The talks, between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the United States, are being held at official and not ministerial level as a preliminary round to what may develop into more comprehensive negotiations to end the Angolan war.

(S) 227
The other men around the table will include Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso Van-Dunem, Mr Jorge Risquet, a member of the ruling politburo and head of external relations in the Cuban Communist Party, and United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker.

Dr Crocker has been involved in two days of preliminary talks in London with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Adamishin. The talks are being held in Britain, which is not taking part at the request of the United States.

South Africa and Cuba will be facing each other across a formal negotiating table for the first time during the discussions, which are expected to

centre on the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops from Angola.

Cuba is reported to have sent 6 000 fresh troops to Angola on the eve of the talks, a move which South Africa has noted with some concern.

South African diplomats were cautious today at the prospects for the talks, pointing out that Pretoria wanted at least the great majority of Cuban troops to be withdrawn Angola completely.

● In Lisbon, Unita has claimed to have shot down two Soviet-built Angolan Air Force jet fighters in fighting around the central town of Cuemba on Friday, and killed 67 government troops, Sapa-AP reports.

Threat to Angola peace meeting

Cubans pour in troops on eve of talks

Star 2/5/88

(5)

By Claire Robertson and David Braun

South Africa's delegation heads for London tonight for crucial peace talks on Angola and Namibia, but new developments put a question mark against the prospects of progress.

On the eve of the four-power talks:

● Cuba is reported to have injected up to 10 000 new troops into Angola.

● Unita rebels claimed to have shot down two Soviet-built Angolan Air Force jet fighters in fighting around the central town of Cuemba and that they killed 67 government troops.

But today senior Foreign Affairs sources dismissed the reported influx of up to 10 000 new Cuban troops into Angola on the eve of the talks as "pre-talks tactics" by the Cubans.

"We are not fazed by this build-up," a senior Foreign Affairs spokesman said today. He refused to confirm South African information on the troop build-up "for security reasons".

"It is an inherently aggressive act, but does not leave us jittery," he said, describing the build-up — revealed by United States government sources yesterday — as an effort to increase artificially the worth of any eventual concession or troop withdrawal on the part of the Cubans and Angolans.

High-powered

South Africa's high-powered delegation will be led by the director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, and is understood to include the department's expert on Angola and Namibia, Mr Andre Jaquet, and a senior representative of the SA Defence Force, among others.

The talks, between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the United States, are being held at official and not ministerial level as a preliminary round to what may develop into more comprehensive negotiations to end the Angolan war.

They are being held in Britain, which is not taking part in the talks, at the request of the US.

South Africa and Cuba will be facing each other across a formal negotiating table for the first time during the discussions, which are expected to centre on the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops from Angola.

South African diplomats were cautious today at the prospects for the talks, pointing out that Pretoria wanted at least the great majority of Cuban troops to be

withdrawn from Angola completely before United Nations Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia could be implemented.

Previous Angola and Cuban proposals fell far short of this in that they suggested a withdrawal of half the Cuban troops to north of a certain latitude and the phased pulling out of the troops from Angola over a period of four years.

South Africa has consistently refused to implement Resolution 435 until the Cubans have left Angola, arguing that it would be impossible to hold elections in Namibia with 40 000 foreign troops across the river intimidating the electorate.

Condition

A further condition South Africa is likely to make for any peace settlement in Angola and Namibia is that Unita and the Namibian interim government must be party to eventual negotiations.

Luanda has offered to send its Cuban allies home, but wants, in return, the pull-out of South African troops from its southern provinces, independence for Namibia, and an end to US and South African support for the rebel group Unita.

Luanda has repeatedly rejected South African proposals that Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita be included in the talks.

"If the South Africans bring Unita (to the London talks) ... we will walk out," Angolan official Mr Luis Kiambata said.

ent areas of the week-end and month-end. The rand closed the week slightly easier at R2,1538/45 to the dollar.

Cubans send more troops to Angola

WASHINGTON — Cuba has quietly expanded its troop commitment to Angola by up to 10 000 over the past five months, while taking an increasingly active role in southern African peace negotiations, US officials said.

The officials made the disclosure as Cuba, along with the US, SA and Angola, prepared for a new round of talks on an array of southern African issues.

The talks, scheduled for tomorrow and Wednesday in London, mark the first time SA and Angola have agreed to sit at the same negotiating table to discuss a peace settlement.

Cuba had not taken a direct part in southern African peace negotiations until January, when Cuban officials joined Angolan negotiators for talks with a State Department delegation in Angola.

The US officials, who asked not to be identified, said Cuba was believed to have had 35 000 to 37 000 troops in Angola last November. Since then 8 000 to 10 000 more had been sent to Angola, bringing the total to 43 000 to 45 000, the officials said.

● To Page 2 →

Cuba quietly sends more troops to Angola

This is believed to be the largest number of Cuban troops in Angola since they were first sent there in 1975, when Angola won its independence from Portugal.

Since early March, about 5 000 Cuban troops had been sent to the western Angolan city of Benguela, the officials said. The area is not close to any combat zones, and US officials said Cuba's motives for the build-up were not clear.

The Cubans generally have stayed away from combat zones in Angola's civil war, but Cuban defector Rafael del Pino Diaz has said Cuba has suffered about 10 000 casualties since 1975.

SA's support for Unita is one of the issues delegates from the four countries

will discuss at this week's meetings in London.

Angola is eager for an end to the South African presence as well as a suspension of US aid to Unita.

The highest priority for the US and SA is an agreement for the early withdrawal of Cuban troops.

SA has said once that hurdle is cleared, it will implement the UN resolution calling for independence and black majority rule in Namibia.

However, there has been no agreement on a timetable for the mutual withdrawal of foreign forces from both Angola and Namibia. — Sapa-AP.

← ● From Page 1

Cuban influx

On eve of

talks: SA

not worried

DIP 2/5788

(5)

Daily Dispatch Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — South Africa has not been put out by the arrival of between 6 000 and 8 000 Cuban troops in Angola on the eve of the four-nation talks in Britain about Cuban withdrawal from the territory.

This week's talks — surrounded by controversy and confusion — have started because of South Africa's threat to withdraw and be regarded as "low key".

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday the arrival of the Cuban reinforcements in the Angolan team is likely to be the Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso van Dupem.

It is reported from London that the official veil of secrecy over the talks is generally interpreted as an indication of the extreme sensitivity with which the participants are treating the talks.

Observers speculated that all involved parties are anxious not to be seen as "treading on toes" by making public statements.

● It was reported in Lisbon at the weekend that, as preparations went ahead for the talks in Britain, Unita was wracked by internal dissension posing a challenge to the charismatic and monolithic leadership of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The dissension, reportedly of which have occurred frequently over the past year, was said to centre on divided opinions over Unita's close links to South Africa.

The dissidents were reported to have contested Dr Savimbi's insistence that Unita remain under the South African umbrella.

Encouraged by Washington they seek to move Unita's activities northwards and shift their dependence onto other western nations like the United States which supplies the rebels via neighbouring Zaire.

Unita's Lisbon spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Abel Chivukuvuku, dismissed the claims as a "campaign to damage Unita's image and prejudice its role in forthcoming peace negotiations".

Editorial opinion Pg

While regarded as "significant" because of the number of countries involved and South Africa's exclusion from multi-lateral international talks over the past few years, the talks have been characterised as "technical rather than decisive".

"They are significant in that the next step towards a settlement cannot take place and nothing further can happen without their success," the spokesman said.

"Anyone who describes them as a summit should know better — especially because of the level at which these talks are being held."

The South African delegation, led by the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, is expected in London today or tomorrow.

The talks will be the first open negotiations between the four countries since international peace initiatives were introduced in 1978.

The talks reflect the new shift of focus, replacing military conflict with diplomatic-political initiatives, even though fighting in the 12-year civil war has continued unabated.

However, three major protagonists in the prolonged peace settlement

will not be present

Russians also tired of expensive

THE AGONY OF ANGOLA



SAM Nujoma
Swapo leader.

and endless war

LONDON — This week's meeting in Britain between Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the United States may have more to do with the bloody and expensive battles being fought in the southern Angolan bush than the diplomacy of the United States, which has worked for eight years to force the 40 000 Cuban troops out of Angola.

Linkage — the deal by which the Cuban troops withdraw from Angola in exchange for Namibian independence — has been the personal mission of Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Paying several secretive visits to Luanda in the past few years, the American diplomat has tried a mixture of carrots and sticks to force the Angolans to dispense with the Cubans.

The MPLA government is backed by the Soviet Union and 40 000 Cuban troops. It says the Cubans will only leave when the South Africans stop supporting the Angolan rebel movement Unita and leave Namibia.

But the Angolans have also harboured Swapo guerillas — Namibia nationalists. The South Africans, afraid of a Swapo victory in Namibia if they withdraw from the territory, have occupied parts of southern Angola to block Swapo guerillas and support Unita.

Until last week it seemed no one was prepared to try to disentangle the knot until they knew who would be in the White House next year. There has also been no sign South Africa was prepared to deliver its half of the bargain — Namibian independence.

On the other hand, the Angolans and South Africans found themselves bogged down in the biggest battle ever fought in southern Africa: a battle for the

Meeting
in Britain
this week

Sowetan 2/5/88

(5)

SOWETAN
Correspondent

strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale, under siege from the South Africans and Unita.

Since October the South Africans have lost tanks, irreplaceable aircraft and, most important, more than 50 white troops. There was a danger that the whole southern Africa conflict could become bogged down in a conventional war in southern Angola.

The Russians are also getting tired of this expensive and endless war. — *The Independent*

We will stay until Cubans quit — P W

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

South Africa will not allow Namibia to hold independence elections, nor will the SADF pull its forces out of the territory until Cuban troops are out of Angola, President Botha made clear last night.

On the eve of the four-nation talks in London on Angola and Namibia, Mr Botha said he wanted to warn against optimism because all over the world there were mischief-makers who wanted to destroy every effort to bring about better conditions in southern Africa.

Withdrawal of forces

The talks — between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the United States — begin in Britain today.

They are expected to centre on the withdrawal of Cuban and South African forces from Angola as a prelude to ending the civil war in the country, and also to implement the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

Mr Botha said during the debate on his Budget vote in the House of Delegates last night that South Africa had no claim on Namibia, and he would like to see the territory prosper until it achieved independence.

"But we cannot have foreign troops dictating to South West Africa the way in which it should acquire its independence.

"South Africa is a regional power with interests in southern Africa. We believe it is in the interests of South West Africa as well as the whole of southern Africa that the Cubans must go.

"We said right from the beginning that the Cuban presence in Angola is contributing to the civil war in

that area. What is more, the Cuban presence is also crippling the economic future of that country."

Mr Botha said that in talks he had held with African leaders who came from different countries to consult him in recent weeks, he had said peace could come to Africa, especially southern Africa, if the Cubans went.

"The moment the Cubans go it will be a different ball game in southern Africa. The whole situation will turn for the better because southern Africa cannot go it alone without the technological support, expertise and other support of South Africa."

Earlier in his speech Mr Botha said Namibians were the most subsidised community in Africa and probably in the world.

The territory had a population of about a million, but received about R1 000 million in assistance from South Africa every year to keep it going.

Earlier yesterday the Department of Foreign Affairs admitted that the South African delegation to the talks flew in greatest secrecy to Britain at the weekend.

The whereabouts and movements of the high-powered delegation, led by Foreign Affairs director-general Mr Neil van Heerden, are still strictly secret.

On the eve of the talks:

- Cuba is reported to have injected up to 10 000 new troops into Angola.

- Unita rebels claimed to have shot down two Soviet-built Angolan Air Force jet fighters in fighting around the central town of Cuemba, and said they had killed 67 government troops.

But yesterday senior South African Foreign Affairs sources dismissed the reported influx of up to 10 000 Cuban troops as "pre-talks tactics".

● See Page 15.

Cautious start expected to Angolan talks

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

LONDON — South Africa views the Angolan talks, beginning at an undisclosed venue in London today, merely as "the opening of a diplomatic window" and not an instant recipe for peace.

This emerged yesterday as, on the eve of the two-day meeting, the heavy veil of secrecy finally began lifting slightly to reveal the roles and expectations of the participating nations.

While not wishing to denigrate the importance of the talks, South Africa is shying away from overly-optimistic predictions on the outcome.

It is reliably understood that South Africa views the historic meeting as "exploratory" rather than an attempt to hammer out a final solution to the conflict in the region. Today is, they feel, just the first cautious step along what could be a long road towards settlement.

Facing the Angolans and Cubans across the negotiating table for the first time will give all parties the chance to exchange information and views — and that is all they came to London to do.

An almost unprecedented air of secrecy hangs over the meeting with few concrete details having yet emerged.

What is clear, is that all four nations are equally reluctant to increase the tension by divulging what will be happening behind the closed doors somewhere in London.

It was learnt yesterday that the three-pronged South African contingent will comprise members of the Foreign Affairs Department, the SADF and the National Intelligence Service.

The Director General of External Affairs, Mr Neil Van Heerden, and the chief of the SA Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, will head the team.



MR VAN HEERDEN

The United States will attend strictly in a "facilitating role" with only South Africa and the Angolan delegation — which includes a strong Cuban presence — doing the talking.

Nevertheless, the US is represented by a heavyweight delegation, led by the assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Also present will be an ambassador and member of the US National Security Council, Mr Herman Cohen; the US ambassador to South Africa, Mr Edward Perkins and the deputy assistant Secretary for Defence, Mr James Woods.

The names of the Angola-Cuban contingent could not be confirmed, but the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Raul Roa Kolis, arrived in Britain from Madrid late on Sunday.

Three other top-ranking Cubans flew in later aboard a private jet. They were: a senior Politburo member, Mr Jorje Risquet, Mr Oscar Fernandez Padilla and Mr Carlos Aldana.

Angola's Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso van Du-

nem, will head his country's contingent.

The exclusion of Unita and other interested parties, such as Swapo is understood to be because the US wanted only sovereign nations involved at this early stage.

South Africa still strongly maintains that Unita is an important factor in the whole equation which cannot be overlooked, and wants the movement to be part of any developments following from this initial exchange.

South Africa argues that Swapo has no place in the a discussion about Cuban troop withdrawals.

The inclusion of Cuba was agreed to because it was an "unavoidable reality" as the withdrawal of its troops, always a point of contention, was central to the whole discussion.

Yesterday, the British Foreign Office were visibly distancing themselves from a direct role in the talks.

A spokesman emphasised that Britain was not playing host to the talks and was "merely glad they were taking place".

The South Africans were just as reticent on their strategy but a source close to the delegation said the meeting was not being considered another round of "proximity talks" such as had been held in the past.

It was being handled as an important discussion in which the chief focus would be that South Africa had the chance to talk directly to Angola about problems in the area.

Under discussion will be a "number of ideas" about which Angola has apparently already informed South Africa.

Angola: Botha warns against high hopes

(5)

DID 315788

Parliamentary Staff

CAPE TOWN — On the eve of the London talks on the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola, the State President, Mr P. W. Botha, warned yesterday against "over optimism" and sent Luanda a thinly veiled message — that South African troops will be in Angola as long as Cuban troops remain there.

Mr Botha said it would be a "new ball game" when the Cubans left.

The talks get under way at a secret venue in London today.

Mr Botha, speaking in the House of Delegates on his budget vote, said: "The Cubans must go. We have said so from the beginning."

It was clear from his speech that even the news of the arrival of an additional 6 000 to 8 000 fresh Cuban troops in the war-torn country would not make South Africa change its mind.

"We would like to see South West Africa progress to independence.

"But, what we cannot afford is for foreign troops to dictate to SWA how they should get independence."

South Africa was a regional power and it was in the interests of SWA/Namibia's future, and peace in the whole of Southern Africa that the Cubans should leave."

The Cuban presence was contributing to civil war and was crippling the economy of Angola, he added.

South Africa had supported the US President, Mr Ronald Reagan, when he took a stand against the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

Mr Botha also revealed that he had had

talks with African leaders in the past few weeks — something which has been kept secret until now — who agreed that "peace will best be served if the Cubans go".

He did not expand on who the leaders were or where they came from, but left the impression that they were not from Southern Africa.

"The moment the Cubans go, it will be a new ball game and the whole situation will take a turn for the better and improve," he said.

Southern Africa could not go it alone without South Africa's technological specialisation. South Africa was prepared to share it as long as it was not told from outside what should happen in the Republic and what its relations with its neighbours should be.

Members from all sides of the chamber voiced their approval.

"But I want to warn against being over optimistic. There are mischief makers who want to destroy all efforts in Southern Africa," Mr Botha said.

"The moment SWA is out of danger, South African troops will return to their bases. We want them back to do their primary duty, guarding the borders of their own country."

See also page 11

Concessions must come from 'other side'

Govt 'will not budge on Angola'

Star 3/5/88

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent
Cape Town

South Africa is taking a hard line in today's four-power talks with Cuba, Angola and the United States — clearly insisting that if there is to be any breakthrough in the stale-mated Angolan conflict it will have to be as a result of concessions from the other side.

President Botha re-stated the

Press only knows where talks will NOT be held — Lancaster House

The Star Bureau
LONDON — One of the best kept secrets of the moment is the venue of the unprecedented meeting in Britain today between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the United States.

For their part, the South Africans are sure where it is not being held.

All through the weekend, a hope was nurtured among journalists that a Whitehall deep throat might whisper the secret in a favoured Fleet Street ear, but in vain.

The South African diplomats have proved as dutifully impervious to inquiry as the rest.

But, quizzed at a briefing at the embassy in Trafalgar Square last night, the head of the team, director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, showed he was willing at least

South African position in no uncertain terms in Parliament yesterday when he said South Africa would not allow Namibia to hold independence elections nor would it pull its forces out of the region until the Cuban troops in Angola left.

"The moment the Cubans leave and South West Africa is out of danger, that moment South African forces will return to their bases," he said.

Mr Botha also warned against over-optimism about today's talks in Britain.

to narrow the field, if only just a fraction.

"I can tell you this much," he grinned, "it's definitely not Lancaster House!"

Mr van Heerden spoke of his hopes for the meeting, saying the South African approach was "open" and "exploratory" and part of a process of "seeking peace" in the region.

He said: "We have come to London to see if there is the possibility of opening a diplomatic window in the search for peace in southern Africa."

The team hoped to glean and provide information, pose questions and provide answers.

He emphasised that the true value of the meeting was that it would provide Pretoria with an opportunity to "talk directly to Angola".

Top Government sources today said it would require a major change of attitude and strategy on the part of the Angolans and Cubans for the talks to make any progress in ending the Angolan conflict.

They expressed doubt about whether progress would be possible at today's talks unless there had since been a substantial change in attitude on the part of "the other side".

South Africa evidently feels it has already made its major concession towards ending the regional conflict in that it has accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia.

However, its one condition — that Resolution 435 could not be implemented until the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops in the region had been sent home — remained unchanged.

The offer made to South Africa in March apparently involved the relocation of all Cuban forces in Angola to north of the 13th parallel, somewhere just south of the Benguela railway line, over a 12-month period. The Cubans were to be withdrawn from Angola altogether over a four-year period.

Withdrawal

In return for this, South Africa was to withdraw its forces from the region and implement Resolution 435.

South Africa rejected this on the basis that Resolution 435 would take seven months until the run-up of elections in Namibia.

Mr Botha reiterated yesterday that South Africa could not have "foreign troops dictating to South West Africa the way in which it should acquire its independence".

A source said: "South Africa is going there to talk about Cuban withdrawal. If there is no Cuban withdrawal, then there is no purpose in such talks."

The only possible new factor, he said, was if the Soviet Union had by some miracle exerted influence on Cuba to withdraw.

The source said South Africa was prepared to talk, but its position would remain clear — the Cubans must go.

● See Page 15.

Armed robbers grab R260 000

Crime Reporter

Two armed robbers made off with R257 000 from Rietgat Station near Pretoria yesterday after holding up the station master and three clerks.

The holdup was one of the largest in the Northern Transvaal, according to police.

The two men entered the office of station master Mr Karel Beneke (46)

at about 3.45 am while he and three clerks were counting weekend takings.

They took the cash and locked Mr Beneke and the clerks in the walk-in safe before fleeing.

No one was injured in the attack.

Anyone with information on the robbers is asked to contact the Pretoria Murder and Robbery Squad on (012) 323 8426.

CAP. T. 1. 3/5/88
Summit is 'no recipe for peace'

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — South Africa views the Angolan summit talks beginning here today as "the opening of a diplomatic window" and not an instant recipe for peace.

This emerged yesterday as the veil of secrecy finally began lifting to reveal the roles and expectations of the participating nations.

It is reliably understood that South Africa sees the meeting as "exploratory" rather than an attempt to find a solution.

It was learnt yesterday that the South African contingent is made up of members of the Foreign Affairs Department, the SADF and the National Intelligence Service.

The director general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, and the chief of the Defence Force,

General Jannie Geldenhuys, will head the team.

The United States will attend strictly in a "facilitating role" with only South Africa and the Angolan delegation — which includes a strong Cuban presence — doing the talking.

The United States is led by the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker. Also present will be Mr Herman Cohen, a member of the US National Security Council, the US ambassador to South Africa, Mr Edward Perkins and the US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defence, Mr James Woods.

The Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso Van-Dunem, will head the Angolan delegation. Other members include the armed forces chief of staff, Colonel Antonio dos Santos Franco, and the Minister of

Justice, Mr Fernando Van-Dunem. Mr Jorge Risquet, a member of Cuba's politburo and its top Africa expert, will lead the Cuban delegation.

● Swapo and Unita, who are absent from the talks, say no agreement can last without their involvement.

"We are going to let the negotiations evolve ... but for there to be peace in Angola, Unita must be part of the negotiating process," Unita's spokesman in Lisbon, Lieutenant-Colonel Alcides Sakala, told Reuters.

But the Angolan ambassador to Zambia, Mr Luis Kiambata, said: "If the South Africans bring Unita, we will walk out."

A Swapo spokesman told Reuters in London: "If the talks are about Namibia, then the talks should have Swapo round the table."

SA seeks 'window to peace' in Angola talks

ARGUS 3/5/88 (5)

From MICHAEL MORRIS
The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — South African negotiators opening talks in London today with the Angolans, Cubans and Americans have spoken of their hope of "opening a diplomatic window in the search for peace in Southern Africa".

But they warned against "over-hasty conclusions and overheated expectations". The search for a settlement of the Angolan question would take some time yet.

"National reconciliation" in Angola was as important a factor as the Cuban withdrawal or the implementation of UN Resolution 435. There was a hope the talks would lead to "negotiations at government level".

The South Africans also suggested they would be willing to have additional talks with the Soviets in London this week, if an invitation were extended.

The chief negotiator, Pretoria's Director-General of Foreign Affairs Mr Neil van Heerden, spoke of his hopes during a briefing at the South African embassy in Trafalgar Square last night.

"Exploratory"

He characterised the South African approach as "open" and "exploratory" and part of a process of "seeking peace". He said: "We have come to London to see if there is the possibility of opening a diplomatic window in the search for peace in Southern Africa.

The team hoped to glean and provide information, pose questions and provide answers. "We see this as a further step on a path which has a long way to go.

"This problem is several decades old and it would be foolish to assume that we are going to unravel it in a short first round.

"That does not mean we have come here seeking an endless negotiating cycle. The sooner we can conclude it, the sooner peace can be established. And in that we have a real interest, and therefore we must look constructively at every window of opportunity that opens on the issue.

Word of caution

"We will be doing so ... but we must sound a word of caution against over-hasty conclusions and overheated expectations."

He emphasised that the true value of the meeting was that it would provide Pretoria with an opportunity to "talk directly with Angola". Without divulging details, he confirmed the kernel of the talks would be proposals tabled by Angola on the issue of the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Cuba was involved, as part of the Angolan delegation, because it had a major stake in the situation.

Don't get too optimistic, says P W Botha



Political Correspondent

Cape Times 3/5/88
(5) (2)
SPEAKING on the eve of the four-power talks in London on the Angola-Namibian situation, President P W Botha yesterday warned against being "too over-optimistic" about a settlement in the region. Mr Botha said South Africa was prepared to contribute "our share" to finding a solution for problems in the subcontinent, provided the country was not told by outsiders what to do.

Speaking during his budget vote in the House of Representatives, Mr Botha added: "But I want to warn against being too over-optimistic because there are not only mischief-makers, but major mischief-makers all over the world who want to destroy

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From page 1

PW Botha

Cape Times 3/5/88
(5) (2)
every positive effort to bring about better conditions in southern Africa."

However, Mr Botha emphasized that the moment the Cubans left Angola and Namibia was out of danger, South African forces would leave too.

He said the government wanted SA troops to return to their primary responsibility of protecting South Africa's borders.

"The moment the Cubans go, then we have a new ball game — then the whole situation will take a turn for the better."

South Africa was a regional power and believed that it was in the interest of Namibia's future and that of the whole of Southern Africa that "the Cubans must go".

South Africa had said from the outset that the Cuban presence in Angola was contributing to the civil war and crippling the economic future of the country.

Mr Botha said that in talks he had held with African leaders in "recent weeks," he had told them that peace in Southern Africa could only be served if the Cubans left the region.

Peace moves must include us — Unita

Star 310788 (5)

The Star's Africa News Service

The Angolan rebel group Unita said yesterday that this week's London peace talks on Angola were "a positive sign", even though it would not be represented.

A Unita spokesman said from Lisbon that there was a deadlock in the war in Angola and therefore it was positive that the Luanda authorities were now talking about negotiations on a Cuban withdrawal.

But he warned that there could be no peace if Unita was not included in future negotiations.

The spokesman said there had been contacts between top-level members of the Angolan government and Unita, but refused to say who had been involved.

"From these contacts we know that there are very powerful figures in the ruling MPLA party who are tired of the war and want peace.

INDICATION

"All we want is an indication that the Luanda authorities want to negotiate and we will agree to it," he said.

The spokesman said it was clear that the Soviet Union wanted to find a solution to the Angolan war.

He said Angola's Foreign Minister Afonso van Dunem Mbinda had been in Lisbon last week and had publicly acknowledged that the Soviet Union had not informed the Luanda authorities about the talks it was having with the United States on the Angolan question.

The Unita spokesman confirmed that top-level contacts were taking place for further negotiations between all parties and would take place in Cape Verde if this week's London talks were successful.

The director of the Pretoria-based Africa Institute, Dr Erich Leistner, said South Africa and the Soviet Union had reasons to seek a political alternative to the war.

In an article published by the institute's *Africa Bulletin*, Dr Leistner said, however, that the reasons might not be compelling for either party.

He said most experts agreed that the Soviet Union was seeking stability and commercial relations with southern Africa.

Angola was a special case for the Soviet Union because of its heavy investment in prestige, arms and manpower there.

"The Soviet Union patently

cannot allow itself to be put in a position which even hints that it has yielded to, let alone been defeated by, South Africa of all countries," Dr Leistner wrote.

However, Moscow was very pragmatic in pursuing its objectives and if it could safeguard its interests in Angola through negotiation, this was referable to an expensive shooting war.

"From the Soviets' viewpoint it is clearly desirable to lower the financial costs of their involvement in Angola, though not at the price of diminished Soviet prestige in Africa and beyond," the Africa Institute's director said.

Because the Soviet Union viewed all of its international policy decisions in the light of its global struggle against the United States, it preferred a political settlement over a protracted armed struggle which could develop into a confrontation with Washington.

Dr Leistner said that for South Africa the reasons for reducing the human as well as financial costs of its involvement in Angola were presumably "even more cogent than for the USSR".

"The huge sums needed for warfare thousands of kilometres from its heartland — not to mention the costs of armaments in the context of the international arms boycott — are not available for the most crucial sphere of South Africa's struggle for survival, that is, the quest for a stable socio-political order at home," Dr Leistner said.

SPENDING CHOICE

He said the choice between spending money in socio-economic uplifting or in defence would sooner or later demand increasing attention from Pretoria.

He said direct talks between the Soviet Union and the South Africa would have some advantages to Pretoria.

However, if direct negotiations with Moscow were ever to take place, the Pretoria Government risked a further right-wing swing, more stringent punitive measures by the United States and the waning of support from conservative Western circles.

South Africa, however, could gain "a great deal by cautiously and tactfully exploring the possibility of entering into serious negotiations with the Soviet Union over Angola".

Cost the has reached onerous level
of war
Star 3/17/89
5

UK talks could mean vast changes in southern Africa

By Gerald L'Ange, The Star's Africa News Service

While nobody in informed circles expects dramatic results from the talks on Angola which start in London today, the negotiations show that major new factors are now affecting the Angolan situation.

Possibly the most important of these is that the costs of the war, economic as well as political, have reached onerous if not unacceptable levels for some of the participants.

This is likely to have an important effect on the future course of events and on the outcome of the talks.

"The economic costs, in particular, have reached a level where they could become conducive to a political settlement," says Mr Andre du Pisani, director of research at the South African Institute of International Affairs.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria agreed that the cost factor had become increasingly important for all participants except Cuba, which is paid by the Luanda government for the services of its troops, and which would probably not welcome the return of 40 000 troops to a Cuba troubled by unemployment.

The cost of the conflict appears to have become especially onerous for Luanda's MPLA government, whose forces have repeatedly been thrown back with heavy losses of men and materiel in offensives against the strongholds of the Unita rebels in south-eastern Angola.

According to the South African Defence Force, the total costs of last year's offensive might eventually equal the Luanda government's entire military budget for 1988-89, which in turn represents by far the major portion of its total budget.

For the Soviet Union, the billions of rands of sophisticated weaponry poured into the MPLA arsenals have brought only a stalemate on the battlefield and no consolidation of the Marxist MPLA's political hold on the country.

While the financial cost might not be unbearable to the Soviets, it must consume productive effort that Premier Mikhail Gorbachev would far rather divert to boosting the quality of life in the Soviet Union in line with his *glasnost* policy.

Unita's troop losses last year were probably the highest in any of the offensives. It repulsed the offensive and has since regained all lost ground and more, but might not have been able to do either without South Africa's help.

The cost to South Africa in last year's offensive and the subsequent battle at Cuito Cuanavale appears to have been higher in lives and armaments than in any year since it entered the conflict in 1975.

For all participants but Cuba, the offensive last year and the Cuito Cuanavale battle, which is still in deadlock, have led to a watershed decision on whether to carry on the costly fight or shift the emphasis to political solutions.

Hence the London talks, which represent possibly the

most ambitious effort yet to resolve the conflict in Angola. Although the Namibian issue is closely related to the Angolan question, the talks will focus on the latter because there is now general agreement that this is the issue that must be resolved first.

The two points that will be at issue, according to diplomatic sources, are the withdrawal of the Cuban troops and the status of Unita.

Angola is understood to have submitted a new timetable for the Cubans to withdraw following lengthy negotiations with the United States.

In return they are demanding a South African troop withdrawal from Angola and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia, which in turn involves

the withdrawal of the SADF from that territory. South Africa is widely considered not to be ready to pull out of Namibia because it cannot yet be reasonably certain that Swapo would not win an independence election.

Internal parties

So if the parties at the London talks grasp the nettle of Cuban withdrawal, they will be tugging at long roots going to the heart of the Namibian issue.

Those roots are entwined in unresolved matters such as South Africa's insistence on the Namibian internal parties participating ultimately in negotiations on the territory's future, and the impartiality of any UN involvement.

Unita's status will be discussed in its absence, the Angolans having refused to sit down with the rebels. Yet everybody around the table in London will know that Unita cannot be excluded in the end from a political settlement in Angola any more than Swapo can be ex-

cluded from a political settlement in Namibia.

Both would clearly have to be brought into further negotiations that will follow if the talks do not reach deadlock.

Unita support

It might come down eventually to a question of whether South Africa would be prepared to drop its support for Unita in return for Angola ceasing to support Swapo (which is likewise excluded from the London table). But that is still far down the road.

5 + 3/5/88 222

'Pray for massacred', urges ECC

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) has called on all South Africans to pray for the families of victims of the "Cassinga Massacre" in Angola — 624 people allegedly killed by the Defence Force in a cross-border raid in May 1978.

The ECC has also called for people to pray for peace in Angola, for an independent Namibia and for "all conscripts caught up in the South African Government's regional conflict".

It appealed to the Government to allow conscripts the choice of doing alternative national service.

The ECC said it would tomorrow remember the 167 women, 147 men, 298 children and 12 soldiers killed in "a six-hour massacre by 200 South African paratroopers at a refugee camp at Cassinga".

The Defence Force said at the time it had attacked the Vietnam and Moscow Swapo bases in the area in an attack called "Operation Reindeer".

In its press release, the ECC said it "noted with concern that the SADF was still illegally occupying Angola and that the Defence Force was also occupying Namibia against the will of the majority".

Peace talks get off to cordial start

CAPE TOWN — Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said yesterday the London negotiations between representatives of SA, US, Cuba and Angola had taken place in a friendly atmosphere.

He had been briefed on the talks by SA Director General of Foreign Affairs, Neil van Heerden, who is heading the SA delegation.

Botha declined to make any further comment on the talks.

The opposing sides in Angola's 13-year-old war began their unprecedented peace talks in a London hotel yesterday and delegates described their first negotiating session as friendly and constructive.

"The atmosphere was very cordial. Everything is going according to plan," SA diplomat Justus de Goede said after the opening session of the two days of talks.

A second session was planned in the afternoon.

Van Heerden said before the talks started that his country had an "exploratory and open" attitude to the negotiations, which will focus on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for SA-ruled Namibia.

"We have come to London to see if there is an opening of the diplomatic window in search of peace in southern Africa," Van Heerden said. But he warned against "over-heated expectations".

IAN HOBBS reports that representatives of Angola's MPLA regime and the Unita rebels have been holding a series of sensitive meetings in East Berlin, according to reliable sources in London.

The ultra-secret talks in East Germany began last week but were arranged in parallel with the London talks

● To Page 2 →

Friendly atmosphere at London negotiations

on Angola, it was claimed.

East Berlin was chosen as the venue to ensure maximum privacy and minimum embarrassment for the two warring forces.

Spokesmen for Unita and the MPLA are denying any knowledge of the talks, but denials were expected.

The level of representation at the East Berlin pathfinder meeting is not known but an African source in London stressed: "The important thing is that they are taking place at all."

The plan for the meetings was final-

ised and forced on Unita and the MPLA regime two months ago following the "glasnost" breakthroughs by US secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnaze.

It is claimed that representatives of Swapo were not invited to join the meeting, which could serve the purpose of establishing ground rules for possible future peace meetings if the London talks achieve success. — Sapa-Reuter.

← ● From Page 1

'SA not interested in Angola talks'

Star 21/5/88
By Michael Morris,
The Star Bureau

LONDON — AS talks to explore an Angolan peace formula resumed today, concerns emerged that the absence of Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha from the unprecedented London meeting signalled a lack of commitment on Pretoria's part.

The Angolan and Cuban teams are notable for their ministerial seniority.

South Africa's team, led by the highly-regarded Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, nevertheless lacks a senior ministerial com-

ponent.

A source close to the Angolan negotiators said yesterday afternoon: "There is a feeling that the fact that the South Africans have not sent Pik Botha or a Minister of similar seniority suggests that in the end they will not really be interested in this initiative."

A news "black-out", imposed by mutual agreement, kept the substance of the day's proceedings shrouded in secrecy.

Angolan proposals for a phased withdrawal of the 35 000 to 40 000 Cuban troops are the focus of attention, but neither

side has been willing to show its hand.

Unsubstantiated speculation yesterday afternoon was that a limited ceasefire agreement and a South African commitment to withdraw from Cuito Cuanavale were the likely initial results.

The meeting is continuing at an obscure hotel a few blocks north of London's busy Oxford Street shopping precinct.

● Mr Pik Botha said in a brief statement last night that Mr van Heerden had reported to him on the talks. Mr Botha would not comment on the progress of the talks, except to say they had taken place in a friendly spirit.

SA wants stable Angola — PW⁵

CAPE TOWN — South Africa had no claims against Angola but negotiated to get the Cubans off African soil in its region, the State President, Mr P. W. Botha, said yesterday.

Replying to debate on his budget vote, he said South Africa had a keen interest in a stable Angola. DID 41584

"We have no claims on Angola but as an import-

ant regional power we have an interest in a stable Angola.

"Dr Savimbi has said he wants to go to the conference table, that he does not want to make war if he can come to a settlement and I support him.

"The Cubans however are disturbing the peace in southern Africa. They have nothing to do with Africa and that is why

we are at the (London) negotiations," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha added that he would also be prepared to meet the President of Mozambique, Mr Joaquim Chissano, to revive the instruments of the Nkomati Accord.

The Accord was important to South Africa and particularly the north eastern Transvaal. — Sapa

WHO'S WHO AT THE TALKS

THE four diplomatic teams in the Angola talks are:

■SOUTH AFRICA: Neil van Heerden, director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs; General Jannie Geldenhuys, Chief of the South African Defence Force; Mr Herbert Beukes, deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Dr Piet Koornhof, Ambassador to Washington; Mr Rae Killen, Ambassador to London; and an unnamed member of the National Intelligence Service.

■ANGOLA: Mr Afonso van Dunem, Foreign Minister; Mr Fernandes van Dunem, Justice Minister; General Antonio dos Santos Franco, mili-



Mr Herbert Beukes



Mr Ed Perkins



Mr Neil van Heerden



Mr Rae Killen



General J Geldenhuys

tary chief of staff; and Mr Vanencio de Mora, Deputy Foreign Minister.

■CUBA: Mr Jorge Risquet, Politburo member responsible for foreign affairs; General Ulises Rosales del Toro, military chief of staff; Mr Rudolfo Puente Ferro, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Mr Jose Arbesu, head of

the Department of the Americas.

■UNITED STATES: Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; Mr Herman Cohen, member of the National Security Council with the status of Ambassador; Mr Ed Perkins, Ambassador in South Africa; and Mr James Woods, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Concern mounting over Pik's absence

The Argus Foreign Service LONDON — As talks to explore an Angolan peace formula resumed today, concern was growing that the absence of Foreign Minister Pik Botha from the unprecedented London meeting signalled a lack of commitment on Pretoria's part.

The Angolan and Cuban teams are notable for their ministerial seniority.

South Africa's team is led by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden.

A source close to the Angolan negotiators said yesterday: "There is a feeling that the fact that the South Africans have not sent Pik Botha or a Minister of similar seniority sug-

gests that in the end they will not really be interested in this initiative."

Earlier yesterday a spokesman for the South Africans said the talks began in a "cordial" atmosphere and were "going well, as expected".

But a news blackout, imposed by mutual agreement, kept the substance of the day's talks secret.

Angolan proposals for a phased withdrawal of the 35 000 to 40 000 Cuban troops are the focus of attention, but neither side has been willing to show its hand.

There was speculation yesterday that a limited ceasefire agreement and a South African commitment to withdraw from Cuito Cuanavale were the like-

ly initial results of the two-day encounter.

A US State Department team headed by Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker is chairing the meeting.

The delicacy of the talks is underscored by the ferocity of the recent military exchanges in southern Angola.

None of the forces involved wants an expensive and apparently unwinnable war to continue.

Dr Crocker, who has been trying to resolve the conflict diplomatically for the past eight years, is anxious to encourage all sides to seek common ground, and to soften their demands to enable a peace process to emerge.

D/D 415/88

News blackout enforced over Angola war talks

LONDON — A news blackout was enforced last night after four-nation talks in London over the Angola war survived the first day with the mood apparently good.

The talks are aimed at ending 13 years of bloody civil war in Angola and guerilla conflict in Namibia.

The representatives of South Africa, the United States, Cuba and Angola will resume the meeting this morning.

There had been fears that the meeting would not even survive the first of the scheduled two days — and that alone was considered promising.

At the conclusion of the morning session, South Africa's chief negotiator, the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Niel van Heerden, said South Africa had approached the meeting with an "open and exploratory attitude" to any serious attempt to end the conflict.

Mr Van Heerden emphasised the pathfinder nature of the meetings by warning against "overheated" expecta-

tions".

He added: "We have come to London to see if there is an opening of the diplomatic window in search of peace in Southern Africa."

The key figures in the South African delegation with Mr Van Heerden were: the chief of the armed forces, General Jannie Geldenhuys; the ambassador in Washington, Dr Piet Koornhof; and the Foreign Affairs assistant director and former Washington ambassador, Mr Herbert Beukes.

The Americans, sitting as "mediators" were led by the assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker; the ambassador to the United Nations Security Council, Mr Herman Cohen; the South African ambassador, Mr Edward Perkins; and the deputy assistant Secretary for Defence, Mr James Woods.

When asked if progress was made, an American diplomat with the party said: "We are through the first day."

The Angolan team was led by the Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso van Dunem.

Cuban aides with Mr Jorge Risquet Valdes were not named. He sat with the Angolans as an observer.

Meanwhile, representatives of Angola's MPLA regime and the Unita rebels have been at a series of sensitive meetings in East Berlin, according to a reliable source in London.

The ultra-secret talks in communist-controlled East Germany began last

week but were arranged in parallel with the four-nation talks on Angola and Namibia in London, it was claimed.

East Berlin was chosen as the venue to ensure maximum privacy and minimum embarrassment for the two warring forces.

Spokesmen for Unita and the MPLA are denying any knowledge of the talks, but denials were expected

Pik: Talks
on Angola
'friendly'

Political Staff

YESTERDAY'S summit talks in London on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola had taken place in a "friendly atmosphere", the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, said last night.

He declined to comment on progress made at the talks.

The talks between South Africa, the United States and Angola, he said, were about Cuban withdrawal as the prerequisite for the implementation of UN Resolution 435 in Namibia.

Cuban representatives, he added, had also been present.

Talks on Angola

(L) LONDON — Delegations from South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States began talks in London yesterday hoping to achieve a breakthrough in deadlocked efforts to end the war in Angola.

The negotiations, held in the discreet atmosphere of a small hotel in central London, are the first involving the four main countries concerned in the 13-year-old Angolan conflict.

The talks, the first held by the four allies and foes in the conflict, are seen by many observers as the most encouraging development so far in protracted efforts to win peace and secure independence for South Africa-ruled Namibia.

The South African and Angolan delegations faced each other, Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso van-Dunem flanked by Cuban representative Jorge Risquet. — Sapa-Reuter.

South Africa 4-15-88

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Follow-up to Angola talks planned — Pik (S)

Daily Dispatch Correspondents

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, last night appeared cautiously optimistic about the two days of talks between South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States which ended yesterday.

Mr Botha said it had been agreed that a follow-up meeting would be held at a venue in Africa at a later date.

Mr Botha declined to give details about the South African standpoint at the talks.

The talks ended on a high note in London.

The US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, who chaired the meetings, told an international press conference at the US Embassy that there were serious problems to overcome but "nothing is unbridgeable".

As he spoke the South African delegation headed by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, and SA Defence Force chief, General Jannie Geldenhuys, were already flying home to report to President P. W. Botha.

All parties had agreed to a news blackout and Mr Van Heerden would say only that "progress" had been made and the talks had been held in a "constructive atmosphere".

Dr Crocker said the antagonist

forces of South Africa, Angola and Cuba had been given the first opportunity to exchange their differing points of view face-to-face.

They had done so with a sensible approach and recognition that peaceful settlement would require compromises.

Dr Crocker said the rebel Angolan force of Unita and Swapo had not been represented in London because the first talks had been between sovereign powers. However, the "issues and interests" of Unita and Swapo were "by no means put to one side".

Cautiously emphasising the role of the two superpowers Dr Crocker said the new peace process had been assisted by improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union which shared some common ground in working for peace in the area.

Dr Crocker said that while he could not reveal specific details of the talks, the Angolan government acting jointly with the Cubans had, in March this year, put forward proposals which for the first time incorporated the "concept of total Cuban troop withdrawal over a period of time".

He added: "So that proposal was clearly on the table and the subject of discussion. I would say it was in some respects the natural principle focus of discussion during the talks."

See also page 13

African venue for Angola talks

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Own Correspondent

LONDON. — The four-power conference for peace in Angola and Namibia has agreed to a follow-up meeting in an unnamed African capital "within weeks".

It is believed the venue will be the Cape Verde Islands and that specific proposals for the withdrawal of up to 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola top the agenda with unspecified reciprocal offers from South Africa on withdrawal from Angola and Namibia.

A joint statement issued by South Africa, the United States, Angola and Cuba said the talks had taken place in a "constructive atmosphere" and that "progress" had been made.

'Important step'

US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker, who chaired the meeting, said it was an "important first step".

As he spoke the high-power South African delegation headed by deputy Foreign Minister Mr Neil van Heerden and Defence Force Chief General Jannie Geldenhuys was flying home to report to President P.W. Botha.

Dr Crocker said the Angolan government, acting jointly with the Cubans had, in March this year, put forward proposals which incorporated the "concept of total Cuban troop withdrawal over a period of time".

America would continue to mediate as long as the warring parties "stayed serious. It is after all their boys dying in these wars, not ours", he said.

In Cape Town Foreign Minister Mr P.W. Botha cautioned that while he was heartened by the course the talks had taken he could not speculate on the eventual results.

He added: "I trust that those on Capitol Hill will pause and think before proceeding to legislate further sanctions against Southern Africa because it is impossible to target sanctions against South Africa alone."

The steps also come at a time when an operation was performed on Siamese twins which seized the imagination and compassionate support of all South Africans, irrespective of their colour.

Cuba cannot be tagged a Russian puppet

From The Star's
Washington Bureau

As negotiators from four of the involved countries haggle in London over the Angolan civil war, it is worth asking why the Cubans are at the table anyway.

Aren't the Cubans just the hired guns, the Third World mercenaries sent in by Moscow to do the dirty work? Why waste time with them? Why not talk directly to their bosses in the Kremlin?

In a new publication, Mrs Helen Kitchen, one of Washington's most respected Africa analysts, argues that the twin concepts that the Soviets use Cubans as a proxy force and tell them where to go, and that Havana makes a nice profit from its activities in Africa are simplistic views.

The actual situation is far more complex, she says.

Mrs Kitchen, director of African studies at Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, notes that while many Cuban activities in Africa synchronise with Soviet policies and while Cuban operations could not take place without Soviet assistance, the two countries do not have a master-puppet association.

"Cuba has often taken the lead in establishing relations with African states, sometimes pulling the Soviet Union into a relationship with a state faster than Moscow intended.

"At other times, Cuba has sought African relationships in order to convey independence from Moscow. And once Cuba is involved in a country, its interests do not always coincide with those of the Soviet Union."

Mrs Kitchen provides two instances where the Cubans and the Soviets had different approaches to

Russian puppet



Castro . . . earning respect in the Third World.

African situations. One was active Cuban involvement in the defeat of an attempted coup by MPLA hardliners against President Agostinho Neto in 1978 while the Soviets did nothing.

The second was an unsuccessful effort by the Cubans to persuade Moscow to support Mr Robert Mugabe and his Zanu party during the Rhodesian conflict. The Soviets insisted on supporting Mr Joshua Nkomo and Zapu — who were the big losers.

There is evidence that the Cubans don't always make the profits in Africa that they are reputed to be making. They have been known to waive costs when their African clients have not been able to meet the huge financial burden of a Cuban military and civilian presence.

So why are they there?

"One factor is Castro's ambition to be recognised as a leader of importance and to enhance Cuba's interna-

tional prestige," Mrs Kitchen says.

"By appearing to save black Angolans from attack by white-ruled South Africa, Castro earns prestige for Cuba. Similarly, Havana hopes that the role of Cuban medical and other civilian personnel in a wide range of African countries will encourage Africans to regard Cuba with special respect and support Castro in various international debates, including Cuba's long-term squabble with the US."

Mrs Kitchen argues that among the lessons Cuba has learnt in Angola are these four:

- African wars can be unexpectedly long and difficult, pulling Havana in much deeper than originally intended.

- Such involvement can cause unintended conflicts with the Soviet Union.

- Involvement in an African war can be a long-term economic drain, rather than a source of economic benefit.

- Cuban casualties eventually cause social problems at home, as do fears associated with the prevalence of Aids in Africa.

On the plus side, she says, the Angolan experience has proved that much respect can be won in the Third World by "standing up to South Africa".

As the 1990s approach, Mrs Kitchen forecasts, Cuba is likely to think carefully before getting involved militarily elsewhere in southern Africa at the level it is now involved in Angola.

"Havana will want to continue to appear to fight apartheid, however, and therefore may consider providing training in the use of Soviet arms while staying well back from any front lines with or within South Africa.

"It may choose to send more civilian personnel (doctors and teachers) to additional states in southern Africa and provide more scholarships in Cuba."

"Havana may also provide technicians to help rebuild infrastructure destroyed by South Africa or South African-associated guerrillas, and it may help in the training of local militias that fear attack from South Africa.

Business Daily

THURSDAY, MAY 5 1988

60c (54c + 6c tax)

L. and CAPE 80c (71c + 9c tax)

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Positive end for Angolan peace talks

LONDON — The four-nation talks here on Angola have been a success, and a follow-up meeting will take place shortly at an unnamed African venue.

SA, Angola, Cuba and the US ended the two days of peace talks yesterday and said in a joint communique: "The meetings took place in a constructive atmosphere and progress was made."

The talks, the first held between the four parties involved in the 13-year-old Angolan war, focused on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for SA-ruled Namibia.

No details of what was discussed were revealed but diplomats attending the talks stressed the significance of the fact that the four allies and enemies in the

Angolan conflict had sat down to negotiate directly for the first time.

The meeting was chaired by US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, who headed the US delegation.

A joint Angolan-Cuban delegation was headed by Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso van Dunem, while Department of Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden led SA's delegation.

The SA, Angolan and Cuban delegations included their countries' highest-ranking military chiefs, reflecting the strategic play of forces in Angola.

Angola has offered to withdraw an estimated 40 000 Cuban troops, a move long sought by Washington and Pretoria. In return Angola wants independence

for Namibia, a withdrawal of SA troops from southern Angola and an end to US and SA support for Unita.

Crocker said he believed differences between the opposing sides in Angola's 13-year-old war could be resolved.

"While some progress has been made and an important step has been taken, there are big issues that lie ahead and gaps that need to be bridged," Crocker said.

He added: "We don't think that any of these need be unbridgeable."

Asked whether the South Africans had appeared willing to discuss only Angola and not independence for neighbouring Namibia, Crocker replied: "I didn't detect that." — Sapa-Reuter.

'Peace is attainable' in SWA and Angola

'Re-engagement in diplomacy' must continue after talks, says Crocker

PEACE in Angola and SWA/Namibia was attainable if the "re-engagement in diplomacy", which began in at the peace talks in London, continued constructively at the next meeting, the chief American mediator, Assistant Secretary of State Dr. Chester Crocker, predicted yesterday.

The next meeting, scheduled to take place at an African venue within weeks, would step up the pace of the process, focusing on "highly specific, concrete details still to be worked out".

Positive results would depend on South Africa and Angola. A ceasefire agreement and the "unraveling of the entangled forces" would be necessary for settlement negotiations to succeed.

America would continue to offer its mediatory services. He warned against the "risks of pursuing military solutions", adding "It is, after all, their (South Africa's, Angola's and Cuba's) boys who are dying in these wars, not ours."

The scope for a settlement capable of gaining indifferent American and Soviet backing was within reach if "outlines emerged more clearly".

That, he suggested, would depend very much on the political will of South Africa and Angola to pursue diplomacy through compromise and mutual agreement by "narrowing the gaps" between their respective demands.

"That's the work that lies ahead," he said. Dr Crocker put the four-nation London talks into perspective at a Press briefing several hours after a joint South African, Angolan and Cuban statement emerged, saying the meeting had been "constructive" and that "progress" had been made.

Earlier, the South Africans said they believed progress had been achieved as the talks amounted to "getting to know each other's points of view on the issues surrounding the Cuban withdrawal and Resolution 435 directly from the other parties".

There was a common "deep and genuine desire for peace in the region". One South African source said: "A great deal more will have to be done before we can accurately determine how real the chances of a settlement are, but this first meeting was constructive and made progress towards establishing that."

Dr Crocker said: "What's been going on here represents a re-engagement in diplomacy, but does not represent a settlement."

The London meeting focused on "the basic issues of principle" — the technical specifics — over which there were major differences of opinion.

He said: "It is clear the parties recognize that a peaceful settlement involves compromise. There were initial efforts on each side to get ideas from each other on the conceptual approach to issues that have not been discussed between them before."

He added: "We would emphasise that while progress has been made and an important step taken, there are big and tough issues lying ahead, and gaps that will need to be bridged. We do not feel those need be unbridgeable."

The delegations demonstrated "a serious and businesslike approach. We were impressed by the tone of discussion, the absence of polemics and the iteration of serious purpose."

"Without that, one obviously does not get much done. That bodes well for the work lies ahead."

From MICHAEL MORRIS in London

The time-frame of Angola's phased withdrawal proposal was "not one that is very likely to represent the end of the process."

"It is clear to us there are some gaps to be narrowed (between South African and Angolan demands), but it is also clear on both sides there is a readiness to take necessary decisions to do that. We will see."

Dr Crocker said he had not detected an "unwillingness" on South Africa's part to withdraw from Angola.

Asked about the SWA/Namibia element of Angola's demands, he said: "The questions of Namibia and Angola are closely related. We do not see any other way to settle it and apparently the parties do not either. That's the framework in which they are negotiating."

Within the broader context of international relations, he said, the Angolan issue was relevant to the United States' relations with the Soviet Union.

"What may be significant here is that there may be a mutual recognition that it can be useful if... some effort is made to explore how it might be possible for us to support a settlement if outlines emerged more clearly."

Meanwhile, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. P. Botha, has expressed his satisfaction with the progress reported at the conclusion of the London talks.

At a Press conference yesterday, he said he had told the State President about the course and substance of the talks so far and would be providing him with more details once the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Niel van Heerden, returned to Cape Town. Mr. van Heerden led the 12-man South African delegation.

Mr. Botha described the Angola talks and the recent exchange of goodwill messages between President P. W. Botha and President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique as a new "serious initiative" having been launched in the sub-continent.

He also called on American legislators to consider these initiatives and to take into account that in the same week a historical separation of Siamese twins had united all South Africans in a spontaneous demonstration of compassion and support. This was an "appropriate time to think of a act (us)".

The Minister could not say at this stage what results would flow from the talks, but he immediately rejected reports in London newspapers that his absence was a sign of a lack of interest in the talks or that he did not take them seriously.

The reports had been taken into the negotiating room and had been denied by the Angolans, who confirmed that the talks had been arranged at official level only, specifically excluding him.

"I believe this is the way the problems of the region ought to be resolved, by meeting around the conference table," he said.

Mr. Botha disclosed that the talks had resulted from his meeting with Dr Crocker in Geneva in March and subsequent exchanges between their governments.

Other diplomatic sources indicated that the South African Government might be more excited by the outcome of the talks than the thus far bland joint statement recording "progress" indicated.

The participation of Dr Savimbi's Unita movement in the next round of talks was considered possible.

It is understood that Dr Savimbi has had firm undertakings from the South Africans which were reflected in the as yet highly confidential proposals presented to their Angolan and Cuban counterparts.

These sources also point out that the recent visit of General Jacinto Veloso and the exchanges of presidential goodwill messages undoubtedly touched on the Angolan talks and that Mozambique might have played a "broker" role as it had done with the release of Major Wynand du Toit.

If this role was limited it was likely to grow after last week's exchanges.

Another factor that has raised the South Africans' hopes of success is the apparent generosity of Cuba's offer to withdraw its troops from Angola.

Dr Crocker said Swapo's and Unita's interests were not being sidelined by the latest Angolan diplomatic initiative.

Speaking after the four-nation talks, he said: "The outcome of this process has implications for both movements."

He said the London talks had taken place among sovereign governments "by mutual agreement". This did not mean Swapo's and Unita's interests were being "served".

Dr Crocker said: "The question of removing foreign forces from Angola is the best way to create conditions in which internal peace and reconciliation can occur, so that the issues and interests relating to those parties are by no means being put on one side. They are very much in the minds of the people involved."

He emphasised that the United States "has no intention of ending its relationship" with Unita, adding that this had been the subject of bilateral talks with Angola.

However, America's relationship with the rebel movement was not a feature of the four-nation peace talks.

"We did not come here to negotiate issues which are not part of the settlement and our relationship with Unita is not a bargaining chip in these discussions."

Unita was nevertheless a vital element in the Angolan spectrum.

Dr Crocker said: "There is no doubt Unita is a significant political force, a significant nationalist force. The Angolan parties are going to have to decide how to live at peace with each other."

"It's their business how and when and on what terms they achieve that, but it was not on the table for these talks. We sense there is a recognition of that on all sides."



The Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Alfonso Van Dunem, arrives for the second session of talks on SWA/Namibia in London.

The South African Ambassador in Washington, Dr Piet Koornhof, arrives for the peace talks in London.

We met Govt, says Unita

LISBON — Angola's Unita rebels said yesterday they had held high-level talks with the Luanda Government which they have been fighting for 13 years, but official Angolan sources here denied it.

Mr. Alcides Sakala, chief European spokesman of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), said the two sides had met several times in European and African cities this year.

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Castro's expanding aims in Africa

From NEIL LURSEN, ^{NEWS} 1/5/88 Argus Foreign Service, in Washington

AS negotiators from four of the countries involved haggled in London this week over the Angolan civil war, questions were being asked on why the Cubans were at the table.

Aren't the Cubans just the hired guns, the Third World mercenaries sent in by Moscow to do the dirty work? Why waste time with them? Why not talk directly to their bosses in the Kremlin?

In a new publication, Mrs Helen Kitchen, one of Washington's most respected Africa analysts, argues that the twin concepts that the Soviet Union uses Cubans as a proxy force and tell them where to go and that Havana makes a nice profit from its activities in Africa are simplistic views.

The actual situation is far more complex, she says.

Mrs Kitchen, who is director of African studies at Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, notes that while many Cuban activities in Africa synchronise with Soviet policies and while Cuban operations could not take place without Soviet assistance, the two countries do not have a master-puppet association.

"Cuba has often taken the lead in establishing relations with African states, sometimes pulling the Soviet Union into a relationship with a state faster than Moscow intended.

"At other times, Cuba has sought African relationships in order to convey independence from Moscow. And once Cuba is involved in a country, its interests do not always coincide with those of the Soviet Union," she says.

Mrs Kitchen cites the testimony

of Arkady Shevchenko, a senior Soviet diplomat who defected to the United States in 1978, to support the view that Cuba's own Africa policy is the tail that sometimes wags the Moscow dog rather than the other way round.

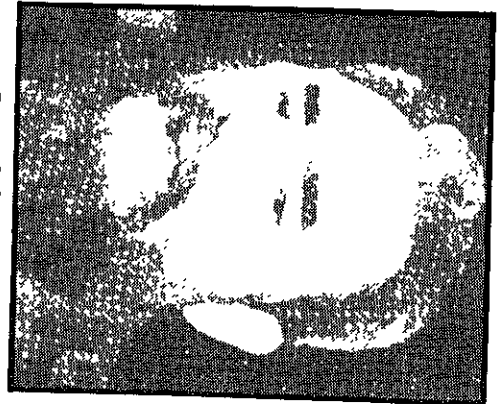
Shevchenko, who was party to Moscow decision-making at a very senior level, reported that when Cuban forces intervened in Angola in 1976, the idea for a large-scale military operation originated in Havana and not in Moscow.

Mrs Kitchen provides two examples where the Cubans and the Russians had different approaches to African situations. One was active Cuban involvement in the defeat of an attempted coup by MPLA hard-liners against Angolan President Agostinho Neto in 1978 while the Soviet Union did nothing.

The second was an unsuccessful effort by the Cubans to persuade Moscow to support Mr Robert Mugabe and his Zanu party during the Rhodesian conflict. The Soviet Union insisted on supporting Mr Joshua Nkomo and Zapu — who were the big losers.

There is evidence that the Cubans don't always make the profits in Africa that they are reputed to be getting. They have been known to waive costs when their African clients have not been able to meet the huge financial burden of a Cuban military and civilian presence.

So why are they there? "One factor is (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro's ambition to be recognised as a leader of importance and



Dr Fidel Castro

to enhance Cuba's international prestige," Mrs Kitchen says.

"By appearing to save black Angolans from attack by white-ruled South Africa, Castro earns prestige for Cuba. Similarly, Havana hopes that the role of Cuban medical and other civilian personnel in a wide range of African countries will encourage Africans to regard Cuba with special respect and support Castro in various international debates, including Cuba's long-term squabble with the US."

Mrs Kitchen argues that among the lessons Cuba has learned in Angola are these four:

- African wars can be unexpectedly long and difficult, pulling Havana in much deeper than originally intended;

- Such involvement can cause unintended conflicts with the Soviet Union;

- Involvement in an African war can be a long-term economic drain rather than a source of economic benefit; and

- Cuban casualties eventually cause social problems at home, as do fears associated with the prevalence of Aids in Africa.

On the plus side, she says, the Angolan experience has proved that much respect can be won in the Third World by "standing up to South Africa".

But as the 1990s approach, Mrs Kitchen forecasts, Cuba is likely to think carefully before getting involved militarily elsewhere in Southern Africa to the same extent as in Angola.

"Havana will want to continue to appear to fight apartheid, however, and therefore may consider providing training in the use of Soviet arms while slaying well back from any front lines with or within South Africa.

"It may choose to send more civilian personnel (doctors and teachers) to additional states in Southern Africa and provide more scholarships in Cuba."

Havana might also provide technicians to help rebuild infrastructure destroyed by South Africa or South African-associated guerrillas and it might help train local militias that feared attack from South Africa.

Mrs Kitchen writes that the United States needs to get its facts right on Cuba's actions in Africa so that American policy will be appropriate.

Cuba 'lost only 1 000 in Angola'

The Star's Foreign News Service

BONN — Cuba has lost 1 000 men in the 12-year-old civil war in Angola, the president of the Cuban parliament, Mr Severo Aguirre del Cristo, said yesterday.

Mr Aguirre was speaking during a visit to Bonn by a Cuban delegation.

He challenged South African claims that 5 000 Cubans had died in Angola.

Peace 'attainable', Crocker tells press

By Michael Morris, The Star Bureau

LONDON — Peace in Angola and Namibia was attainable if the "re-engagement in diplomacy" in London continued constructively at the next meeting, chief United States mediator Dr Chester Crocker said yesterday.

The next meeting, scheduled to take place at an African venue within weeks, would step up the pace of the process, focusing South African, Angolan and Cuban attention on "highly specific, concrete details still to be worked out", he declared.

Positive results would depend on South Africa and Angola. A ceasefire agreement and the

"untangling of the entangled forces" would be necessary for settlement negotiations to succeed.

The US Assistant Secretary of State warned against the risks of pursuing military solutions, adding: "It is, after all, their (South Africa's, Angola's and Cuba's) boys who are dying in these wars, not ours."

The scope for a settlement capable of gaining influential US-Soviet backing was within reach if outlines emerged more clearly.

That, he suggested, would depend very much on the political will of South Africa and Angola to pursue diplomacy through compromise and

mutual agreement, by "narrowing the gaps" between their respective demands.

"That's the work that lies ahead."

Dr Crocker put the four-nation London talks into perspective at a press briefing several hours after a joint South African, Angolan and Cuban statement — that the meeting had been constructive and that progress had been made — had been issued.

Earlier, the South Africans said they believed progress had been achieved as the talks amounted to "getting to know each other's points of view on the issues surrounding the Cuban withdrawal and Resolution 435 directly from the other parties".

They added that there was a common "deep and genuine desire for peace in the region".

Dr Crocker said it was clear the parties involved recognised that a peaceful settlement involved compromise.



At the talks yesterday (from left): Mr Jorge Risuudt Valbes of Cuba, Angolan Foreign Minister Alfonso van Dunem, Dr Chester Crocker of the US and the SA delegation leader, Mr Neil van Heerden.

Demos and bomb blast in Namibia

WINDHOEK — Police fired rubber bullets, a bomb caused minor damage and two Owambos were killed in an accident, as Namibia remembered the South African Defence Force's raid into Cassinga yesterday.

The raid, 10 years ago, left more than 520 dead.

Hopes of troop withdrawal raised

CAPE TOWN — Cuba has reacted positively to South African proposals for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola, raising hopes of real progress on the issue, according to informed sources.

Last night Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha welcomed the development but issued a thinly veiled warning that if the American Congress persisted with its latest sanctions legislation against South Africa, negotiations on Angola and with Mozambique could be jeopardised.

The two-day negotiations in London between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the US ended yesterday with an agreement to hold further rounds of talks at an African venue.

A brief joint statement released in London by the parties to the talks said the meetings took place in a constructive atmosphere and progress had been made.

Mr Botha said last night that reports in the British press to the effect that the Angolan delegation felt he had snubbed the talks were completely untrue.

Stalemate continues as opposing sides dig in around Cuito Cuanavale

Star 6/5/88

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Cuito Cuanavale is on the frontline of Angola's war with South Africa. Once a thriving town, today it is a battered army base, defended as vigorously as it is attacked. It plays a vital strategic role in the latest round of fighting in a conflict that began 13 years ago.

It has one of the southernmost airfields available to the Soviet-backed MPLA government and it is the site of one of a chain of radar installations which arc across southern Angola.

The town has been the target of some of the heaviest fighting seen since South Africa's first incursion into Angola in 1975. Pretoria's long-range heavy artillery, dug in 32 km away, has been bombarding Cuito Cuanavale — reaching a peak in March of between 100 and 250 shells a day.

But it was comparatively quiet in Cuito Cuanavale when I visited. Only two shells were fired, landing with a thump about a kilometre from the town centre.

Once-attractive villas now appear abandoned. Not a civilian vehicle is to be seen.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fernando Amandio Mateus, commander of the region, believes a new South African offensive might be imminent. His officers estimate that 5 000 to 9 000 South African troops are ranged in a

Once-attractive red-tiled villas appear abandoned or are occupied by the army. Armoured personnel carriers and military trucks rumble along dusty streets. Not a civilian vehicle is to be seen. AKWE AMOSU reports from battered Cuito Cuanavale.

crescent 40km to the east, on the far side of the Cuito River valley. Unofficial estimates put the Angolan strength at about 6 000 men ringing the town.

Major Nando, commanding officer of Cuito Cuanavale, told the visiting MPs that the situation had stabilised since a big battle on March 23, when a South African attack was repulsed.

Officers in the town, however, acknowledge that the South Africans have the capacity to launch an attack that would stretch the town's defences, but are confident that they would win the day.

The Unita army of Dr Jonas Savimbi poses a different threat, employing traditional guerilla tactics of ambushes and hit-and-run attacks, say officers.

The battle for Cuito Cuanavale was the main reason, say the officers, for the decision late last year to move the southern

limit of the 40 000-strong Cuban military force, which backs the MPLA, from the 15th to approximately the 16th parallel.

One of their roles is to guard the road from Menongue, 192 km to the west, which carries Cuito Cuanavale's vital fuel supplies.

Anti-aircraft installations are intended to forestall any South African Air Force attack on the road. Part of the forces defending Cuito Cuanavale are actually facing westwards towards Menongue, in case South African troops should attempt to move around the southern perimeter and cut off the road.

Angola's air force is thought to have the edge over the South Africans, partly because its Soviet-built MiG-23 fighters are superior to Pretoria's Mirages. But access to the Cuito Cuanavale airstrip is hazardous because the proximity of South African firepower makes landing and take-off risky.

In effect, there is a stalemate over the airstrip, with the South Africans unable to capture it while making conditions too hazardous for it to be used by the Angolans. And the stalemate in Cuito Cuanavale is, for the time being at least, reflected on the wider battlefield of this war. — *London Financial Times.*

DID 6/5/88

Cuba: troops stay till SWA ^(S) independent ^(M)

LONDON — Cuba has reinforced its troops in Angola to more than 35 000, to be withdrawn only when South Africa grants independence to Namibia, a Cuban Government official said yesterday.

Mr Jorge Risquet, who led the Cuban delegation to the four-party peace talks here this week, said the reinforcements had been brought in to stem an escalating South African invasion of southern Angola since October.

He said about 9 000 South African troops, backed by tanks, armoured cars, planes and artillery were taking part in the latest incursion.

"In the face of this extraordinary aggression, extraordinary measures were necessary to paralyse and repel it."

He referred to a recent article in the official Cuban newspaper Granma, which said Cuban reinforcements in the form of mechanised

infantry units, tanks and artillery and anti-aircraft units had recently been transported to Angola.

Mr Risquet said his government's view of the London talks was that they concerned securing independence for Namibia and obtaining guarantees for the security of Angola.

These included a withdrawal of South African troops to within South Africa's borders, and an end to South African and US support for the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

"If these conditions are met, the Cuban military contingent will have finished its internationalist mission and will return home."

He said four years was proposed by Angola as a timetable for the total Cuban pullout sought by Washington and South Africa.

He said he was moderately optimistic about reaching a negotiated settlement.

Reacting to the Cuban statement, the leader of the South African delegation, the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, said last night the leaking of details of the ongoing agreement and negotiations on a selective basis was contrary to an agreement between the parties.

He told reporters it had been agreed that none of the parties would release details on the talks which were of the kind that could not be conducted in public, and expressed the hope that references to a timetable by the Angolan delegation were not the beginning of a process of selective leaks.— Sapa.

unclear

ion. ^(M)
He confirmed written notice of application for leave to appeal was served on him by the State Attorney at 9.30 am yesterday.

The mayor of Port Elizabeth, Mr Solly Rubin, when asked if blacks would be prosecuted if they swam on the city's beaches, said he was unsure of the council's legal position on this point.

However, he would handle the issue with discretion, humanity and caution until the matter was clarified.

Editorial opinion P8

DID 6/15/88

Cuba: troops stay till SWA independent

LONDON — Cuba has reinforced its troops in Angola to more than 35 000, to be withdrawn only when South Africa grants independence to Namibia, a Cuban Government official said yesterday.

Mr Jorge Risquet, who led the Cuban delegation to the four-party peace talks here this week, said the reinforcements had been brought in to stem an escalating South African invasion of southern Angola since October.

He said about 9 000 South African troops, backed by tanks, armoured cars, planes and artillery were taking part in the latest incursion.

"In the face of this extraordinary aggression, extraordinary measures were necessary to paralyse and repel it."

He referred to a recent article in the official Cuban newspaper Granma, which said Cuban reinforcements in the form of mechanised

infantry units, tanks and artillery and anti-aircraft units had recently been transported to Angola.

Mr Risquet said his government's view of the London talks was that they concerned securing independence for Namibia and obtaining guarantees for the security of Angola.

These included a withdrawal of South African troops to within South Africa's borders, and an end to South African and US support for the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

"If these conditions are met, the Cuban military contingent will have finished its internationalist mission and will return home."

He said four years was proposed by Angola as a timetable for the total Cuban pullout sought by Washington and South Africa.

He said he was moderately optimistic about reaching a negotiated settlement.

Reacting to the Cuban statement, the leader of the South African delegation, the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, said last night the leaking of details of the ongoing agreement, and negotiations on a selective basis was contrary to an agreement between the parties.

He told reporters it had been agreed that none of the parties would release details on the talks which were of the kind that could not be conducted in public; and expressed the hope that references to a timetable by the Angolan delegation were not the beginning of a process of selective leaks. — Sapa.

Cuban pullout depends on SA

LONDON — The Cuban delegate at the talks with South Africa and Angola said yesterday that Havana would withdraw its troops from Angola under a four-year timetable hingeing on South Africa's readiness to give independence to Namibia.

He also said a pullout was conditional on South Africa and Unita guaranteeing to cease attacks on Angolan soil.

Mr Jorge Risquet Valdes, of the Cuban Communist Party politburo, was speaking at a news conference after a two-day US-mediated conference aimed at settling the Angolan civil war.

A joint statement on Wednesday at the end of the talks said progress had been made and the parties agreed to meet again in a few weeks' time at a still-undecided African venue.

"Our optimism could be defined as moderate," Mr Risquet said.

He said the Cubans came to the London talks seeking "non-interference in the internal affairs of Angola and assurances that Angola is not going to be attacked again".

FORCES TO REMAIN

Mr Risquet said Cuba also insisted on the implementation of UN Resolution 435, which demands independence for Namibia.

Cuban forces in Angola, which he said numbered more than 35 000, would remain "as long as Angola needs us."

But "if the abovementioned conditions are met, then Cuba's role will have been fulfilled", Mr Risquet said.

LEAKS

● Sapa reports South Africa's Director General of Foreign Affairs and the country's delegate to the talks, Mr Neil van Heerden, reacted to the Cuban statement in Cape Town yesterday, saying that the leaking of details of the ongoing agreement and negotiations, on a selective basis, was contrary to an agreement between the delegations.

● See Page 9.

Angolan, SA officers met in London

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Angolan and South African military officers met in London alongside the talks between Angola, Cuba, the United States and South Africa, according to the Mozambique news agency AIM.

A South African Foreign Affairs spokesman in Pretoria said last night he had no comment to make on the report.

AIM, quoting sources in Luanda, said the Chief of the Angolan General Staff, Lieutenant-General Antonio dos Santos Franca, and the military adviser to President José Eduardo dos Santos, Mr José Maria, had taken part in the meeting.

NOT IDENTIFIED

It did not identify the South African participants and gave no other details.

The Chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jamie Geldenhuys, was in London for the four-party talks as part of the South African delegation.

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Cubans 'leak' details of peace talks

Political Correspondent

NR 6/15/88

EFFORTS to achieve peace in Angola and Namibia remained on track today in spite of a Cuban breach of an agreement that no details of the talks would be divulged.

about securing independence for Namibia and obtaining guarantees for the security of Angola.

who led the South African delegation at the London talks, said today that no agreement had been reached on a phased Cuban withdrawal.

However, Mr van Heerden said he did not think the Cuban action was a setback to the talks.

Mr Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of Cuba's politburo, has stated that four years were proposed by Angola as a timetable for the total Cuban pull-out sought by Washington and Pretoria.

These included a withdrawal of South African troops to within its borders and an end of South African and United States support for Unita.

No timetable was decided on and the talks were only the beginning of the negotiation process.

● Cuba has confirmed an increase in its military presence in southern Angola and has sent troops closer to the border of South West Africa/Namibia, Sapa reports.

He said his government's view was that the talks were

South Africa has in the past rejected suggestions for a start to the Namibian independence procedure while there is only a phased withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

There had been an agreement not to make public pronouncements while the talks were in progress. He hoped the Cuban remarks were not the beginning of a process of leaks while the talks were in progress.

Mr Jorge Valdes said more than 35 000 troops were now stationed in Angola. Some were sent last month to within 70km of the border between Angola and South West Africa/Namibia.

Mr Neil van Heerden, Director-General of Foreign Affairs,

Y 1
ETRE



Angola: Cubans now up to 40 000

Grab this
6/8/88
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LONDON. — Cuba has reinforced its troops in Angola to more than 35 000 and they will be withdrawn only when South Africa grants independence to Namibia and Angola's security is guaranteed, a Cuban government official said yesterday.

Politburo member Mr Jorge Risquet, outlining Cuba's position a day after four-way peace talks in London, told a news conference the reinforcements were brought in to stem an escalating South African invasion of southern Angola since October.

Mr Risquet, who led the Cuban team at the talks, said about 9 000 South African troops, backed by tanks, armoured cars, aircraft and artillery, were taking part in the latest incursion.

Mr Risquet referred to a May 2 article in the official Cuban newspaper Granma which said that Cuban reinforcements in the form of mechanized infantry units, tanks and artillery and anti-aircraft units had recently been transported to Angola.

"There were 20 000 Cuban troops in the south and 15 000 in the north. As there was an increase, now there are some more," he said.

He declined to give the total number of Cuban troops in Angola but Western military analysts now put them at 40 000.

Negotiators from South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States met in London on Tuesday and Wed-

nesday in the first joint talks between the four protagonists of the Angolan war.

Mr Risquet said his government's view of the talks was that they were about securing independence for South African-ruled Namibia and obtaining guarantees for the security of Angola.

These included a withdrawal of South African troops to within South Africa's borders and an end to South African and US support for the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

"Therefore, if these conditions are met, the Cuban military contingent will have finished its internationalist mission and will return home."

He said four years was proposed by Angola as a timetable for the total Cuban pullout sought by Washington and Pretoria.

He said he was moderately optimistic about the prospects for reaching a negotiated settlement.

The Angolan rebel movement Unita has been holding secret talks with Luanda's Marxist MPLA regime since January, Colonel Alcides Sakhala, Unita's Lisbon-based senior European representative, said.

High-level contact meetings with the MPLA had been held in European and African capitals since January this year.

Unita's secret contacts with the MPLA were at a "delicate stage".

MPLA officials emphatically denied any contacts with Unita. — Sapa-Reuter and Own Correspondent

Settlement 'requires untangling of forces'

By Michael Morris, The Star Bureau

LONDON — Peace in Angola and Namibia is attainable if the "re-engagement in diplomacy" in London continues constructively at the next meeting, according to chief United States mediator Dr Chester Crocker.

The next meeting, scheduled to take place at an African venue within weeks, would step up the pace of the process, focusing South African, Angolan and Cuban attention on "highly specific, concrete details still to be worked out", Dr Crocker said.

Positive results would depend on South Africa and Angola. A ceasefire agreement and the "untangling of the entangled forces" would be necessary for settlement negotiations to succeed.

The US Assistant Secretary of State warned against the risks of pursuing military solutions, adding: "It is, after all, their (South Africa's, Angola's and Cuba's) boys who are dying in these wars, not ours."

The scope for a settlement capable of gaining influential US-Soviet backing was within reach if outlines emerged more clearly.

That, he suggested, would depend very much on the political will of South Africa and Angola to pursue diplomacy through compromise and mutual agreement, by "narrowing the gaps" between their respective demands: "That's the work that lies ahead."

Dr Crocker put the four-nation talks into perspective on Wednesday at a press briefing, several hours after a joint South African, Angolan and Cuban statement saying the meeting had been constructive and progress had been made.

The South Africans said they believed progress had been achieved in "getting to know each other's points of view on the issues surrounding the Cuban withdrawal and (UN) Resolution 435 directly from the other parties"

Crocker reassures Swapo and Unita

The Star's Foreign Bureau

LONDON — The interests of Swapo and Unita are not being sidelined by the latest Angolan diplomatic initiative, says US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Dr Chester Crocker.

After the four-nation talks ended in London on Wednesday, the chief American mediator said: "The outcome of this process has implications for both movements."

He said the London talks had taken place between the sovereign governments "by mutual agreement" but this did not mean that the interests of Swapo and Unita were being ill-served.

Dr Crocker said: "The question of removing foreign forces from Angola is the best way of creating conditions in which internal peace and reconciliation can occur, so the issues and interests relating to those parties are by no means being put on one side. They are very much in the minds of the people involved."

He emphasised that America had no intention of ending its relationship with Unita, adding that this had been the subject of bilateral talks with Angola.

But America's relationship with the rebel movement was not a feature of the four-nation peace talks.

"We did not come here to negotiate issues which are not part of the settlement, and our relationship with Unita is not a bargaining chip in these discussions."

Nevertheless, Unita was a vital element in the Angolan spectrum.

Dr Crocker said: "There is no doubt Unita is a significant political force, a significant nationalist force."

"The Angolan parties will have to decide how to live at peace with each other. It's their business how and when and on what terms they achieve that... but it was not on the table for these talks. We sense there is a recognition of that on all sides."

Cubans moot four years in timetable for pullout

Angolan peace talks ^(S) on course despite leak

Star 7/18/88

SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENTS

The new Angola peace initiative was firmly on track last night despite a Cuban breach of an agreement to keep details of talks secret.

The Cuban representative to the London talks, Mr Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of Havana's politburo, divulged that four years were proposed by Angola for a timetable for the total Cuban pullout.

He said his government's view was that the talks were about securing independence for Namibia and obtaining guarantees for the security of Angola.

These included a withdrawal of South African troops to within South Africa's borders and an end of South African and US support for Unita.

Following this the South African delegation leader, Mr Neil van Heerden, Director General of Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that no agreement had been reached there on a phased Cuban withdrawal.

No timetable was decided on and the talks were only the beginning of the negotiation process.

He hoped the Cuban remarks were not the beginning of a process of leaks while the talks were in progress.

The first round of talks in London had been productive and the mere fact that further talks would be held was hopeful. A gradual "layering" of positive factors could lead to some agreement.

The positive note was maintained when Mr Valdes added: "If the political will exists on all sides, there will be a settlement."

Offer of verification

He offered outside verification of Cuban withdrawal in order to prove "our good faith, seriousness and determination".

The constructive tone of Mr Valdes's comments and the insights he offered into what could be discussed at the next round of talks sustained cautious hopes that a resolution of the complex regional dispute might be within reach.

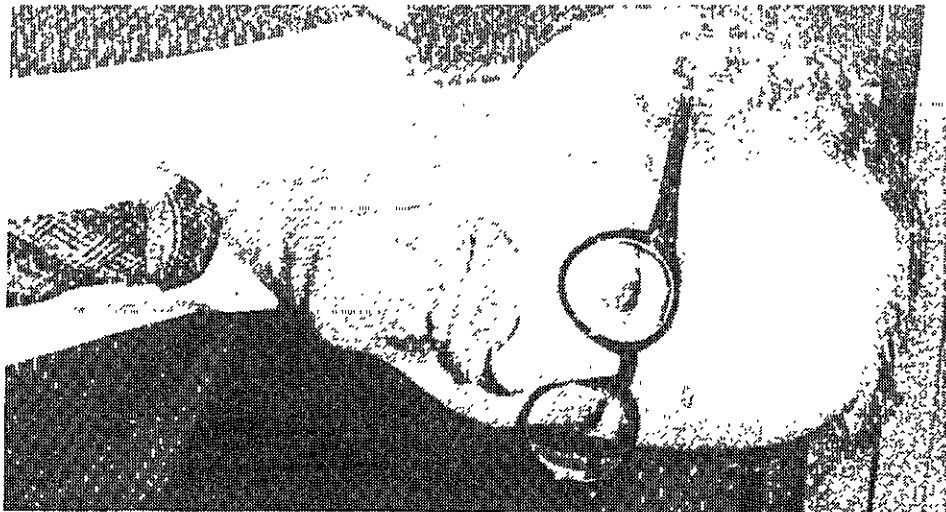
Mr Valdes stressed the conditions for Cuban withdrawal: implementation of UN resolution 435, an end to US and South African support of Unita and "assurances that Angola will not be attacked again".

He suggested the Soviet Union could be one of the guarantors, with other UN members, notably Britain, Canada, France and West Germany, also playing a role.

But he dealt cautiously with the future of Unita. All Mr Valdes would say was that once US and South African support to Unita ended, the civil war became an internal problem "and Angolans should find a solution to it".

In Washington, Swapo leader Mr Sam Nujoma has hinted to newsmen that his movement may be softening its fierce opposition to the concept of linking Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Until now, Swapo has insisted that the two issues must be separate and that movement in one area should not depend on progress in the other.



Dr Chester Crocker

BATTLE FOES MEET — ACROSS A TABLE

by MICHAEL MORRIS
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — They have faced each other — and each other's guns — across the battlefield.

Shell for shell, they have exchanged the harrowing missiles of war.

But for the first time in Angola's 13-year conflict, South African, Cuban and Angolan generals and diplomats faced each other this week, across a table.

The four-way London talks, at an exclusive hotel, have been welcomed all round as a preliminary step that has broken the ice.

The London Times went further, calling it "a considerable feat" that could ultimately see Southern Africa

"even overtake the Middle East as the next centre for superpower peacemaking".

But, as The Times points out, "what matters most now is that the momentum set in London should not be lost".

From the little information which emerged after a news blackout was imposed, it is apparent the parties did not spend much time arguing the details of their respective demands, but rather setting out and getting to know each other's "basic principles".

That they have agreed to meet again so quickly, somewhere in Africa, is undoubtedly a sign they are taking it seriously, because the next round is bound to see a start being made on the nitty gritty of how to

end the conflict. That's where the difficulties lie.

For the Angolans and Cubans, a phased four-year troop withdrawal hinges on independence for Namibia and an end to US and South African aid to Unita.

That, as it stands, is unacceptable to Pretoria. It wants the Cubans out of the picture first.

Disconsolately

It is clear the most essential element is a willingness to compromise, if a negotiated settlement is to be achieved.

This is precisely the quality that the chief American mediator, Dr Chester Crocker, hopes will come to the fore. It hasn't yet.

But the negotiators have at least got to know each other.

Why did it take so long? And is this the beginning of the end? The questions are tantalising — the first because the delay, for whatever reason, has been utterly wasteful, the second because the past record of diplomatic manoeuvring in the region is far from hopeful.

Some seasoned Africa commentators remarked disconsolately after the talks ended: "Optimistic? No, I've buried my fingers too often in the past with optimistic predictions about the Namibia/Angola issue."

Even Dr Crocker said: "We'll wait and see. This effort has been underway for about a decade. It's fair to be sceptical... no-one's holding their breath."

There is a view among some observers that negotiations will not be sustained in earnest until there is a clear winner, and a clear loser, militarily. According to this view, the generals on both sides are itching to prove their might.

Dr Crocker hopes that is not going to happen. Not for his sake, he avers. "After all, it's their boys who are dying in these wars, not ours." Attempts at "military solutions", he continued, "have been very costly and have produced nothing".

The big battles around Cuito Cuanavale, the rising war damage, growing casualty lists and the growing cost may have been the biggest factor behind the willingness of the South Africans, Angolans and Cubans to meet round a table.

The fear of becoming bogged down in an apparently unwinnable, directionless war must worry the Pretoria and Luanda governments.

■ See also Page 16.

1/6 News 2/5/88

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Castro: I will pull out Cuban troops

By LESTER VENTER
Political Correspondent

PRESIDENT Fidel Castro of Cuba has told President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique that he has decided to pull his 40 000 troops out of Angola.

Dr Castro's decision to undertake the withdrawal behind the week's peace moves was learned from Western diplomatic sources.

The Cuban leader gave that undertaking in a telephone conversation with Mr Chissano on Tuesday night, as talks aimed at ending the war were taking place in London between SA, Angola, Cuba and the US.

Diplomats are now working on a formula which will permit the Cubans to withdraw without losing face.

Foreign Affairs director-general and SA delegation leader Neil van Heerden said yesterday "ample leeway" had been found for both sides to manoeuvre on the key issues of Cuban withdrawal and the linking of an Angolan settlement to Namibian independence.

While Pretoria is still keeping expectations low, there is considerable hope in government circles that recent military successes in Angola can be translated into political progress.

8/5/88 *Stems*
Revitalise
Diplomats are pointing to Mr Chissano's re-opening of channels with SA, aimed at revitalising the Nkomati non-aggression pact and solving his Renamo insurrection problem.

Government sources are optimistic that a new era of stability in the sub-continent can develop in which SA could play a pivotal role.

Coupled with the recent re-start to internal reform, the Government hopes progress on the twin fronts could have a braking effect on comprehensive new sanctions being processed in the American legislature.

President Ronald Reagan, whose administration is at odds with the legislature on the sanctions issue, and Britain's Mrs Margaret Thatcher desperately need ammunition from SA to withstand pressure for more sanctions.

More Angolan peace talks are expected within weeks and will move, symbolically, to an African venue.

Several African leaders are keen to host the talks and SA is open on the question of a venue, resisting only Lusaka and Harare because of ANC associations with the two capitals.

All parties are keen to have subsequent talks on the continent rather than the Cape Verde Islands.

The talks will centre on a Cuban withdrawal formula and elasticity in the linkage issue.

A top SA source indicated the elasticity in linkage may result in mutually agreed changes to UN resolution 435 - the programme for Namibian independence drawn up more than 10 years ago.

It appeared there was agreement in London that resolution 435 could not be implemented as it now stood.

In Portugal, a left-wing publication, O Jornal, has claimed that SA might be prepared to halt support for the Unita rebel movement in exchange for agreement on Cuban withdrawals and a Namibian settlement.

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Cuban troops 'march south'

⑤ The Star's Africa News Service

Cuban, Swapo and Angolan forces are advancing towards the Namibian border, according to reports from Lisbon and Maputo.

They appear to be heading for the border town of Ongiva, which has been a frequent target of South African attacks in the southern Angolan province of Cunene.

Cuban troops are usually used as a back-up to Angolan troops and have never operated in large numbers south of the 15th parallel.

The reported offensive comes as Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States are preparing for a second round of negotiations.

A contingent of Cuban mechanised infantry is said to have been transferred to Angola to reinforce the 40 000 Cubans already there.

It has also been reported that the South African and Unita offensive around the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-eastern Angola appears to be over, and that South African and Unita troops have withdrawn at least 50 km from the town.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjung, monitored in Maputo, said the troops advancing southwards were more than 200 km south of their starting point. Cuban sources said the "allied forces" were very close to the Namibian border.

In Lisbon, the well informed newsletter *Africa Confidential* said considerable Cuban troop moves had been noted in southwestern Angola.

It said South Africa and Unita had abandoned plans to take Cuito Cuanavale because a study had shown that any attack on the town would result in at least 200 South African casualties.

● See Page 3.

Cuban proposals 'realistic and flexible'

Ball is in SA's court, says Angolan leader

Star 9/5/88 (5)

NAIROBI — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said on Saturday that preliminary talks in London had put the onus on South Africa to show it was serious about ending the interlocked conflicts of Angola and Namibia.

"The proposals put forward by Angola and Cuba are realistic and flexible," Mr dos Santos told a group of students in the capital, Luanda. "Now, it is up to South Africa to respond in a positive manner, and to

recognise that the ball is in its court."

His speech was broadcast by the official Radio Luanda and monitored by the BBC.

The London talks on Tuesday and Wednesday were attended by South Africa, the United States, Angola and Cuba, which has some 35 000 troops helping the Angolan government fight South Africa and its local US-backed ally, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Overseas protest over SA threats to publications

Star 9/5/88
By Sue Olswang

The banning of a newspaper and gazetted warnings to other South African publications has sparked an appeal to President Botha by a host of overseas writers and editors.

An appeal to lift the ban on *New Nation* and put a stop to further steps against the "alternative or mainstream press" was contained in a large advertisement which appeared in *The Sunday Star* this week.

Addressed to President Botha, it read in part: "We are alarmed by the recent banning of *New Nation*; by the gazetted warnings issued to *Weekly Mail*, *South*, *Grassroots*, *Saamstaan* and *Work in Progress*; and by the warning letter to *Sowetan*.

"We deplore the arbitrary way in

which these publications may now be stopped; the fact that the opinion of Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha may be the sole basis of a banning order; and the fact that he does not have to give any reason for his opinion, which cannot be challenged in court."

Some of the more than 90 signatories include Mr A Whittam-Smith, editor of *The Independent* newspaper in London; Mr Charles Glass of ABC News in London; Mr Bill Kovach of the American Society of Editors; Mr Harold Evans, former editor of *The Times* of London; Lord McGregor, chairman of the British Press Council; and Mr Donald Trelford, editor of *The Observer* newspaper.

Pretoria and Washington insist that independence for Namibia must be linked to the withdrawal of the Cubans. Luanda says it will not need Cuban help if South Africa stops supporting Unita and attacking southern Angola.

PROPAGANDA

Mr Dos Santos strongly denied reports that his administration had been negotiating with Unita, which Pretoria would like to see given a role in the Luanda government.

"Everything that has been said in that regard is false propaganda. There are no reasons for power to be shared with the puppets," he said. — Sapa-Reuter.

Angola high on Moscow agenda, says Amery

MCC 5
9/5/88

The Argus Foreign Service
LONDON. — Conservative MP Julian Amery, just returned from visiting Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi in Jamba, believes Angola will be high on the agenda at the superpower summit in Moscow.

In a report in the London Sunday Times Mr Amery says that both sides in the conflict face a no-win situation.

"The Russians and Cubans cannot defeat Unita and its allies, South Africa and the United States.

"Unita, even with South African support, cannot defeat Luanda while 40 000 Cubans and other foreign forces, East Germans and Russians, are there. By the same token, Luanda can hardly survive without its foreign backers.

"The Luanda government is in debt to the tune of about \$3 000-million. The price of oil, Angola's principal foreign exchange earner, is depressed and coffee and diamond production have been halted by Unita's guerrillas."

Not willing

But Moscow, he says, seems unwilling or unable to come to the rescue. In the end, Mr Amery believes, it will be up to the Soviets whether the Cubans stay or go.

"The central issue for Moscow and Havana is how to do a deal with the United States and South Africa while the Cubans are still there.

He asks: "What sort of deal is conceivable? A ceasefire must be the first step. But this would require the acceptance by Luanda of "Free Angola" — the territory controlled by Jonas Savimbi — and of zones in the rest of the country where Unita guerrilla forces predominate.

"Could Luanda and Unita agree to form an interim government to prepare free elections? Luanda has already suggested a deal with Unita, but excluding Savimbi. This is hardly a starter.

"Luanda and Cuba are pressing for a linkage between Angola and Namibia. But the South Africans are unlikely to withdraw from Namibia until all the Cubans are out of Angola and the Swapo and ANC training camps there closed.

"How long would the Cuban withdrawal take? The longer they stay the greater the drain on Moscow's pocket. Who has the longer staying power, Gorbachev or Botha?"

Heading for a showdown over grisly relic

The Argus Foreign Service
LONDON. — Photographs of the dried and intricately tattooed head of a Maori chieftain, discovered in the attic of an English country house, have been sent to New Zealand in an attempt to trace his ancestry.

Maori leaders learnt to their indignation that the head is to be auctioned this month, and representations are expected to be made through the New Zealand High Commission to have it withdrawn.

The gruesome relic, brought to Britain more than 150 years ago, has provoked strong feelings among New Zealand's 330 000 Maoris.

A spokesman for the High Commission said: "It will certainly be possible to tell from the tattoos which tribe this man belonged to."

In the early part of the 19th century heads — known as Mokomakai — were bartered for muskets or drink. Only 150 are known to survive.

The head is expected to fetch between R24 000 and R40 000.

Curfew as 26 die

KARACHI. — A curfew in Karachi has been widened after new ethnic violence in which at least 26 people died and more than 150 were injured. — Sapa-Reuters.

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**Onus lies
on SA
to make
peace (5)
— Angola**

NAIROBI — The President of Angola, Mr José Eduardo dos Santos, said preliminary talks in London had put the onus on South Africa to show it was serious about ending the interlocked conflicts of Angola and South African-ruled Namibia.

"The proposals put forward by Angola and Cuba are realistic and flexible," Mr Dos Santos told a group of students in Luanda.

"Now, it is up to South Africa to respond in a positive manner."

His speech was broadcast by Radio Luanda and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The London talks were attended by South Africa, the United States, Angola and Cuba.

Cuba has 35 000 troops in Angola to help the Angolan Government in its fight with South Africa and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Pretoria and Washington insist that independence for Namibia must be linked to the withdrawal of the Cubans from the region. Luanda says it will not need Cuban help if South Africa stops supporting Unita and attacking southern Angola.

Mr Dos Santos strongly denied reports that his administration has been negotiating with Unita, which Pretoria would like to see given a role in the Luanda Government.

"Everything that has been said in that regard is false propaganda," he said. — Sapa-RNS

Angolan peace talks welcomed

LONDON — They have faced each other before, and each other's guns, across the battlefield.

Shell for shell, they have exchanged the harrowing missives of war.

But for the first time in Angola's 13-year conflict, South African, Cuban and Angolan generals and diplomats faced each other last week, at arms length, across a table.

The four-way London talks at an unlikely, but exclusive hotel have been welcomed all round as a preliminary step that has broken the ice.

The *London Times* went further on Thursday, calling it "a considerable feat" that could ultimately see southern Africa "even overtake the Middle East as the next centre for

superpower peace-making".

But, as *The Times* points out, "what matters most now is that the 'momentum' set in London should not be lost".

From the little information which emerged after a news black-out was imposed, it is apparent the parties did not spend much time arguing the details of their respective demands, but rather setting out and getting to know each other's positions ... what the Americans called the "basic principles".

That they have agreed to meet again so quickly, somewhere in Africa, is undoubtedly a sign they are taking it seriously, because the next round is bound to see a start being made on the nitty gritty of how to end the conflict. That's where the difficulties lie.

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Angola: Cuba, SA out together?

Political Staff

JOHANNESBURG. — The first step in the planned resolution to the conflict in Angola and Namibia involved a simultaneous withdrawal by both Cuban and South African Defence Force troops, according to US magazine Newsweek.

An article in the latest edition, written before talks in London between South Africa, Angola, the United States and Cuba, states that the talks resulted from a year-long initiative by US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker.

The main proposal for a compromise was extremely complex.

"In the first stage, Cuban troops would withdraw from southern Angola under United Nations supervision and then from the country as a whole.

"Simultaneously, Pretoria would pull its forces back to specified bases in Namibia, followed by UN-supervised elections to be held there culminating in independence for the mineral-rich territory."

The real aim was to create an atmosphere of "good faith". Quoting a Western diplomatic source, it said some of the people had never met "let alone tried to talk seriously to one another".

MP: Angola war ⁽⁵⁾ a no-win situation

The Star's Foreign Bureau

LONDON — Tory MP Mr Julian Amery, who has just returned from visiting Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi at his Jamba headquarters, believes Angola will be high on the Moscow superpower summit agenda.

In a report in *The London Sunday Times* Mr Amery says both sides in the conflict "face a no-win situation".

"The Russians and Cubans cannot defeat Unita and its South African and American allies. Unita, even with South African support, cannot defeat Luanda while 40 000 Cubans and associated foreign forces — East Germans and some Russians — are there. By the same token, Luanda can hardly survive without its foreign backers.

"The Luanda government is in debt to the tune of some R6 billion. The price of oil, Angola's principal foreign exchange earner, is depressed. Coffee and diamond production are halted by Unita guerillas."

But Moscow, he says, seems unwilling or unable to come to the rescue.

"The central issue for Moscow and Havana is how to do a deal with the United States and South Africa while

the Cubans are still there. On the ground, this means some deal between Luanda and Unita."

Mr Amery asks: "What sort of deal is conceivable? A ceasefire must be the first step. But this would require the acceptance by Luanda of free Angola — the territory controlled by Savimbi — and of zones in the rest of the country where Unita guerilla forces predominate.

"Could Luanda and Unita agree to form an interim government to prepare free elections? Luanda has already suggested a deal with Unita, but excluding Savimbi. This is hardly a starter.

"Luanda and Cuba are pressing for a linkage between Angola and Namibia. But the South Africans are unlikely to withdraw from Namibia until all Cubans are out of Angola and the Swapo and ANC training camps there closed.

"How long would the Cuban withdrawal take? The longer they stay, the greater the drain on Moscow's pocket. Who has the longer staying power, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev or Mr P W Botha?" Mr Amery asks.



Dr Savimbi ... unable to end impasse on his own.

CAPE TOWN 9/5/88

Onus now on SA — Dos Santos

NAIROBI — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said preliminary talks in London had put the onus on South Africa to show it was serious about ending the conflict in Angola and Namibia.

"The proposals put forward by Angola and Cuba are realistic and flexible," he said in Luanda on Saturday.

"Now, it is up to South Africa to respond in a positive manner."

The talks in London last week were attended by South Africa, the United States, Angola and Cuba, which has about 40 000 troops helping the Angolan government fight Unita.

Pretoria and Washington insist that independence for Namibia must be linked to the withdrawal of the Cubans from the region.

Meanwhile, the Mozambican news agency Aim has reacted with scepticism to a report in the Sunday Times that President Joaquim Chissano had been given an assurance by Cuba's President Fidel Castro on withdrawal of his troops from Angola.

The report said President Chissano had spoken to Dr Castro on Tuesday night, but Aim said it was "unlikely" as President Chissano was flying back from Zimbabwe at the time and immediately left for the north of Mozambique, "where he still is". — Sapa-Reuters and Own Correspondent

● Angola: Cuba, SA out together? — Page 5

London talks kindle Nat optimism

End to SA isolation 'is through Africa'

Political Staff

The four-power Angola talks in London and the increasing likelihood of top-level talks with Mozambique inspired the mood of the foreign affairs debate yesterday, with a number of National Party members pointing the way back to interna-

tional acceptance through Africa.

Controversial NP MP Mr Albert Nothnagel said the Government should tackle the development of a constitutional solution "more dynamically" because only an internal settlement acceptable to all non-radical South Africans would improve relations with the rest of

Africa and the world.

Mr Con Botha, chief information officer of the NP, spoke similarly during the foreign affairs budget vote debate in the House of Assembly.

"Our road back to the international community from isolation lies through Africa," he said. Any success in talks about Angola bore direct-

ly on Namibia and South Africa, he said.

Mr Nothnagel said the "needs and feelings" of non-radical blacks had to be recognised.

"That's the most overwhelmingly important question," he said.

He called on the Government to move away from everything that contributed to that negative image based on perceptions, including the paternalism of whites and the lack of black political power.

Problems ⁵
face peace
negotiators

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A number of major hurdles must be cleared before current initiatives to settle southern Africa's various problems can succeed.

South African Government sources remain cautious about the prospects of the various talks scheduled between South Africa and Angola and South Africa and Mozambique and warn against over-optimism.

This week's talks between South Africa and Angola in Brazzaville in the Congo Republic are apparently themselves in jeopardy.

Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha today said press leaks had "caused a negative response", but he declined to elaborate.

However, it is understood the talks are still going to take place on Friday.

Among the hurdles which have to be cleared before peace could be brought to southern Africa are:

- The withdrawal of the more than 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola.

INTERNAL PARTIES

Although Cuba has made clear its willingness to withdraw from Angola, the best specific offer it has made to date is to move its forces to north of the 13th parallel within a year and to phase all its troops out of Angola over four years.

- South Africa must withdraw the 3 000 troops it has admitted to having in Angola and halt its support for Unita.

- South Africa must grant independence to Namibia and withdraw its forces. South Africa has said it will remain in Namibia until the Cubans have left Angola.

- South Africa's insistence that Unita be a party to talks to end the civil war in Angola, and that the Namibian internal parties be party to any talks affecting Namibia.

- Angola's insistence that Swapo be party to regional talks affecting Namibia.

Talks between South Africa and Mozambique depend on problems relating to the rebel MNR movement being cleared up.

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Pik, Angolans for face-to-face talks in Congo

D10 10/5/88

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Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Talks on a Cuban withdrawal from Angola and SWA/Namibian independence will be taken a stage further this week when government ministers from South Africa and Angola meet face-to-face in Brazzaville in the Congo Republic.

The South African delegation — to include the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan — will arrive in Brazzaville on Thursday and return on Friday.

The talks are not seen as a direct continuation of last week's four-power talks in London, but significant in that they have been elevated to ministerial level.

Mr. Botha has not confirmed details surrounding the latest initiative but noted that it was known further meetings would take place between Angola and South Africa and that Pretoria was "not opposed to Brazzaville as a venue".

"The government has been in contact with several countries over the past month in connection with matters of communal interest and to exchange opinions on important questions regarding our continent, including the necessity for peace. These discussions are continuing."

The talks follow a meeting between an official from the department of foreign affairs and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique at the weekend.

It is understood that the Mozambican president took a hand in furthering the talks as well as securing undertakings from President Fidel Castro that Cubans would leave Angola.

Speaking during his budget vote in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr. Botha said that if Cuba could "with dignity" withdraw its troops from Angola, South Africa would proceed with the independence of SWA/Namibia.

However, if the conflict in Angola spread across South Africa's borders, the sub-continent would become engulfed in large-scale conflict, he said.

He added that the Soviet Union was "possibly hurt, or even a little

jealous" that the US was involved in the Angolan talks when it was clear that two super-powers were involved.

He defended the recent indication by General Malan that South Africa might be prepared to negotiate with the USSR on the Angolan situation.

Such a proposition was "fully in line" with government thinking.

He said the time had come for new steps to resolve the conflict on the sub-continent, including an "uncoupling" of the superpowers to allow South Africa to go on with its peace initiatives.

He said Gen Malan's statement was a "logical deduction" from the Soviet Union's announcement that it was to withdraw from Afghanistan, and that if it did so it should apply the same principle to its involvement in Angola.

Ian Hobbs reports from London that diplomatic circles in the British capital were stunned yesterday by news of the Brazzaville talks.

The talks pre-empt arrangements for the second stage exploratory talks by the US assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

It is understood that he too was considering either the Cape Verde islands or Brazzaville as the venue for the talks.

Simon Barber reports from Washington that, by yesterday evening, the South African Government had not informed the Reagan administration of plans for the Brazzaville talks.

"We have only seen fragmentary media reports," a senior administration official said.

He suggested that Dr Crocker had not expected a follow-on round to last week's talks to be set so soon and, in contrast to his considerable optimism last week, found the development "curious".

In brief ...



LAWYERS acting for prisoners such as Nelson Mandela should realise the creation of a climate of violence would not further the early release of individuals, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said in the House of Delegates. — Sapa.

The general mood abroad was one of sadness and concern over South Africa's inability to get away from apartheid and suppression, PFP leader Mr Colin Eglin told the Assembly. — Sapa.

It was important that Black educationists make a direct contribution to the syllabuses at black schools, the Deputy-Minister of Education, Mr Sam de Beer, said in the House of Representatives. — Sapa.

Political ban on SADF officers

Political Staff

THE Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, has given the assurance that SA Defence Force officers will no longer be allowed to address political meetings.

He told this to the Conservative Party after a row blew up over a recent Piketberg youth rally at which Major Wynand du Toit spoke.

Major du Toit, a member of a reece commando captured in the far north of Angola in 1985, was released last year in a highly publicised prisoner swap and returned to South Africa as a hero.

Mr Koos van der Merwe (CP Overvaal) said a CP defence study group had spoken to General Malan yesterday on a number of important defence matters.

"The Minister assured us that Defence Force officers would not again be allowed to address meetings of a political nature.

"We are very satisfied with this."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed the Minister's assurance.

Mr van der Merwe recently asked questions in Parliament about the Piketberg youth rally and was told by General Malan that the SADF had not objected to Major du Toit's participation because the rally was aimed primarily at instructing youth.

General Malan said at the time that he would have no objection to an SADF officer addressing a similar CP rally.

Yesterday's development indicates this policy has changed.

Russia 'should withdraw with dignity'

ARBUS 10/5/88
(5)

By DALE LAUTENBACH
Parliamentary Staff

THE "dignified" withdrawal of the Soviet superpower from Angola should be made possible because if the superpowers were not pulled out of the Southern African situation in time, the region could be set on the path to conflict and war, said Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha.

Speaking in the House of Assembly yesterday in debate on his budget vote, Mr Botha said the reference by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan to South Africa's possible willingness to negotiate with the Russians about Angola was not out of line with Government thinking.

Motives questioned

What General Malan had said, though, should be seen in the context of Russia's announced withdrawal from Afghanistan. General Malan's logical deduction was that the Soviets might apply the same principles to the Angolan conflict.

Official Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman Mr Tom Langley questioned General Malan's motives and said if South Africa had been serious about its approach to the Soviet Union the "whys and wherefores" of the attempt should be spelt out.

Russia's "Nyet" had been predictable, he said.



General Malan

Mr Pik Botha

Mr Botha said South Africa had expected a "No" in reply, but what was important was the timely message in what General Malan had said.

If a Cuban withdrawal could be arranged the independence of SWA/Namibia could follow on the plan that had existed for so long.

While foreign troops threatened the sub-continent there was the danger of large-scale conflict and war.

"If the superpowers aren't pulled out of the conflict in time it can be an extremely dangerous situation."

All attempts should go into "making it possible for the Russians to pressure the Cubans with dignity and then withdraw with dignity," said Mr Botha.

The Russians could be a "little hurt, perhaps jealous" that when there were talks about the conflict in this region it was always the US which was involved.

Suzman warns of anti-SA Bills

Parliamentary Staff

THE withdrawal of the Orderly Internal Politics Bill, which threatened foreign funding of anti-apartheid organisations, was one of several positive, "adult" moves the Government could make in the face of the pro-sanctions Bills being considered by the US Government, Mrs Helen Suzman has said.

The Progressive Federal Party Foreign Affairs spokesman warned the Government yesterday that 1988 might be the last year in a long time that South Africa could have dealings with a "relatively less hostile" US Administration.

"If Dukakis and the Democrats win the elections in November, South Africa is in for a torrid time," she said in the House of Assembly.

Mr Michael Dukakis had already declared his support for sanctions, she said.

The Dellums-Wolpe Bill, accepted by the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs recently, was an embargo bill which effectively banned virtually all trade, reimposed the landing rights prohibition and effectively enforced divestment of all US companies and required divestment of all equity in South Africa owned or controlled by companies quoted on the JSE.

About 12 percent of the total market capitalisation of mining shares, worth about R15-billion, was estimated to be held by Americans with interests in South African companies, Mrs Suzman warned.

"It is highly dubious that the local market would be able to absorb those shares if thrown on to the market and it is sobering to contemplate the effects of the implementation of this Bill on the stock exchange in South Africa."

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down by the South African med

Armcor No 5 in sales ^{Star 19/8} of weapons

Pretoria Bureau
Armcor is the world's fifth largest defence contractor with current orders for more than R9 billion, according to an article in the international news magazine *Time*.

In its latest issue, *Time* details Armcor's decade of growth from "only two small factories" in the late Seventies to an exporter of R1,8 billion-worth of armaments to 23 countries last year.

Armaments are South Africa's third largest export after gold and coal, according to *Time*.

"The weapons that South Africa produces are mostly modernised and rebuilt versions of systems the armed forces imported or built under licence in the pre-embargo days.

"In many cases, however, Armcor's experts have introduced so much new technology that the result is almost a different product," says the article.

South African arms have surfaced in Sri Lanka, Morocco and are on order by Iraq, says *Time*.

Amcoal workers now own shares

By Michael Chester
^{Star 10/5/88}
As many as four in every five of the 25 000 miners and staffers employed by the Anglo American Coal Corporation have joined the elite ranks of shareholders on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Amcoal chairman Mr Graham Boustred disclosed in an annual review today that over 80 percent of employees had elected to accept invitations from the board of directors of the Anglo American Corporation to join the group employee shareholder scheme.

The scheme, seen by the directors as a radical

new approach to better industrial relations and black advancement but still a controversial issue inside trade union circles, allows employees to become shareholders as soon as they have been on the payroll two years or longer.

Mr Boustred said the scheme would allow employees "to experience wealth as a resource and will show how money invested in well managed enterprises creates wealth for the community in addition to providing a worthwhile reward to the investor".

But Mr Boustred, in a wide review of industrial

relations issues, voices concern about the lack of progress by the Government in abolishing the statutory job reservation provisions of the Mines and Works Act.

Referring to last year's strike by members of the National Union of Mineworkers, he adds: "While Amcoal remains committed to a policy of constructive relationship with trade unions, such unions must accept that the best interests of their members cannot be served by policies and actions which threaten the long-term viability of the industry."

SADF chief going to Lisbon?

The Star's Africa News Service
^{Star 10/5/88}
The chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, will travel to Lisbon in a few days time, the Mozambique News Agency, AIM, reported from Lisbon.

No comment was available from the South African Department of Foreign Affairs at the time of going to press. The Defence Force referred inquiries to Foreign Affairs.

AIM linked General Geldenhuys's visit to the current peace negotiations on Angola, but some observers say it could be connected with negotiations on security arrangements for the Cahora Bassa dam.

AIM said General Geldenhuys will meet the Portuguese armed forces chief of staff, General Lemos Ferreira,

and may also hold talks with officials of the Portuguese foreign ministry.

The agency did not give any further details on the talks, but said a number of political and diplomatic figures connected with the Angolan issue will visit Portugal within the next few days.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Roaiul Roa is expected in Lisbon today for a meeting with Portuguese Foreign Minister Mr Joao Pinheiro, AIM said.

Later this month, Soviet deputy foreign minister Mr Anatoly Adamishin, who has been the Soviet Union's main negotiator on African affairs, will also visit Lisbon.

The Prime Minister of Cape Verde is also visting Portugal at the moment and there has been speculation that a conference on Angola could take place on Cape Verde.

'Russians should be allowed to pull out of Angola with dignity'

STOV 10/15/88

Political Staff

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The "dignified" withdrawal of the Soviet superpower from Angola should be made possible because if the superpowers were not pulled out of the southern Africa situation in time, the region could be on the path to large-scale conflict and war, said Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha.

Speaking in the House of Assembly yesterday during debate on his budget vote, Mr Botha said the reference by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan to South Africa's possible willingness to negotiate with the Russians about Angola was not out of line with Government thinking.

What General Malan had said, though, should be seen in the context of Russia's announced withdrawal from Afghanistan. General Malan's logical deduction was that the Soviets might apply the same principles to the Angolan conflict, said Mr Botha.

Official Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman Mr Tom Langley questioned General Malan's motives and said if South Africa had been serious about its approach to the Soviet Union the "whys and wherefores" of the attempt should be spelt out.

Mr Botha said if a Cuban withdrawal could be arranged then the independence of SWA/Namibia could follow on the basis of the existing plan.

While foreign troops threatened the sub-continent there was the danger of large-scale conflict and war, said Mr Botha.

"If the superpowers aren't pulled out of the conflict in time it can be an extremely dangerous situation that we're facing," he said.

All attempts should go into "making it possible for the Russians to pressure the Cubans with dignity and then withdraw with dignity", said Mr Botha.

Savimbi rejects offer for Cuban troop pullout (5)

NAIROBI — The Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, has rejected an offer by Angola's Soviet-backed government to withdraw Cuban troops from Angola over a four-year period.

Dr Savimbi was quoted by the Unita press agency as saying at the weekend that the government's proposal was totally unacceptable.

If the government and its Cuban allies felt they could not win the war against Unita, it would be better for the Cubans in Angola to withdraw immediately, he said.

The more the Cubans insisted on staying in Angola, the more pain would be inflicted on them, he added.

Heavy fighting has been reported in south-eastern Angola in the last six months between Unita and Soviet- and Cuban-backed forces.

Angola, which last week held unprecedented peace talks in London involving Cuba, South Africa and the United States, is offering to withdraw the Cuban troops, in return for independence for SWA/Namibia and a withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola.

Angola is also seeking an end to what it claims is South African and US support for Unita as a condition for a Cuban withdrawal.

Dr Savimbi said there were 45 000 Cuban troops in Angola.

He added that an increasing number of African states, that he did not name, were insisting that the Angolan Government hold direct negotiations with Unita.

The Angolan President, Mr Jose Eduardo

dos Santos, has repeatedly ruled out any negotiations with Unita, which did not take part in the recent peace talks in London.

• Unita said yesterday it killed 64 Angolan soldiers and eight Cubans last week, in attacks in seven provinces that included shooting down two Soviet-built helicopters and a Mig-21 jet fighter.

Unita said rebel anti-aircraft batteries shot down the plane as it bombed the village of Kanamba in southeastern Moxico province.

Two MI-17 helicopters were shot down the previous day in the same province.

Unita killed 64 Angolan fighters and seven Cubans in other actions across six other provinces between May 1-5, according to the statement.

Casualties for Unita were given as 12 killed, 10 wounded and two missing.

Among these attacks, the guerillas said they had defeated two Angolan army battalions in the central province of Bie, killing 36 Angolan soldiers.

Four days previously, Unita killed 31 Angolan soldiers and captured five others in an attack on an army barracks in Bie, the statement said.

The rebels said they had killed seven Cubans in the oil-rich north-western Angolan enclave of Cabinda.—Sapa-RNS

ARL 10/5/88

Geldenhuijs to visit Lisbon

— news agency

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. — The chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuijs, will travel to Lisbon in a few days' time, the Mozambique News Agency, Aim, reports.

The agency linked General Geldenhuijs's visit to the peace negotiations on Angola but some observers said it could be connected with negotiations on security arrangements for the Cahora Bassa dam.

Aim said General Geldenhuijs would meet the Portuguese armed forces chief of staff, General Lemos Ferreira, and might also hold talks with officials of the Portuguese foreign ministry.

The trip will take place "later this week", it said, without giving a date for the visit.

The agency did not give any further details on the talks but said a number of political and diplomatic figures connected with the Angolan issue would visit Portugal within the next few days.



Later this month Mozambican, South African and Portuguese officials are expected to meet in Lisbon to discuss financial and security arrangements for the Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique.

It has been reported that South Africa has agreed to provide logistical support for a force defending the powerlines from the dam.

● The Defence Force refused to comment today.

Gang flees after gunfight

Cape Town

Pik off to Congo

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

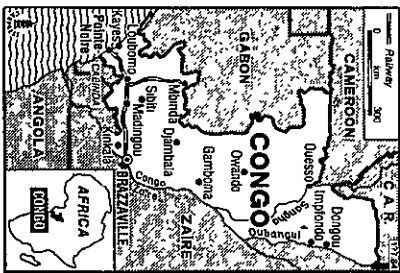
Cape Times 10/5/88 5

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, are to fly to the Congo Republic this week for talks on a Cuban withdrawal from Angola and Namibian independence.

The high-powered South African delegation is expected to arrive in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville on Thursday and return the following day. The latest peace talks are not seen as a direct continuation of last week's four-power discussions in London at which the United States and Cuba were also present, but it is significant that the Brazzaville meeting has been elevated to ministerial level.



Mr Pik Botha



African countries

Mr Botha did not confirm details but said that "it is already known that further meetings would take place between Angola and South Africa in the future" and that Pretoria was "not opposed to Brazzaville as a venue".

Mr Botha said: "The SA government has been in contact with several African countries over the past month in connection with matters of communal interest and to exchange opinions on a number of important questions regarding our continent, including the necessity for peace and stability in our region."

"These discussions are continuing." The latest talks follow a meeting between an official of the department of Foreign Affairs and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique at the weekend.

Mr Botha, speaking during his budget vote in the House of Assembly yesterday, said that if Cuba could "with dignity" withdraw its troops from Angola, then "a whole new ball game" would prevail.

In such an event South Africa would be able to proceed with the independence of Namibia on the basis of long-standing agreements — a reference to UN Resolution 435.

The Cape Times' correspondent in London reported last night that diplomatic circles, including the Americans, were "stunned" by the news of the Brazzaville talks.

The meeting was thought to pre-empt arrangements already under way for the second stage of US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker's four-nation exploratory talks.

Diplomats in London, who admitted they knew nothing about the plan until they received agency news releases, assumed it would be "complementary" to Dr Crocker's initiative.

They were uncertain whether Cuba and the United States would be present as observers.

But diplomats acknowledged that it fitted with Mr Pik Botha's wish for an "African solution" to the crisis in south-western Africa in which Angola and South Africa were not dictated to by the superpowers.

Obstacles to peace in southern Africa

By David Braun
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Several major hurdles must be cleared before current initiatives to settle southern Africa's various problems can succeed.

South African Government sources remain cautious about the prospects of the various talks scheduled between South Africa and Angola and between South Africa and Mozambique, and they warn against over-optimism.

This week's talks between South

Africa and Angola in Brazzaville in the Congo are apparently in jeopardy because of leaks to the media about their location and time.

But it is understood the talks will still take place on Friday.

Among the hurdles that have to be cleared before peace can be brought to southern Africa are:

- The withdrawal of the more than 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola.

Although Cuba has made clear its willingness to withdraw from Angola, the best specific offer it has made to date is to move its forces to north of the 13th parallel within a year and to phase all its troops out of Angola over four years.

- The withdrawal of the 3 000 troops South Africa has admitted to having in Angola, and an end to its support for Unita.

- Independence for Namibia and withdrawal of South African forces. South Africa has said it will remain in Namibia until the Cubans have left Angola.

PARTY TO TALKS

- South Africa's insistence that Unita be a party to talks to end the civil war in Angola and that the Namibian internal parties be party to any talks affecting Namibia.

- Angola's insistence that Swapo be party to regional talks affecting Namibia.

- Talks between South Africa and Mozambique depend on problems relating to the rebel MNR movement being cleared up.

Crucial SA, Angolan talks appear saved

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DID 11/5/88

CAPE TOWN — Despite press leaks, which jeopardised the crucial talks between South Africa and Angola, scheduled for the end of the week in Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo Republic, the meeting has apparently been saved.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterday that a question mark had been placed over the talks because of the leaks and that "they may not take place".

Although Department of Foreign Affairs officials would not confirm that the talks would definitely take place, it seemed last night that they would go ahead as planned.

A South African delegation, including Mr Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, is scheduled to leave South Africa on Thursday and return late on Friday.

The meeting is not regarded as a continuation of the four-power talks held in London last week, but as a complementary bi-lateral initiative by the South African and Angolan Governments.

No agenda for this week's discussions has been released, but it is understood that the parties will focus on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the role of Unita in the event of a peace settlement and the implications for SWA/Namibia.

Yesterday, Mr Botha again committed the South African Government to a settlement in SWA/Namibia in terms of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 435.

Mr Botha has, however, publicly stated a number of times in the

past that he supports an African settlement to the problems in southern Africa — including the Namibian and Angolan disputes — in which the governments were not dictated to by the superpowers.

The end-of-week talks are in keeping with this approach and, although no major statements are expected in Brazzaville, they could pave the way for a regional solution.

The leader of the National Democratic Movement, Mr Wynand Malan, said that the changed Russian attitude towards South Africa had provided the opportunity for the government to be more reasonable about its

conditions for negotiation with the ANC.

"What is clear is that there is not much left of the total onslaught and there are various indications that the Soviet Union is also engaged in a re-evaluation of its role and position in southern Africa.

"In view of the ties between Moscow and the ANC in Lusaka, this re-evaluation must also have an influence on the ANC," he said.

"The opportunity now exists for the government to relinquish its precondition that the ANC foreswears violence before it will hold discussions with the organisation."

This, he said, would create pressure on the ANC from both South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Such an approach would be clearly different from Mr Botha's recent "do your damndest" challenge to the United Nations, which further motivated the sanctions promoters.

● The Nigerian Minister of External Affairs, Major-General Ike Nwachukwu, who arrived in Harare yesterday, called on South Africa to withdraw all its forces from Angola, and said that his country was working towards dismantling apartheid in southern Africa — DDC-Sapa

Parliament

Talks in Congo problems - Pik

copy - 1/15/88

Political Staff

THE crucial talks at the end of the week between Angola and South Africa in Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo Republic, which were nearly jeopardized by press leaks, appear to have been saved.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Parliament yesterday afternoon that a question mark had been placed over the talks because of the leaks and "they may not take place".

However, although Department of Foreign Affairs officials would not confirm that the talks would definitely take place, it seemed last night that they would go ahead as planned.

Namibia settlement

A South African delegation, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, is scheduled to leave South Africa on Thursday and return late on Friday.

The discussions with their Angolan

counterparts will not involve other governments.

They are not regarded as a continuation of the four-power talks in London last week, but as a complementary, bi-lateral initiative by the South African and Angolan Governments.

No agenda for this week's discussions has been released but it is understood they will focus on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the role of Unita in the event of a peace settlement and the implications for the situation in Namibia.

Yesterday, Mr Botha again committed the South African government to a settlement in Namibia in terms of the Security Council resolution 435.

But Mr Botha has publicly stated a number of times in the past that he supports an African settlement to the problems in Southern Africa, including the Namibian and Angolan disputes, in which the governments were not dictated to by the superpowers.

The talks at the end of the week are in keeping with this approach and although no major statements are expected in Brazzaville, they could pave the way for a regional solution.

SA-Angola talks on track

5 Political Staff *Star* 11/5/88

CAPE TOWN — The Angolan peace talks in Brazzaville, Congo, still seemed to be on track today — despite earlier warnings from Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha that press leaks about the talks might have jeopardised them.

But it now appears that if any damage was done it had been repaired by last night. Diplomatic sources confirmed today that arrangements were still going ahead.

It is understood that Mr Botha and Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan will head the South African delegation to the Congo to meet an Angolan delegation tomorrow and Friday.

From Washington, The Star Bureau reports that the conflict in Southern

Africa will be one of the main items on the agenda in Geneva this week at a top-level US-Soviet meeting to iron out problems before the May 29 summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Americans will seek Moscow's view on last week's talks in London on the Angolan civil war and Namibian independence.

The Star's Africa News Service reports from Maputo that top-level American officials continued their secret consultations with Mozambique yesterday. Mozambican Prime Minister Mario Machungo met US State Department official Mr Charles Freeman who said afterwards that Mozambique help in bringing independence to Namibia and peace to Angola.

Rajbansi fights to regain majority

Star 10/5/88 Political Staff *(S)*

CAPE TOWN — Beleaguered Mr Amichand Rajbansi, chairman of the Indian Ministers' Council, threatened to fire his Cabinet as he made a desperate attempt last night in a series of meetings to regain his majority in the House of Delegates.

His first meeting with the 11 rebels who broke away last week to form the

People's Party of South Africa broke up in acrimony after 45 minutes.

According to sources in the rebel group at the meeting, Mr Rajbansi threatened to fire all his Ministers and particularly Mr Ismail Kathrada, Minister of the Budget, who played a major part in the break, and Deputy Minister of the Environment, Mr Somaroo Pachai.

dy for her new arms

reau South African who was born severely short now tonight just other four-year-old girl her father's

and mysterious he says this is do when British arms.

nily, who come tern Transvaal, r the past week npton Hospital,

acknowledged as the world's leading treatment centre for Phocomelia victims.

Doctors will say today how they plan to fit her artificial limbs. The youngster will then spend six weeks visiting the hospital for treatment and therapy.

Her parents are optimistic that the new limbs will ensure she has a chance to develop normally. She is mature for her age

As the little girl dashed around the Kensington flat where the family is staying, Mr Gower said: "She has seen a lot of doctors and through all of this she hasn't shed a tear."

After proceedings had ended, Mr Rajbansi approached a number of people individually, including the chief whip of Solidarity, Mr Yunus Moolla.

Notice of a motion calling on President Botha to dismiss him as chairman of the Indian Ministers' Council was given in Parliament yesterday.

Notices were also given in Parliament of motions calling on President Botha to appoint a commission of inquiry into allegations of corruption and bribery.

UN will attempt to raise \$24m in aid for Angola (5)

Df 11/5/88

GENEVA — The United Nations will attempt to raise \$24 million in emergency aid for Angola at a donor meeting scheduled here for May 17.

The funds will be used to buy seeds, medical supplies, blankets, and transport equipment and to improve water supplies for the nation's nine million residents.

The deputy director of the United Nations Disaster Relief Fund (UNDRF), Dr Hans Einhaus, said that one million Angolans were in seriously bad health.

One child in three died

from malnutrition or chronic diarrhoea before the age of five, he said.

Dr Einhaus said that donor nations would also be asked to provide 330 000 tonnes of wheat to supplement Angola's poor crop.

Angola's Minister of Planning, Mr Antonio Henriques Da Silva, will lead a 10-man Angolan delegation to the meeting.

Dr Einhaus said Angola's defence ministry had given assurances that it would provide logistic aid for the UN relief distribution.

"Each convoy will

need military protection," he said.

Last week, South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States held talks to explore ways of ending the war between Angola and Unita.

Negotiations for the withdrawal of the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola is sought by Washington and Pretoria as a condition for a regional peace settlement which includes independence for SWA/Namibia.

Angola is seeking an end to US and South African aid to Unita. —Sapa-RNS

5 Cuba finds peace talks 'positive'

LISBON. — Cuba found last week's four-party peace talks on Southern Africa "positive", and may speed up its plan to withdraw 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola if South Africa agrees to do likewise and grant self-rule to Namibia, a Cuban cabinet minister said here yesterday.

The Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Raoul Roa, who is in Lisbon to discuss last week's meeting in London involving negotiators from Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States, said after meeting Portuguese Foreign Minister Mr Joao Pinheiro, Havana was encouraged by SA's stance at the talks.

"We think the meeting was positive," he told reporters; "the South Africans took serious positions, and the results were good."

Echoing Angola's position in the talks, Mr Roa said: "When Namibia is independent and there are no more (South African military) incursions into Angola, there'll be no need for Cuban troops in Angola."

Noting Angola's Cuban-backed demand that both South Africa and the United States stop backing rebel Unita troops, Mr Roa said Unita was "nothing without foreign aid".

The four-year plan to withdraw Cuban forces from Angola presented to US negotiators in March in Luanda, could be accelerated, he said.

"We're flexible on the timetable for withdrawal," he said, adding the speed of the Cuban departure depends on "South Africa's attitude" during the negotiating process.

Asked to confirm reports of a second meeting, Mr Roa said "an African country" was discussed as the site of the next round of talks. — Sapa-AP

Pressure on SA to settle

zambique, be drawn into the Western sphere of influence with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank already lining up.

If South Africa is the only stumbling block in the way of this arrangement, Pretoria will be in direct opposition to American interests — and could face ruinous economic pressure.

More immediately, the prospect of a new, invigorated Cuban-Fapla onslaught, the soaring cost of the war to the South African treasury, the risks of large-scale losses of white conscripts and growing tensions within Unita offer a sobering antidote to Pretoria's self-confidence.

Observers in London were intrigued by the presence in the South African delegation of General Jannie Geldenhuys, the chief of the South African Defence Force.

Geldenhuys found himself eyeball to eyeball this week with the extremely influential Jorge Risquet, the leading Africa expert in Cuba's central committee.

If the peace initiative fails, there is a very real possibility of South African troops facing a joint Cuban-Fapla force which is likely to be the most sophisticated and formidable army they have ever faced.

South Africa still holds a strategic advantage with the deadly accurate G-5 and G-6 long-range artillery which were passed on from a United States company, Space Research Corporation, in violation of the United Nations arms embargo.

However, South Africa is losing the battle of the skies: according to Western estimates, it has lost 15 combat planes since July last year.

There are also reports from the Frontline states that Soviet B-72 tanks, the most modern in the Eastern bloc, have been arriving from Afghanistan.

Some 6 000 members of Cuba's crack 50th Division arrived in Angola

●From PAGE 1

in November and until now have only been deployed in defensive positions. Their commander, General Arnoldo Oscho Sanchez, was formerly head of the Cuban forces in Ethiopia and in Nicaragua.

During Fapla's dry season offensive last year, which was stopped by South African and Unita troops on the River Lomba, Cuban troops were not used on the front line.

South Africa's success in routing the Fapla offensive has since been moderated by the setback of not being able to take Cuito Cuanavale.

The South Africans were eventually halted as much by their unwillingness to suffer greater white casualties as by the military capability of their opponents.

The journal *Africa Confidential* reported in April that it had in its possession a confidential SADF report which estimated a head-on infantry attack to seize Cuito Cuanavale would lead to the loss of 300 white troops and 2 000 black troops — an extremely high cost.

Unita losses since July last year have been estimated at between 1 000 and 4 000 — a factor which has exacerbated tensions between Unita leader Jonas Savimbi and younger leaders who question Unita's role as South Africa's front line.

The tensions in the rebel movement are also believed to be behind the disappearance of Wilson dos Santos, former head of information, who was arrested in Jamba recently.

An important and sophisticated younger leadership figure who is emerging is Tito Thingunje, Unita's number three and its head of foreign relations.

The MPLA has indicated its willingness to negotiate with Unita as long as Savimbi is not included — and there are indications that representatives of the two movements met while the peace talks were in progress.

W/Keire
⑤

5/12/1978

Pik leaves today for peace talks in Congo

Political Staff (5)

CAPE TOWN — Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha jets out to the Angolan peace talks in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, today after confirming the meeting for the first time in Parliament yesterday.

Mr Botha told Parliament the talks would go ahead, despite a dangerous build-up of Cuban troops in the south of Angola.

He said the build-up had created "suspicion" and "mistrust" on the eve of the talks and warned against over-optimism about the outcome.

After the preliminary London talks it seemed there had been a change of attitude and African countries had told South Africa that the Cubans were serious about wanting to withdraw, he said.

Mr Botha added that the United States would be informed of the situation as a matter of urgency as Secretary of State George Schultz was due to meet the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister during the next few days.

Mr Botha's statement also confirms that only South Africa and Angola will participate officially, though indirect Cuban involvement as part of the Angolan delegation has not been ruled out.

It is now clear that America will not be involved.

Mr Botha will be accompanied by Minister of Defence Magnus Malan and officials of both their departments.

It is understood that the Angolan delegation will be led by their External Relations Minister Afonso van Dunem.

The South African party is due back in South Africa tomorrow.

● See Page 9.

SA will talk peace in land where Cubans are also a headache

By Ken Vernon, The Star's Africa News Service

When the South African delegation arrives in the Congolese Republic today for talks on Angola, it will be in a country where a part of the population shares a similar preoccupation — how to get rid of the Cubans.

Since independence from France in 1960, the Congo has adopted a radical Marxist ideology that last year spawned a rebel movement committed to abolition of the one-party system, restoration of political pluralism and the removal of a 2 000-strong Cuban military contingent.

But the South Africans will most likely be spared having to be guarded by Cubans, because they will discuss the "withdrawal with honour" of the larger Cuban contingent in Angola in Brazzaville. Most of the Congo Cubans are based at the coastal town of Pointe Noire.

Brazzaville is a sprawling city of 450 000 people — almost a third of the population of the country — nestled cheek by jowl with Kinshasa, capital of Zaire.

The Congo is run by a rare combination of military and one-party Marxist rule.

Its leader, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, came to power in 1979 by overthrowing his commanding officer, General Joachim Yhombi-Opango, because he was considered to be too Western oriented.

The leadership's consistent commitment to socialist-oriented economic policies and state nationalisation of industry has — as elsewhere in Africa — ruined the economy and led to increased dependence on Western companies running extraction industries, and on Western aid, mainly from France.

Exploitation of off-shore and on-shore oil fields, run by French and Italian companies, makes up 70 percent of the Congo's income for a budget that topped R2 000 million this year. Other income is derived mainly from mining ventures.

Since the beginning of the decline in oil prices in the mid-1980s, the Congo's gross national product has also declined, so that this year's budget was described as a "crisis budget" by Prime Minister Ange Pougui, who said that balancing the budget was "attempting the impossible".

Debt repayments take up 44,8 percent of the country's income, and it has had to submit itself to a stringent economic-recovery programme imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

Why has Brazzaville been chosen to host the next round of Angolan peace talks? asks Peter Fabricius.

South African diplomats are not forthcoming with answers. They remain as mysterious on this point as they do about other vital questions concerning the talks, such as who will be there.

Several reasons might have contributed to the choice of this steamy equatorial country, which inspired Joseph Conrad's novel "Heart of Darkness".

The Marxism of President Sassou-Nguesso also seems to be of the pragmatic variety.

A FEW TENUOUS LINKS

In foreign policy, the Congo has moved out of the Soviet sphere of influence, fostering links with France, the United States and China.

Western nations, especially the old colonial power, France, are the chief source of foreign aid, although Eastern bloc countries also contribute.

Another reason for the venue might be that South Africa welcomes the opportunity of increasing its influence in West Africa, where it already has a few tenuous links with countries, such as the Ivory Coast, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

South Africa might also have some interest in Congo oil, which has helped to give it one of the highest GNPs per capita in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite this shot in the arm to the economy, the Congo's average rate of adult literacy was only 37,1 percent in 1985 — one of the lowest in Africa.

Since the drop in the oil price, the Congo — like other new oil producers — has struggled to pay for oil infrastructure and is repaying a large foreign debt.

The country's political history since independence from France in 1960 reveals many of the common features of post-colonial Africa, with a series of coups and assassinations.

But President Sassou-Nguesso has remained in power since March 1979. He has survived a certain amount of unrest and at least one attempted coup.

Talks to go ahead despite increasing tensions — Pik

Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — Today's crucial talks between South Africa and Angola in Brazzaville in the Congo People's Republic are to go ahead in spite of increasing tensions in southern Angola and earlier fears that press leaks about the venue would jeopardise the discussions.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in the House of Representatives yesterday that the talks would go ahead despite a dangerous build-up of Cuban troops in southern Angola.

Mr Botha said he had just received the latest news of the Cuban troop movements in Angola and their movement south towards the Namibian border, possibly with Swapo elements either among them or following them, was seriously raising the tem-

perature and tensions in the region.

The discussions today and tomorrow, following on the four-nation meeting on Angola in London last week, indicate that some progress towards a settlement regarding the presence of some 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola may have been made, particularly since the recent shift in Soviet foreign policy away from direct military involvement in foreign countries.

The South African delegation, which is expected to leave for Brazzaville later today, will be headed by Mr Pik Botha and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

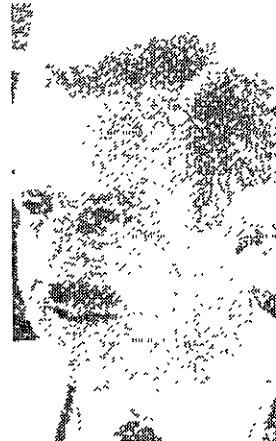
Mr Botha said the only way to peace in Mozambique and Angola was for the warring factions to meet and talk, and he would play whatever

role he could in this regard.

Earlier, the Labour Party spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Les Abrahams, said the South African Government was standing on the threshold of "what can only be said to be historic talks with other interesting parties on the Angola question".

He believed South Africa desperately needed peace, not only for Southern Africa and the rest of the sub-continent.

Editorial opinion P6



MR BOTHA

AREA A: (White Fish Processing Section): Clanwilliam, Hermannus, Hopefield, Malmesbury, Mossel Bay, Namaqualand, Piketberg, Vanrhynsdorp, Vredenberg & Vredendal.
AREA B: (White Fish Processing Section): Bellville, Goodwood, Simon's Town, The Cape & Wynberg?
AREA X: (Rest of Industry): All areas in A and B.

Superseding w.d. no: 305

Superpower guarantees wanted on ANC in Angola and an independent SWA/Namibia

The deal SA is seeking

SOUTH AFRICA is demanding superpower guarantees that African National Congress insurgents are removed from Angola and that they will not be allowed into an independent SWA/Namibia, according to diplomatic sources.

If the Angolans, and their Cuban and Russian backers, agree, the chief prize for Pretoria in the current United States-sponsored negotiations may not be the removal of Cuban troops from Angola, but the collapse of the ANC's terrorist campaign and the delivery of the organisation to the negotiating table.

There have been serious doubts that South Africa has any intention of ending its 68-year-old rule of SWA/Namibia, but the South Africans appeared to be serious at last week's talks in London. The prospect that the ANC will be forced to negotiate may be the ultimate prize

which could persuade them to give up the territory.

Military reality partly dictates this, but it also coincides with the strenuous efforts of the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, who has worked for eight years to get the Cubans out.

Dr Crocker's linkage plan is not simply a deal involving a swap of Cubans out of Angola for South Africa out of SWA/Namibia. The small print would change the face of Southern Africa.

According to State Department sources, the current deal looks like this: Complete withdrawal of the Cubans within one year. SWA/Namibia given independence under United Nations resolution 435. Swap will be forced to sign a non-aggression pact with Pretoria. No foreign troops, including ANC insurgents, will be allowed on SWA/Namibia soil.

The small print of a possible agreement on the independence of SWA/Namibia and the removal of Cuban troops from Angola could change the face of Southern Africa, as RICHARD DOWDEN of the London Independent reports.

The territory will remain within the South African sphere of influence.

Walvis Bay, SWA/Namibia's only port, would remain in South Africa's hands. It was not part of the former German colony, and resolution 435 merely says that an independent SWA/Namibian government will negotiate with Pretoria over its future.

The South Africans will drop their support for UNITA rebels in Angola. The Americans have said they will continue their support for UNITA as long as the Russians aid the Marxist MPLA regime. The Americans estimate that, mutually enfeebled, the Angolan parties will have to settle. The Americans and South Africans say all this is held up by the timetable on Cuban

withdrawal. Officially, the Angolans will send home the Cubans within four years of SWA/Namibia independence, but they have indicated they are willing to be flexible, and may even match the one year the Americans and the South Africans are demanding.

But the meat of the negotiations is over guarantees.

How can the South Africans be prevented from marching back into SWA/Namibia? How can the South Africans be sure the Cubans won't come back to Angola?

Washington sources say talks between the American Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, have made some

progress on this. There will almost certainly have to be a United Nations Security Council resolution as an addendum to resolution 435.

Privately, the Americans are saying that once in place, the arrangement will be guaranteed by the South Africans themselves. There is no choice: they are the most powerful force in the region.

The message to the front-line states from Washington, according to one State Department source, is: "If you keep your nose clean and don't provoke South Africa, we will back you. But if you don't back you, the South African guerrillas and the South Africans come over the border and kick you, don't look to us."

But can the South Africans really pull out of SWA/Namibia? They have just discovered oil in the Kudzu field off the coast and have also invested millions in military installations.

The consensus among observers is that South Africa is playing for time by attending the talks. On the other hand, Pretoria will never get a more sympathetic President than Mr Reagan. Now is the time for a deal.

Western intelligence sources estimate there are 8 000 to 10 000 ANC insurgents in Angola and Tanzania. Their main infiltration routes are through Swaziland and Botswana. Both countries are committed to stopping the infiltration.

If South Africa can secure the expulsion of the ANC from Angola, an agreement that it should not be allowed in an independent SWA/Namibia and can force Botswana

and Swaziland not to harbour the organisation, it need worry only about the Zimbabwe border — a mere 240km. And Zimbabwe itself officially allows only a political, not a military, presence within its borders.

On the other side of the continent, there is talk that the Mozambicans are being forced to negotiate with Pretoria. Keeping out the ANC will be high on the agenda.

If Pretoria agreed to the United States plan, there would be no ANC presence within 1 200km of South Africa's borders, and the ANC may have no alternative but to negotiate with Pretoria.

A Washington source said: "We would have no problem with that."

So far the Soviet Union, which ultimately underwrites the Cuban presence in Angola and its MPLA government, seems to have no problem with this plan, either.

Congo talks go ahead, despite Cuban troops

By BARRY STRECK

TODAY'S crucial talks between South Africa and Angola in Brazzaville in the Congo People's Republic are to go ahead in spite of increasing tensions in southern Angola and earlier fears that leaks about the venue would jeopardize the discussions.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in the House of Representatives yesterday that the talks would go ahead despite a dangerous build-up of Cuban troops in southern Angola.

Mr Botha said he had just received the latest news of the Cuban troop movements in Angola and their movement south towards the Namibian border, possibly with Swapo elements either among them or following them, was seriously raising the temperature and tensions in the region.

He also warned against over-optimism about the Brazzaville talks.

The South African delegation, which is expected to leave for Brazzaville later today, will be headed by Mr Pik Botha and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and is likely to return before the week-end.

● Pik warns — Page 4

SA army 'will not send bill to Unita'

The claim that the South African Defence Force was billing Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi for assistance rendered in the Angolan conflict was "trash", Vice-Admiral Bert Bekker, the SADF's Chief of Staff (Finance) said on Wednesday.

"We are not charging him a cent; the claim is devoid of all truth," he told a finance briefing at the Castle in Cape Town.

As far as military personnel were concerned, Admiral Bekker said that up to the second half of February this year, South African forces in Angola had all been full-time members, in other words either Permanent Force or National Service.

It was only after February this year that Citizen Force members had also been deployed.

A marginal increase in costs had been experienced in that the full-time force members, who were permanently stationed in Namibia, had had to be deployed across the border.

AMMUNITION

The biggest expenditure item in the conflict was ammunition, but it had to be borne in mind that munitions had a limited rack life, after which they had to be dumped or destroyed.

Also, the munitions industry in South Africa had to maintain a minimum level of orders to exist.

Losses by the SADF of irreplaceable equipment, such as the Mirage that was shot down, were a book loss and would not be replaced immediately.

Admiral Bekker said the effect of the Angolan conflict on the current and future Namibian security situation and expenditure for South Africa had also to be taken into account.

"What I'm saying is that a stitch in time saves nine.

"If we had not become involved in Angola, the future defence expenditure (for Namibia) would have been much higher." — Sapa.

(S) KM

Double games

Foreign Minister Pik Botha believes it is "bitterly ironic" that just when serious moves are being made to restore peace in southern Africa, American legislators are preparing to pass the toughest ever sanctions package against the region. Speaking at talks in London between SA, Angola, the US and Cuba ended in London last week, Botha said US legislators should "pause and think" and "come to their senses."

And as to give weight to his words, Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan were this week preparing to attend further talks in Brazzaville, Congo.

But a new threat to peace in southern Africa is looming on the horizon. It is reported that Cuba — one of the players in the peace drama — may be preparing a surprise attack on South African forces in southern Angola in a bid to undermine the four-nation peace talks now underway.

As the bargaining for peace gains momentum, there are reports in Portugal that the Cubans are advancing on South African forces holding positions in Cunene province. One Portuguese estimate says SA has 8 000 troops stationed in the south, Unita 22 000, and the Angolans-Cubans 220 000.

A recent report from the battlefield said Cuban forces, resupplied through the southern port of Namibe, had been advancing gradually along the Lubango-Xangongo axis south of the Cunene River and had taken up positions at Evale, 90 km from Namibia.

Military observers in Lisbon were concerned at the development, suggesting that Havana may be seeking to sabotage the current peace talks by launching a maverick attack against South African forces.

Meanwhile, optimism is high over the possible outcome of the Angolan peace process. The Portuguese Foreign Ministry held consultations this week with envoys from SA, Cuba and Angola prior to the second round of talks in Brazzaville. It is understood that

although Unita leader Jonas Savimbi appeared initially to have been sidelined by the latest peace moves, he was briefed by South African officials before the London talks. ■

13/5/88 49

The key to peace is held by two Marxist leaders

AKC
13/11/88
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The Argus Africa News Service reports

TWO young Portuguese-speaking Marxist presidents are holding the keys to peace in Southern Africa.

As South African envoys negotiate with Angola on a Cuban withdrawal and with Mozambique on a revival of the Nkomati Accord, presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos, 45, of Angola and Joaquim Chissano, 48, of Mozambique are hoping that peace can finally let their countries, ruined by war and disastrous economic policies, achieve economic progress.

Both men have a similar history of persecution by the Portuguese colonial authorities, flight to foreign countries and eventually membership of guerrilla organisations which were to take control of Angola and Mozambique in the tumultuous year of 1975.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos was born on August 23, 1942, in Luanda, but little is known about his childhood.

He became involved with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in 1961 when he set about forming student groups to back the burgeoning movement.

He was forced to go into exile after the Portuguese police started taking an interest in his activities. He moved to Leopoldville, now Kinshasa, where he became the representative of the youth wing of the MPLA.

Soviet Union

In 1963 he was sent to the Soviet Union where he obtained a degree in petroleum engineering. After that he took a course in military communications and on his return to Africa was appointed head of the insurgents in the oil-rich Cabinda province.

He was elected to the MPLA central committee only in 1974 after a coup in Portugal had opened the way for the independence of the Portuguese African colonies.

Mr dos Santos was elected president by the MPLA in 1979 when President Agostinho Neto died of cancer in a Moscow hospital.

His election was clearly a compromise within a party which had a history of strong divisions deepened by the war with the rebel Unita movement and the growing economic crisis.

Mr dos Santos is clearly not a visionary or a charismatic leader but rather an administrator who has battled to impose his authority and balance the different factions within the ruling party.

His decision to take a more flexible position on the Angolan problem to the point where, it has been reported, he is ready to sacrifice the ANC and Swapo is a clear indication that he has adopted a pragmatic policy to solve his country's problems.

For his Mozambican counterpart, Mr Chissano, the situation is easier. He has widespread diplomatic support from both Eastern and Western countries and, unlike Unita in Angola, the MNR rebels fighting a brutal war against his government enjoy no international recognition.

Mr Chissano has only accelerated a policy started by his predecessor, the charismatic Samora Machel, by improving relations with the West and slowly liberalising the economic rules of the country which were strictly moulded to the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

If reports stating that Mr Chissano has played an important behind-the-scenes role in the Angolan peace talks are true, he will once again be following in the steps of his predecessor who, before he died, was said to be urging the Angolan government to seek peace with South Africa as Mozambique had done.

Nkomati Accord

The recent exchange of messages between Mr Chissano and President P W Botha seem to indicate that the Mozambican head of state has now accepted that peace can be achieved only through an accommodation with South Africa.

After he came to power in November, 1986, Mr Chissano did little or nothing to revive the Nkomati Accord and adopted a hostile public position against South Africa, which served to increase tensions between the two countries.

However, since late last year this has changed and Mr Chissano is now clearly seen as one of the Southern African presidents pressing for peace with South Africa.

A soft-spoken, articulate and urbane man fluent in several European and African languages, Mr Chissano was born on October 22, 1939. He was one of the first black pupils at the main Lourenco Marques (now Maputo) high school and later obtained a bursary to study medicine in Lisbon.

From Lisbon he fled to Paris and became one of the founders of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

5

SA, Angola meet at secret venue in Brazzaville

From PIERRE CLAASSEN South African Press Association

BRAZZAVILLE. — South African and Angolan government ministers met at a secret venue here today to renew Angolan peace talks.

Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha leads the South African team which includes the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan. Angolan Justice Minister Mr Fernando van Duuren heads his delegation, replacing Foreign Minister Mr Afonso van Duuren, who led the Angolan delegation at last week's four-nation London meeting.

Soon after 9am Mr Botha and his delegation left the State accommodation where they had spent the night after arriving in the Congo capital by air.

He was in a confident mood.

"We met some Congolese trade contacts last night and these were so encouraging that I have decided to stay on for another day after the Angolan talks," he said.

Yesterday Mr Botha told journalists that today's talks could be seen as a continuation of the London talks where the Cuban and American delegations had encouraged South Africa and Angola to meet again as soon as possible.

Although he refused to comment on the substance of today's meeting, Mr Botha drew a parallel between the Angolan and the Afghanistan situa-

(Turn to page 3, col 5)



SECOND ROUND: South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha chats with Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba shortly after arriving for a second round of talks with Angolan officials seeking regional peace in South Africa.

Congo talks held in secret

(Continued from page 1) *AKA's 13/1/81*

"Mr Gorbachev has said that the Afghan problem is a regional one. He said that if it can be settled regionally, Russia would withdraw."

The same treatment should be given to Angola.

"The United States and the Soviet Union must be able to disengage with dignity and honour," Mr Botha said.

Luanda has already stated that it wants its problems solved in a regional context and Mr Botha was therefore echoing Angola on this point.

● Peter Fabricius of The Arms political staff reports that the Angolan peace initiative is gaining momentum and a third round of talks between South Africa and Angola at ministerial level could take place within weeks.

As Mr Botha and General Malan jetted into Brazzaville

Yesterday senior South African diplomatic sources said another meeting was already on the cards.

Mr Botha said that both delegations at today's talks would be reporting back to "other interested parties" and South Africa would be keeping the Americans informed.

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SA and Angola top brass in Congo for peace talks

Stev 13/5788

(5)

By Peter Fabricius,
Political Staff

BRAZZAVILLE — High level South African and Angolan delegations to the Angola peace talks both arrived in the sweltering capital of the Republic of Congo yesterday afternoon.

They were met separately at Maya-Maya Airport by the Congo Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Antoine Endinga Oba.

The talks aimed at a solution for the Angolan war were due to start today.

A senior member of the South African party disclosed that further talks would take place within weeks.

Heading the South African delegation were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, who flew into Congo in two private chartered planes with a party of about 23 South African officials and journalists.

Congo president Mr Denis Sassou-Nguesso was apparently out in the country visiting his tribal village.



Mr Pik Botha chatting in Brazzaville yesterday to the Congolese Foreign Minister, Mr Antoine Ndinga-Oba.

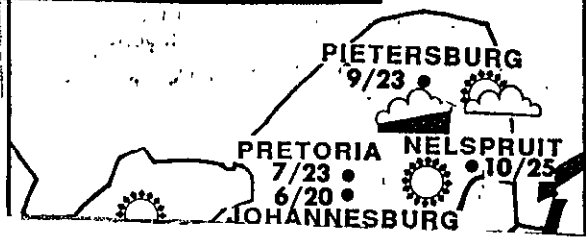
The Angolan delegation arrived about an hour later headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr Fernando Franca van Dunem, and the Fapla deputy chief of staff, Major-General Roberto Leal Monteiro.

A few hitches seem to have cropped up but not enough to upset the talks.

Mr Botha would not comment on the agenda of the talks, but members of his party said bilateral issues involving Angola and South Africa were concerned.

The South African party is due to return to South Africa later today.

THE WEATHER



Bara twins healing well, says doctor

Newly separated Siamese twins Mpho and Mphonyana Mathibela had their dressings changed yesterday, a Baragwanath Hospital

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South Africans arrive in Congo

DELEGATIONS from South Africa and Angola arrived in Brazzaville, Congo yesterday for their second face-to-face meeting, amid conflicting signals of the importance of the talks.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha, Defence Minister Magnus Malan, senior officials and journalists left Pretoria yesterday for the talks.

The Angolan delegation, described as "a group of experts", was headed by Minister of Justice Fernando Van-Dunem.

Botha told reporters he and Malan had decided to proceed with the talks at ministerial level despite Pretoria's concern about a recent build-up of Cuban troops in Angola.

"We must see how serious the Angolans are about getting peace," Botha said in an interview before his de-

parture. But a despatch yesterday from the Angolan news agency, Angop, said the meeting would be "an exploratory meeting between experts at the request of South Africa".

The talks follow last week's initiative in which the US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, chartered the first two-day round of exploratory talks between ministers and senior officials of Cuba, Angola and South Africa, in London.

Although the Cubans and Americans will be absent from today's talks, they are generally viewed as a continuation and, for South Africa, who did not have a cabinet minister at the first round, as an upgrading of the talks. — Sapa-Reuter

SADF's training advantage

LONDON — The SADF had a clear edge on Fapla troops during recent fighting in Angola because of immeasurably better trained officers, according to Jane's Defence Weekly.

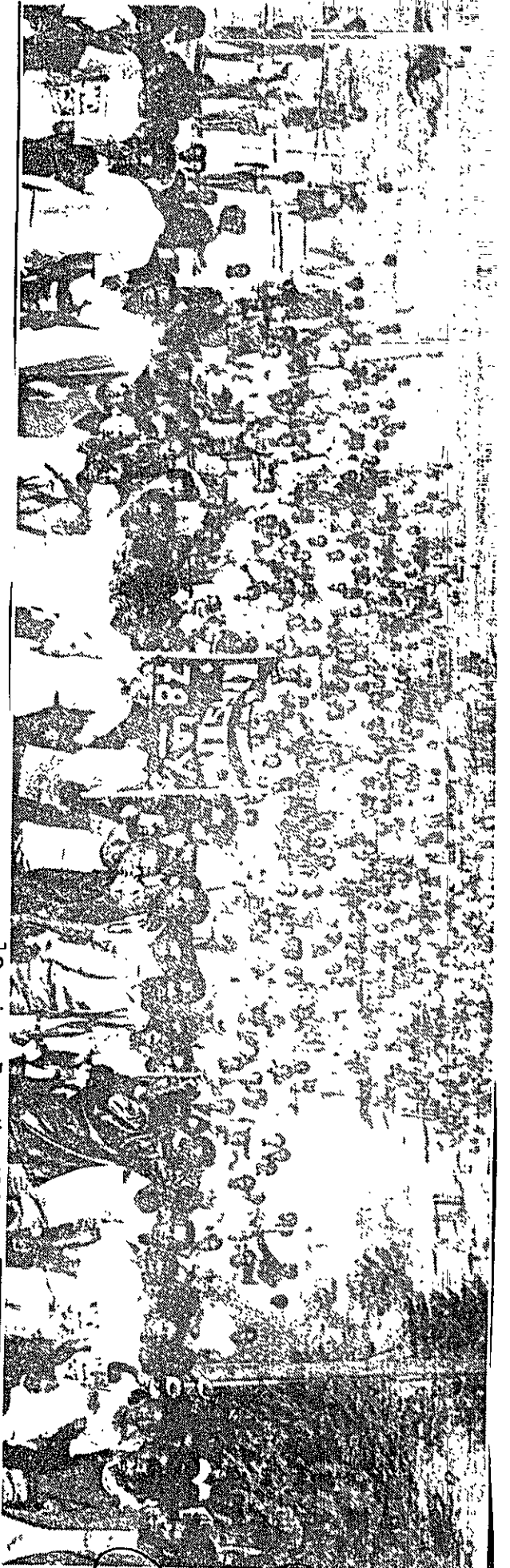
"Perhaps the main advantage that the SADF possessed was not superior equipment but the immeasurably better training of its officers and men, giving it a clear edge," said the London-based magazine in a lengthy analysis of the conflict.

Own Correspondent

Jane's said the 3 000-strong SADF forces operating in Angola in support of Unita achieved some remarkable tactical successes. "Artillery, armour and, to a lesser extent, air support all played crucial roles in the defeat of the Fapla offensive."

It said whatever the ultimate results of the recent Angolan peace talks, they have granted Unita a reprieve.

13/5/88



Cassinga Day, the 10th anniversary of an SA Defence Force raid in Angola in which 600 Namibian refugees were killed, was marked in two ways. The SADF celebrated the "victory" over what they said was a Swapo camp; and thousands of Katutura township pupils, who claim the raid victims were mostly women and children, marched in protest against SADF "insensitivity". The march (above) ended when police opened fire with rubber bullets and teargas.

Picture: JOHN LIEBENBERG

W Mail
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Delegates arrive in Congo: talks begin

from BARRY STREEK

BRAZZAVILLE — Vital talks between South Africa and Angola are to begin here today after the arrival of both delegations last night.

The South African delegation, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, arrived here about an hour before the Angolan representatives.

The Angolan delegation is headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr Fernando van Dunem —

not as expected, the Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso van Dunem and the head of the Angolan army (Fapla), Major General Roberto de la Monteiro.

The Angolans refused to say anything to the media on their arrival.

The official discussions which could pave the way for the withdrawal of some 40 000 Cuban troops from Angola will start this morning and are expected to last all day.

The agenda was described last night as "loose" but Mr Botha

said the build-up of Cuban and Angolan troops in Southern Angola would definitely be taken up.

He said South Africa was "very concerned" about the situation.

"We want to see how sincere and serious they are about getting peace," Mr Botha added.

He said he was not concerned that his Angolan counterpart, Mr Afonso van Dunem, was not heading his country's delegation.

"Any government was entitled to appoint its own representatives."

Mr Botha and General Malan were met at the Maya-Maya Airport in Brazzaville by Congo's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Antoine Ndinga-Oba.

Although Mr Botha held a brief press conference at the airport, Mr Ndinga-Oba did not say anything to the press.

It was reported that the Congolese President, Colonel Denis Sasson-Nguesso, was visiting his home village and is not expected to meet the South African delegation.

The Congolese Government, a close ally of both Angola and Cuba, is clearly playing a facilitating role in providing the venue.

Mr Botha praised the Congo Government on his arrival, saying the South African Government was "very grateful" to the Congo for being the host at "these important talks".

Today's talks are "in a sense" a continuation of last week's discussions in London, he said.

Mr Botha said it was important that the talks were held in Brazzaville and they should be continued in other capitals on the African continent because "we are part of Africa".

He also said "we are entitled to hope that a solution to the region can be resolved in the region".

"This would enable the Soviet Union, and for that matter the United States, to be able to disengage with honour," Mr Botha said.

Among the South African delegation were the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Niel Barnard, and the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden.

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Vital Brazzaville talks start today

Nujoma on invited visit to Cuba

From BARRY STREEK

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The Angolan delegation is headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr Fernando van Dunem — not the Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso van Dunem, as expected — and Major-General Roberto de la Monteiro, head of Fapla, the Angolan army.

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last all day.

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the talks were held in Brazzaville and they should be continued in other capitals on the African continent because "we are part of Africa".

He also said: "We are entitled to hope that a solution to the region can be resolved in the region."

Sapa-Reuter reports that an Angolan news agency report monitored in Lisbon described the Brazzaville meeting as "an exploratory meeting between experts at the request of South Africa".

Diplomatic sources said the talks would give Mr Botha and General Malan an opportunity for more intimate exchanges than were possible in London.

The US and Cuba are not due to attend the Brazzaville meeting, which South African officials said had been arranged before London peace talks.

HAVANA. — Swapo leader Mr Sam Nujoma arrived in Cuba on Wednesday at the invitation of President Fidel Castro, the official newspaper Granma said yesterday.

He was met at the airport by Mr Jorge Risquet, a member of the politburo of the Communist Party who headed Cuba's delegation to recent talks in London on the conflict in Namibia.

In addition to a Cuban-Angolan delegation, South African and US representatives attended the talks in the British capital.

Swapo was not directly represented at the London talks, but the Cuban-Angolan delegation presented its position.

A major demand was for the application of UN Resolution 435, which calls for the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and independence for the country. — Sapa-Reuter

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the shooting
West Beirut on
battles and
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Reuter

wanted this one," 25-year-old Safa Abdulla said after paying 1,21 million Swiss francs (about R1 730 000) for the egg-shaped pearl, known as "La Regente", which was once part of the French Crown Jewels. — Sapa-Reuter

ool should carryover

Pick 6 selections

RECONDITE	INTUITION	JAN BOTHA	HARRY SHAW
Meggie Radio Gaga Private Fag	Meggie Noble Pre Jangala	Meggie Jangala Radio Gaga	Meggie Radio Gaga Jangala
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King Buccan Basswood Sold Song	Sold Song King Buccan Basswood	Sold Song Elated Crow Basswood	King Buccan Sold Song Elated Crow
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tions which have been Teachers' College, At and Huguenot High School

Candidates initiative re-
COLOMBO. — Suspect shot and killed two police officers of government overthrow attacks, a military officer's London Hungarian tra Africa.

VIENNA. — Hundreds of scientists negotiations yesterday to found Easter as concerned the dent trade union since he held again in spokeswoman said.

Nevada nuclear
LAS VEGAS. — Scientists agreed to host nuclear weapon tests Nevada Test Site in nuclear test of the year.

Holocaust a pity
TORONTO. — A District expressed the hope called German-born in Africa. "bigot" and sentence, the willingness of for "spreading false n governments to ad-caust was a hoax.

Reports by Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent
Angolan Minister of referred to the ops from Angola. nor an interna- issue — all key efficient progress

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has been made for the four-nation discussion between SA, Angola, Cuba and the United States to be resumed soon.

The presence of the South African Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and the head of the NIS, Dr Niel Barnard, as well as the Chief-of-Staff of Fapla, the Angolan army, Major-General Roberto Leal Monteiro, indicated that security issues, including the presence of Cuban troops, were raised yesterday.

Congo government praised

The fact that the Congolese Foreign Minister, Mr Antone Ndinga-Oba, opened yesterday's discussions, was present at the end of them and that the Congolese government has agreed to host the next round of talks, has given backing to the policy of settling disputes regionally within Africa.

Mr Van Dunen said yesterday's talks had clarified each country's point of view of the problems facing them.

He and his delegation hoped the talks would be resumed "very soon to find a peaceful and honourable solution to the problem".

Both Mr Van Dunen and Mr Botha praised the Congolese government for hosting the discussions.

Peace for Northerners

No military solution for our continent

CAF T-115 14/5/88

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ANGOLA WARNED — PULL CUBANS BACK

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(5)

OR FFACE TERRIBLE BATTLE

by PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA bluntly told the Angolans at the historic peace talks in Brazzaville to stop the current Cuban southward offensive — or risk a terrible battle.

"We will not let the Cubans have victory — no matter what the cost," the Angolans were told.

The South African delegation, headed by Mr. Pk Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and General Magnus Malan, Minister of Defence, flew back from the Congo to South Africa early today.

Before leaving, both Ministers met Congo President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

According to top South African Government sources, the Cuban push to the south into the Kimpese province was seen

timetable for implementing UN 435 in order to give the Cubans more time to pull out.

Meanwhile, South Africa regards the termination of the Cuban southward offensive as a crucial test of the Angolans' commitment to eventual complete withdrawal of the Cubans.

South Africa told the Angolan delegation — which was headed by Justice Minister Mr. Fernando Franco van Duinen — that the Cuban advance could jeopardise the whole initiative.

They said the Cubans presented no real threat to South Africa, which knew their exact strength and positions.

But the Cubans, already close to the SWA/Namibian border and to the South African troops, would soon reach the point where "a tiny spark could set off a huge explosion."

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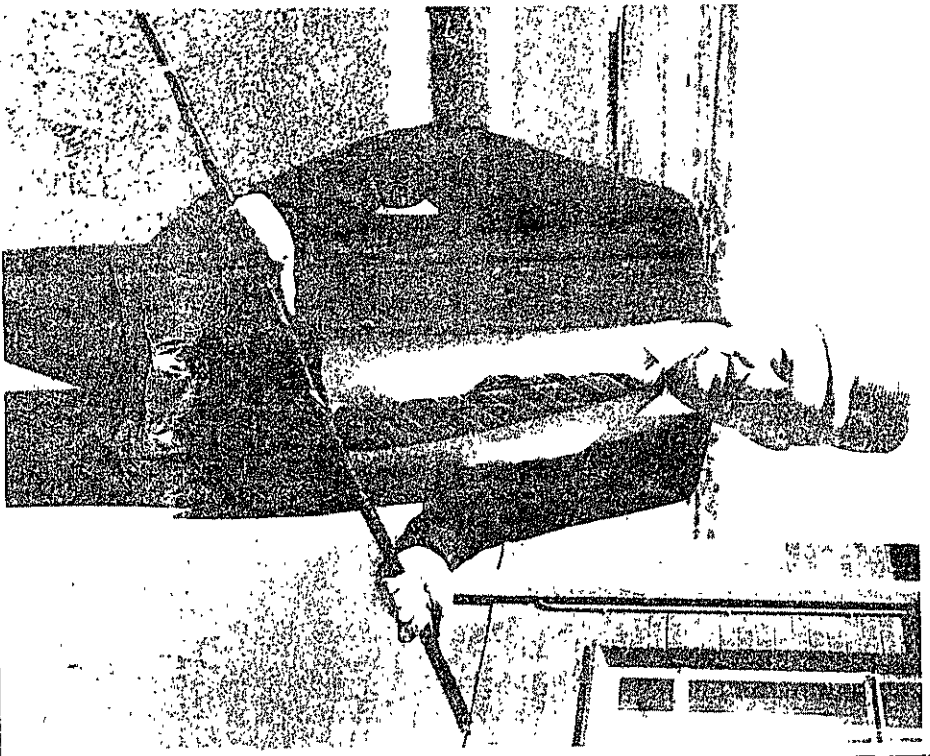
The Angolans were also taken to task for harbouring the ANC.

South Africa said it is the well-publicised Brazzaville talks at a historic event and a diplomatic coup.

This is the first time the Government has publicly visited a West African country since a South Africa Prime Minister visited Liberia in the Seventies.

South Africa regards it as a lesson to its critics in the West that it was received "hospitably, courteously and publicly" by a Marxist-Leninist African country while being slammed by the West.

The visit is also seen as a triumph for the South African policy of "leaving Africa to the Africans" and as a sign that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's pliant policy is being



Induna Piki Foreign Minister Mr Pk Botha underscored his attitude that African problems must be solved by Africans when he arrived at the Brazzaville peace talks wearing a traditional African knitted cap and carrying a staff.

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Before leaving, both Ministers met Congo President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

According to top South African Government sources, the Cuban push to the south into the Kinshasa province was seen by South Africa as the main topic at the talks.

Little movement

One of the main purposes of the next round of talks — which will probably be held in Brazzaville within weeks — will be to establish if the Angolans have pulled the Cubans back.

On the more basic issue of complete Cuban withdrawal from Angola in exchange for SVA, Namibian independence under United States Resolution 435, there seemed to have been little movement.

Certain peripheral proposals were made and these will be reported back to both Governments.

South Africa appears to be taking a hard line, not budging from its position that the Cubans must pull right out before UN 435 can be completed.

Diplomatic sources had said before the talks they thought that South Africa might consider extending the seven-month

time-table for implementing UN 435 in order to give the Cubans more time to pull out.

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But the Cubans, already close to the SVA/Namibian border and to the South African troops, would soon reach the point where "a tiny spark could set off a huge explosion."

South Africa believes that the Cuban advance is aimed either at revenge or at improving their bargaining position.

The South Africans had the impression that the Angolans

were willing to pull the Cubans back.

The Angolans were also taken to task for harpbouring the ANC.

South Africa also criticises the well-publicised Brazzaville talks as a "stale event and a diplomatic coup."

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South Africa regards it as a lesson to its critics in the West that it was received "hospitably, courteously and publicly" by a Marxist-Leninist African country while being shunned by the West.

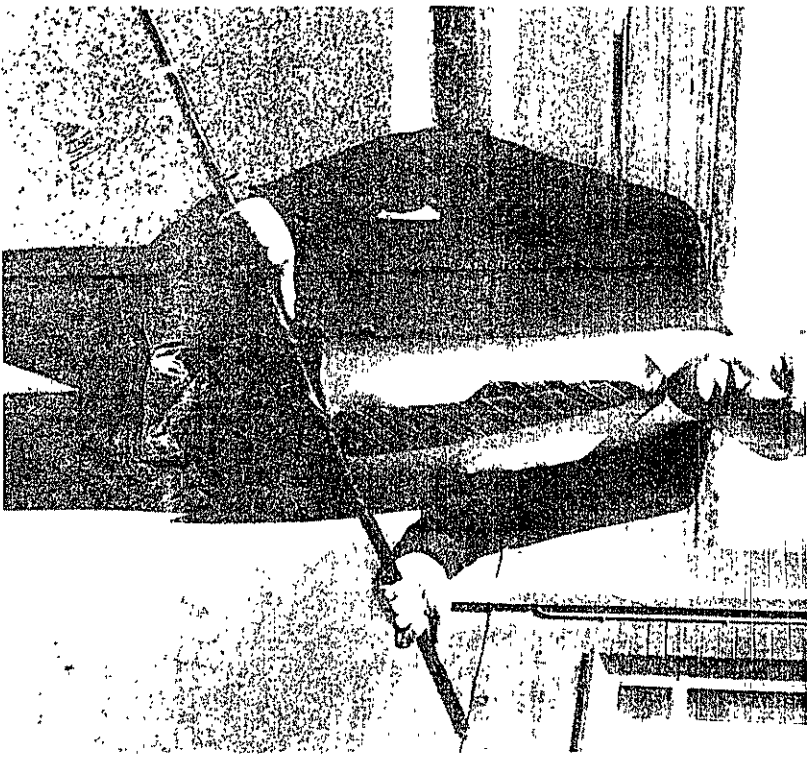
The visit is also seen as a triumph for the South African policy of "leaving Africa to the Africans" and as a sign that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy is being taken up by other communist states.

South Africa is counting on the Russian glasnost to exert pressure on the Cubans to pull out of Angola.



Photos: PETER FABRICIUS

The heads of the delegations to the Angolan peace talks in Brazzaville, Congo emerged yesterday. They are, from left, Mr. Fernando Pranca van Dunem, Angolan Justice Minister; Mr. Antoine Edruga Oba, the Congo's Minister of External Relations; and Mr. P. Botha, South African Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Induna Piki Foreign Minister Mr. Piki Botha underscored his attitude that African problems must be solved by Africans when he arrived at the Brazzaville peace talks wearing a traditional African knitted cap and carrying a staff.

Two Marxist presidents hold key to Southern Africa

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Two Portuguese-speaking Marxist presidents are holding the keys to peace in Southern Africa.

As South African envoys negotiate with Angola on a Cuban withdrawal, and with Mozambique on a revival of the Nkomati Accord, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos (45) of Angola and President Joaquim Chissano (48) of Mozambique are hoping that peace can finally let their countries, ruined by war and disastrous economic policies, achieve economic progress.

Both have a similar history of colonial persecution by the Portuguese colonial authorities, flight to foreign countries, and eventually membership of guerrilla organizations which were to take control of Angola and Mozambique in turbulent 1975.

President dos Santos was born on August 23 1942 in Luanda, but little is known about his childhood.

He became involved with the MPLA (People's Movement for

SATURDAY STARS AFRICA NEWS SERVICE

the Liberation of Angola) in 1961 when he set about forming student groups to back the bourgeois movement.

He was forced to go into exile after the Portuguese police started taking an interest in his activities. He moved to Leopoldville — now Kinshasa — where he became the representative of the youth wing of the MPLA.

Took degree

In 1963 he was sent to the Soviet Union, where he took a degree in petroleum engineering.

He then took a course in military communications. On returning to Africa he was appointed commander of the guerrilla force operating in the oil-rich Cabinda province.

He was elected to the MPLA central committee only in 1974 after a coup in Portugal had

opened the way for the independence of Portuguese African colonies.

Always regarded as a close ally and protégé of the late President Agostinho Neto, Mr dos Santos was surprisingly elected president by the MPLA in 1979 after Mr Neto died of cancer in Moscow.

His election was clearly a compromise within a party which has had a history of strong divisions, deepened by the war with the rebel Unita movement and the growing economic crisis.

Mr dos Santos is not a visionary or a charismatic leader, but rather an administrator who has battled to assert his authority and balance the different factions within the ruling party.

But in recent years it has been made clear that he wants a détente with the West, which can be achieved only through peace with Unita.

He has announced his intention of joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a move which

has been blocked by the United States, and last year he visited several European countries in an effort to gain support for his delicate moves.

His decision to adopt a "more flexible" position in relation to the Angolan problem — to the point where, it has been reported, he is ready to sacrifice the ANC and Svapo — is a clear indication that he has adopted a pragmatic policy to solve his country's problems.

For his Mozambican counterpart, Mr Chissano, the situation is easier.

No recognition

Mr Chissano has widespread diplomatic support from both Eastern and Western countries and, unlike Unita, the MNR (Mozambique National Resistance) rebels fighting a war against his government enjoy no international recognition.

Mr Chissano has only accelerated a policy started by his

predecessor, the charismatic Samora Machel by improving relations with the West and slowing liberalising the economic rules the country which were moulded strictly on the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

If reports stating that Mr Chissano has played an important behind-the-scenes role in the Angolan peace talks are true, he will once again be following in the steps of his predecessor who, before he died, was said to be urging the Angolan government to see peace with South Africa — as Mozambique had done.

The recent exchange of messages between Mr Chissano and Mr Botha seem to indicate that the Mozambican head of state has now accepted that peace can be achieved only through an accommodation with South Africa.

After he came to power in November 1986, Mr Chissano did little or nothing to revive the Nkomati Accord and adopted a hostile



PRESIDENT CHISSANO.

Mpakani Site (in Kwazulu).

This site is 101 kilometres (63 miles) from the source of the river on a reach of the river where the bed gradient is about 2,6 metres per kilometres (14 feet per mile), just below the confluence of the Sikkwelezi tributary with valley side slopes of 1 in 4. As the site is situated in the Ecca Series, foundation conditions will require careful investigations. A dam with a capacity of 1 MAR would be 49 metres (160 feet) high and would have an assured discharge of 200 m³/s. The potential w

potential w

African peace

Wh public position towards South Africa which increased tensions between the two countries.

The But since late last year this has changed, and Mr Chissano is now clearly seen as one of the Southern African presidents pressing for peace with South Africa.

Softly-spoken

sour A soft-spoken, articulate and urbane man fluent in several European and African languages, Mr Chissano was born on October 22 1939. He was one of the first black pupils at the main Lourenco Marques (now Maputo) high school, and later obtained a bursary to study medicine in Lisbon.

The White Mfo From Lisbon he fled to Paris and became one of the founding members of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

through Vryhei Always a leading member with- in Frelimo, he was appointed president in November 1986 after the death of Mr Machel in an air crash in South Africa.



PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS.

hydro-electric

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There is a possible irrigation area worthy of investigation on the White Mfolozi river at its confluence with the Mhlaplane river above the Melmoth-Nongoma road. There are other possible areas east of the road and intermittent localised areas further down the river including an area at Umhlanganweni south of the Mfolozi Game Reserve and more land below the Patane Dam site.

There are three possible dam sites, for the White Mfolozi below the confluence with the Black Mfolozi, and a third in the Nseleni valley to which water might be directed from the White Mfolozi, possibly to serve Richards Bay. There is a further site below

RE (D)

Fears of clash as troops near border

'a political move'

Star 14/578 (5)

GERALD L'ANGE
SATURDAY STAR
AFRICA NEWS SERVICE

The reported advance of Angolan forces towards the Namibian border has been by analysts largely as a bid to strengthen the MPLA government's bargaining position in the current negotiations with South Africa.

At the same time it is thought that the operation must be causing some concern among South African diplomats and military leaders because of the threat it poses to the negotiations themselves and to South African military interests in the region.

Cuban forces, possibly accompanied by troops of the MPLA government's Frelimo army, are reported by some sources to have approached to within

50 km of the Namibian border. This would be the closest Cuban forces have ever come to the border in an advance in strength. Up to now they have generally played a rearguard role to the MPLA ground forces.

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr. Pik Botha, said the Cuban troop buildup in southern Angola was causing "suspicion" and "mistrust" on the eve of the negotiations with the Angolans in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville. The talks have nevertheless gone ahead.

Analysts believe the South African military might be watching the situation closely because the nearer to the border the Cuban and MPLA troops venture, the greater is the risk of a clash with SADF and SWATF forces operating against Swapo insurgents in the region.

This danger would be increased if, as some reports have said, the Cuban and MPLA troops are accompanied by Swapo combatants.

Although the South African troops appear to have been drawn back from the town of Guito Cunavale, around which they had been fighting alongside UNITA forces, they are thought not to have withdrawn entirely from Angola.

SWAPO

The Chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, has said the withdrawal will be conducted according to prevailing military requirements and no announcement has been made of the withdrawal being completed.

Meanwhile Swapo, which has not yet become directly involved in the negotiations, is continuing to

aim insurgency at Namibia from southern Angola.

Observers have noted that the southward movement of the Luanda forces has been widely publicised by either the Angolans or the Cubans, suggesting an intention as much political as military.

One of those who foresaw the possibility of new troop movements during the negotiations was Mr. Andre du Pisani, director of research at the South African Institute of International Affairs. He said during the Angolan peace talks in London earlier this month that the talks "do not preclude movement in the military area."

"I would assume the different backers would increase their support for their respective parties in the initial phase," he said. "There could even be an escalation of military activity."

"The bottom line would be to ensure a strong bargaining position."

Yet another element that is being considered by knowledgeable analysts is the possibility that Cuba has no real interest in withdrawing its troops, as it would have to do in the event of a settlement.

Angola is paying Cuba the equivalent of millions of rands annually for the services of its troops. Their withdrawal would not only deprive Havana of this revenue but would dump more than 40 000 soldiers back into Guba at a time when its economy is in a serious decline and its foreign debts mounting.

Cuba's debt to the Soviet Union alone is estimated at R16-billion and Moscow is giving a cool reception to Havana's requests that the debt be cancelled or rescheduled.



TALKING PEACE? South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. P. Botha meet Angola Secretary for Defence Colonel Jose Maria, and Justice Minister Mr. Fernando van Dunem in Brazzaville yesterday.

FAB1

from BARRY STREEK

BRAZZAVILLE — The Angolan-South African peace initiative received a significant boost yesterday when the two governments agreed to meet again soon in Africa with the other parties involved in last week's talks in London.

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said after three-and-a-half hours of negotiations here yesterday, that as far as his delegation was concerned the next round of negotiations would be held at Brazzaville, the capital of Congo.

The Congolese Government has agreed to attend these talks.

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mis, and the fact that

Boost for Angolan, SA peace plans

the Congolese Foreign Minister, Mr Antone Ndinga-Oba, opened yesterday's discussions and was present at the end of them, has given backing to the policy of settling disputes regionally within Africa.

Mr Botha said at a press conference after the discussions, that "very important matters of a delicate nature" had been discussed and that both the Angolan and South African delegations agreed that there could be "no military solution for our

continent, in particular not for southern Africa".

He stressed that the South African delegation expressed the hope that peace and stability for southern Africa would be achieved through negotiations in Africa.

He added that yesterday's talks demonstrated the willingness of the Angolan and South African governments to address the problems facing them.

Neither Mr Botha nor the Angolan Minister of

Justice, Mr Fernando Van Dunem, made any reference to the possible withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the position of Unita, or an international settlement of the SWA/Namibian issue — all key issues affected by the negotiations — but it is clear that sufficient progress has been made for the four-nation discussion involving South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States to be resumed soon.

The presence of the South African Minister

of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Niel Barnard, as well as the Chief-of-Staff of the Angolan Army, Major-General Roberto Leal Monteiro, indicated that security issues, including the presence of Cuban troops, were raised yesterday.

Mr Van Dunem said yesterday's talks had clarified each country's point of view of the problems facing them.

Both Mr Van Dunem and Mr Botha praised the Congolese Government for hosting the discussions and Mr Botha expressly asked Mr Ndinga-Oba to convey the best wishes of the South African delegation to President Denis Sasson Nguesso.

DID 1415/88

Castro pledges support for peace

HAVANA — Cuban President Fidel Castro has pledged full support for efforts to bring peace to Southern Africa.

The president is reported to have voiced his support at a meeting with the leader of Swapo, Mr Sam Nujoma.

The two met this week to discuss the recent meeting in London of representatives from Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the United States.

Swapo was not directly represented at the London talks, but the Cuban-Angolan delegation presented its position calling for the application of United Nations resolution 435/78.

The resolution calls

for the withdrawal of South African troops from SWA/Namibia and independence for the country.

It also calls for an end to aggression in neighbouring Angola, where guerillas are fighting the Marxist government.

Mr Nujoma described "the broad support" he had recently received from the people of the US for SWA/Namibian independence.

He told President Castro the US was growing more and more dissatisfied with the apartheid system of racial segregation in South Africa.

Mr Nujoma arrived in Cuba on an official visit on Wednesday.

The length of his stay has not been announced. Sapa/RNS

SA, Angola set for more talks

Star 14/7/88

5

**PETER FABRICIUS,
POLITICAL STAFF**

BRAZZAVILLE — The bilateral South African-Angolan talks ended yesterday with a commitment by both sides to meet again and to find an honourable solution to the problems of Angola and Namibia.

After more than three hours of talks at their historic meeting at the Villa La Mer, the South African and Angolan representatives said they preferred a regional settlement.

Another meeting

South African Foreign Minister Mr. Pik Botha said after the meeting it had been agreed that there would soon be another meeting in which all the parties involved in the London talks would participate.

Mr Botha said: "I think I express the feelings of both delegations when I say that we are under no illusions as to the complexity of the matters that we have raised."

"But there is a willingness, on the part of these two governments, to address these issues."

Angolan Justice Minister Fernando Van-Dunem, who led his country's dele-



CUBAN PRESIDENT: Fidel Castro

gation, said: "We both know what the other wants."

Associated Press said the talks here were a surprise, both because of the venue and because neither US nor Cuban diplomats attended.

The Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who

has described himself as a Marxist-Leninist, is a strong backer both of Angola and Swapo guerillas seeking to drive South Africa from Namibia.

Although President Sassou Nguesso's government kept a low profile during the talks, Mr Botha and Mr Van Dunem said Congo had offered to host further meetings.

The Angolan and South African officials said US and Cuban diplomats would attend the next session. Both nations attended last week's talks in London.

From Havana, Sapa- Reuter reported last night that Cuban President Fidel Castro had met Swapo president Mr Sam Nujoma and pledged full support for efforts to bring peace to Southern Africa.

Harare gives backing

Star 14/7/88

5

HARARE — Zimbabwe last night welcomed the talks between South Africa and Angola.

It said the Angolan government was taking part from a position of proven military and diplomatic strength.

The Zimbabwean view was given by Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, Senior Minister for Political Affairs,

while opening the 50th session of the Organisation of African Unity liberation committee.

The liberation committee is seeking ways of increasing support for the armed struggle in Southern Africa.

Mr Nyagumbo said Angola had checked South African military aggression at Cuito Cuanavale.

Angola: The War goes on

by VICTOR MALLETT

WHILE the politicians talk about a peace settlement for Angola and Namibia, the soldiers and the guerrillas are getting on with fighting the wars.

Every few minutes the quiet in Lubango, southern Angola, is shattered by the roar of Soviet-made Mig-23 and Mig-21 warplanes on training missions around the town, reminding visitors that the Angolan Air Force is one of the most powerful in sub-Saharan Africa, even if thousands of the country's people have been killed, maimed or reduced to destitution by the fighting.

In the market next to Engels University, gun-toting Cuban and Angolan troops haggle over Soviet sardines, army toothpaste and local oranges.

On the hill above the town, next to the statue of Christ, the Cuban radar installation calling itself "the steel eyes of the revolution" keeps watch for South African air attacks.

On the Atlantic coast to the west emergency food is competing with a shipment of tanks to be used in the next offensive for access to the port of Namibe.

To the east the town of Cuito Cuanavale is besieged by pro-Western guerrillas of the Unita movement and pounded by South African heavy artillery.

ANGOLA has suffered from nearly a quarter of a century of fighting.

First the guerrilla movement fought the Portuguese colonialists, and then they fought each other with the help of the superpowers. Since independence in 1975 the Angolan economy has collapsed under the burden of the war and the Marxist government's fiercely anti-capitalist economic policies.

This week the capital, Luanda, has been plagued by power cuts. From a helicopter one can see why. Six pylons are lying tangled on the ground, sabotaged by Unita guerrillas about 150km from the city. The charges were laid a mere 200 metres from an encampment of government soldiers guarding the power lines.

Nearby a huge convoy of trucks with a military escort is crawling on its way to Mozambique in the east of the country, a routine journey in time of peace which could now take more than 40 days as a result of landmines, ambushes and bad roads.

The war has exacted an appalling human and economic price. Of the population of nine million more than 1.5 million have fled their homes or are in urgent need of outside help.

Permanent government control has been reduced to the coastal strip and defended towns and roads inland.

The Angolan government has enlisted the military support of Soviet advisers, 40 000 Cuban soldiers and the Namibian guerrillas of Swapo, while Unita is backed by South Africa, the US and Zaire.

NEXT week, in spite of its substantial oil revenues, Angola will appeal in Geneva for more \$100-million in emergency aid.

Bearing in mind South African incursions into Southern Angola, and the attempts by President Eduardo dos Santos to reform the economy along Western lines, Mr Ono Denes

the United Nations representative in Luanda, is calling on the international community to support the appeal.

"It's much more a political gesture to the government than just an emergency need," he said.

Whole villages of the internal refugees, known as "Des Locados" have moved in fear from their fertile highlands in provinces such as Kwanza Sul to camps on the hot coastal plains where they become dependent on food aid and face the threat of cholera.

A typical victim of the war, maimed and psychologically scarred, is 16-year-old Ernesto Eusebio Carlos, one of the 224 children at the Lubango orphanage.

One day five years ago he was walking from school with a group of friends. He stepped on a landmine, losing a leg and his sight. His parents are dead but he thinks they are alive because those who look after him cannot bring themselves to tell him.

Fifth man escaped Broederstroom net

Political Staff

A FIFTH member of the suspected Broederstroom terror gang deserted before the other four were caught and a massive cache of deadly weapons was captured by Security Police.

They were said by police to have been betrayed by a member of the ANC because of internal division in the organization over its continued use of violence.

But, it seems that internal tension sparked off a split in the group some time before the four were trapped in a dawn raid on their Broederstroom smallholding near Pretoria.

It is not known exactly when the "Fifth Man" left the group but it must have been some time before his comrades were caught and he is not suspected by police

of betraying them.

The four suspects were yesterday named as former Rand Daily Mail reporter Mr Damian de Lange, who is in his early thirties, and identified as the "Commander" of the group; Swazi-born Susan Catherine Westcott, 24, who gained British citizenship through marriage; Mr Hugh Murdock Lugg, 30, a former art student at both the University of Cape Town and the University of Stellenbosch; and Mr Ian Hugh Robbertson, 36, who was a student at the University of the Witwatersrand and a Nusas member.

According to reliable sources the "Fifth Man" left the group and made his own way out of the country apparently to rejoin the ANC.

However, he is said now to be paying the price for his desertion in an ANC "punishment camp" somewhere in Angola.

How the group infiltrated the country is not known but Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok said it had already been established that the route had been through Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The "Fifth Man" presumably used the same route to get out.

Mr Vlok warned neighbouring countries South Africa "could not" and "would not" allow them to harbour terrorists or allow them to use their territories to infiltrate South Africa.

The arms cache found at Broederstroom was among the largest yet seized by police in South Africa.

Numerous documents, maps and hit-lists were found.

Mr Vlok's spokesman, Brigadier Leon Mellet, said the four would be brought to court as soon as possible.

THE Congo is, nominally at least, one of Africa's handful of states to espouse all-out Marxism.

All the trappings, the revolutionary rhetoric and the slogans are there. Set deep in the clammy, tropical heart of Africa, it was the setting chosen by novelist Joseph Conrad for his exploration of the dark reaches of the human soul in his classic, Heart of Darkness.

Today, en route from the country's Maya-Maya airport to the palm-fringed capital of Brazzaville, there is a road sign proclaiming apartheid a crime against humanity. One of the city's main roads is Nelson Mandela Avenue.

Against this background, the small SA delegation which travelled there last week on this country's most extraordinary foreign mission in more than a decade, can be forgiven some of its trepidation.

The mission was one which would have intrigued Conrad. The South Africans had come to talk, on Friday the 13th, to Angola's Marxist MPLA about ending the war that had in this, its 13th year, torn the heart out of Angola.

On the airfield's apron, the mask-like dignity carved on the face of Congolese Foreign Affairs Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba at first did nothing to dispel the trepidation. But the virtual absence of uniformed security and any flurry did.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan left their private jet, on loan from an SA industrialist, to talk to journalists in the airport's austere VIP reception rooms.

They were followed by the arrival of Angola's Justice Minister Fernando van Dunem. Mr Botha clearly relished another realisation of his dream of SA as a partner in the trials and aspirations of Africa.

Welcomed

It rapidly became clear that his vision was welcomed rather than repelled. And from that moment, through the one day, overnights



WALKING INTO DIPLOMATIC HISTORY... the South Africans are met by Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba

South Africans find some light in Conrad's heart of darkness

BY IESTER VENTER
Political Correspondent

All along, the symbolism of the event was underpinned by the realities of life in Africa — a life with which SA is committed to making a closer acquaintance, even at home. Perhaps, particularly

The Congolese lead an unhurried lifestyle in an ordered society.

About 90 percent of the country's revenue comes from petroleum exports and much of the remainder is made up of timber exports.

for their own dinners in what was reportedly the world's sixth most expensive country, dishes came in at about R50 a plate. French wines, a welcome relic of the Congo's colonial past, helped one to forget.

The earnestness of the Congolese, who prize education, was poignantly emphasised for the departing South Africans by locals who gathered around the airport — not to say goodbye to their guests, but to read and write in the light shed by the building's lampposts.



AROUND THE TABLE... the heads of the SA and Angolan delegations meet

Flashpoint as Cuban force drives south

By LESTER VENTER: Political Correspondent

A MASSIVE Cuban push into southern Angola has brought the war — and the prospects for peace — to a flashpoint. The next few days could decide the fate of the fledgling peace plan, senior South African diplomats have warned.

Angola was told bluntly by South Africa in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville on Friday: Stop the Cubans — or else.

Failure by Angola to comply will leave the peace process in tatters and could escalate the war into a new, bloody phase.

South Africa has made it plain it sees a halt to the Cuban penetration into the Cunene province as an "elementary, on-the-ground test" of the sincerity of Angola, Cuba and the Soviet Union in bringing the 13-year war to an end.

Hopes

It is understood a heavily mechanised and armed force of about 7 000 Cuban troops is moving into southern Angola.

The South African Government believes the Cuban purpose is to elevate its stance in future peace bargaining, with the additional hope of dealing a face-saving bloody nose to the SADF-Unita military alliance before a Cuban withdrawal gets under way.

The Angolan Minister of Justice, Dr Fernando van Dunem, undertook in Brazzaville to convey the South African ultimatum to his government and its allies. He was facing a South African delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and Defence Minister General Magnus Malan.

There is cautious hope in South African circles that the Angolans and Cubans will respond to the ultimatum.

South African diplomats believe Russia has already told the Cubans flatly that "the show is over" in Angola.

© See Page 2

10 dead in mine plunge

Sunday Times Reporter TEN black miners were killed and two hurt in a shaft accident 960m below the surface at Rand Mines' Harmony Gold Mine near Virginia yesterday.

A descending lift cage door was ripped off and the 10 fell to their death, said Rand Mines spokesman Mr Greg Kukard.

He said rescue work was "long and difficult" at the mine's Number Four shaft.

The accident brings this year's mine accident toll to 26 dead and 82 injured.

Sunday Times and

ON May 5 the Media Council considered two complaints by Professor H Grosskopf against the Sunday Times with reference to reports concerning his son Heinrich.

The report of March 20 described his son, inter alia, as a "cool and deadly terrorist" and an "ANC killer hunted by the police for Thursday's car-bomb attack at Krugersdorp".

The report of March 27 implied that Professor Grosskopf had via the medium of scribbled notes and a letter been in contact with his son.

The Media Council concluded that the reports in question constituted flagrant and reprehensible breaches of Clauses 2.1 and 2.2 of the code of conduct. The first report sensationally presented as fact the

LESS TIMES TODAY

15/1/88 (S) [Signature]

PERSPECTIVE

IT is worth reminding oneself that the war in Angola is about Namibia. This salient fact is frequently obscured, and often forgotten, as South Africa becomes increasingly involved in a complex, international diplomatic web aimed at settling the Angolan conflict.

Without the entanglement of the Namibian issue, Angola would simply be the site of a not uncommon African scenario — a beleaguered government being harassed by an army of rebel bushfighters.

If it were not for Namibia, it would have meant very little indeed to South Africa — with unfriendly neighbours in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana — whether the MPLA or Unita ruled in far-off Angola.

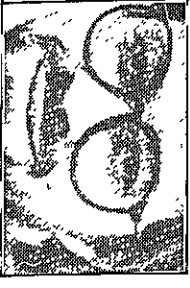
But it is because of Namibia that Swapo is in Angola; it is because of Swapo that South Africa is in Angola; it is because of the South Africans that the Cubans say they are in Angola; along with the Cubans come the Russians; and it's mainly because of the Russians that the Americans want everyone out of Angola.

That is now more feasible than it has been for the 12 bloodletting years of the conflict. But a meaningful settlement in Angola inevitably entails a solution of the root problem of Namibian independence.

And that raises immediately the underlying question: is South Africa truly willing — or let us say, more charitably — in a position to afford to go through with United Nations resolution 435 for an internationally acceptable independence settlement for Namibia?

Probably only three men in total know the answer to that question

FOR ANGOLA read NAMIBIA



by Lester Venter

Our Political Correspondent looks at what a settlement would imply

— the State President, Mr P W Botha, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Pk Botha. Come to think of it, perhaps only two know the real answer.

Bridges

The factors in taking an analytical stab at the answer are, on the one hand, that South Africa's diplomats are, unquestionably, negotiating in good faith; and that only by going through with the current process can stability be brought to

southern Africa — with all the concomitant benefits in terms of warding off sanctions, gaining international respect, and establishing new economic horizons.

Then there is also the fact that South Africa seems seriously intent on promoting governmental reform in Namibia. President Botha used his last visit there — irrespective of the belligerent grandstanding that accompanied it — to build bridges with the progressively-inclined internal parties there. And South African diplomats

are talking privately of the now urgent need to build out the status of the internal parties, particularly broadening their base by including the territory's majorly ethnic group, the Ovambos.

There can be only one reasonable purpose in doing this — placing them in a position to be able to contest Swapo in the open election that would be part of the 435 process.

Cunning

On the other hand, though, can President Botha — in view of the serious Conservative threat he faces at home — be seen to be "selling out" Namibian whites (most of them South African citizens) to the likelihood of a Soviet-backed Swapo government?

The more than three decades-long diplomatic soft-shoe shuffle over Namibia has seen more than

one cunning time-buying exercise by South Africa. Is this another?

Once again, the answer lies with the two. Sorry, three. The issue that directed the Namibian and Angolan, the one is known as just that — "age".

Some years ago, South Africa said: We accept 435 for Namibia but before it can be implemented, the Cubans must get out of Angola. And the reason for that is that with Cuban backing for the MPLA, Unita will be defeated; and that defeat entails Swapo getting full, and unfair, hospitality in southern Angola from where it will be free to launch its terrorism war against Namibia.

In time the Americans came to agree with South Africa on this issue. And there the matter went into stalemate for several years, with Cuban withdrawal becoming

the key problem to solve.

Just lately the Cubans, Soviets, Angolans and even Swapo, have come to accept the reality of linkage. But they have tried to give it an interpretation of their own.

The Cubans, they say, are prepared to withdraw — but only after 435 has been implemented. Behind this diplomatic posture is the reality that the Cubans and their allies have plenty of reasons for cutting their losses and getting out of Angola.

South Africa has proved they are not going to win through a military strategy. Moscow wants to get on with far more serious glassnost-type business with Washington; and Luanda is now bankrupt through having to carry the cost of the Cuban presence; out of its oil and diamond revenues.

But a face-saving way of pulling out is needed.

The sensible thing to do now would be for all the parties to sit down and work out a plan for putting into action both aspects of the linkage problem simultaneously. That is, marrying a timetable for Cuban withdrawal with a timetable for 435 implementation in Namibia.

423 SOAP+CANDLES

SECTOR: CHEMICALS
 AREA: SOUTH AFRICA

1. Work Breaks

Minimum lunch break : 60 minutes
 Maximum lunch break : 75 minutes
 Total tea break time : 20 minutes
 Number of tea breaks : 2

2. Maximum length of week

: 6 days / 4

3. Spreadover

Spreadover hours per shift : --
 Hours of work consecutive : Yes
 Retrenchment provisions : 4
 Short time provisions : 6

4. Overtime

Usual weekday overtime rate : 1.33
 2nd weekday overtime rate : 0.00
 Saturday work overtime rate : 1.33
 Sunday work rate : 2.00
 Public Holiday rate : 2.00
 Maximum hours o/t per week : 10

5. Allowances

Shift allowance	: -	Travel Allowance	: Art
Inconvenience allowance	: -	Long Service Allowance	: -
Clothing allowance	: -	Attendance Bonus	: -
Subsistence allowance	: All	Production Bonus	: -
Night shift allowance	: All	Holiday Bonus	: -

6. Paid Leave

Leave days for 5 day week : 15
 Leave days for 6 day week : 18
 Annual sick leave 5 day week: 10 days Cycle: 20 days per 24 months
 Annual sick leave 6 day week: 12 days Cycle: 24 days per 24 months

7. Paid Public Holidays

New Years Day	: Yes	2nd January	: No
Founders Day	: No	Good Friday	: Yes
Family Day	: No	Ascension Day	: Yes
Republic Day	: Yes	Kruger Day	: No
Day of the Vow	: Yes	Christmas Day	: Yes
Day of Goodwill	: No	Other	: No

8. Piecework etc

Piecework : Allowed
 Skilled/unskilled ratio set : Yes
 Protective Clothing : Free

9. Notice

Notice period weekly paid : 1 week(s) / -- hour(s)
 Notice period monthly paid : - week(s) / -- day(s)

10. Trade Union Status

Closed shop : --
 Union member employment first : --
 Stop Order facilities for subs : --

Tinkering

Indeed, it is just such a plan that diplomats are working on at the moment.

Technically, it involves an expanded view of linkage — and may involve, additionally, some tinkering with the details of 435.

All sides, according to diplomatic sources, regard these factors as feasible. The most interesting, and most promising, aspect of the formula involves the guarantees required by both sides.

Ultimately, those guarantees can be underpinned only by faith. And faith entails the parties getting to know and size one another up.

That is the stage that the multilateral talks are in at present. Getting through that stage successfully would constitute one of the most exciting international diplomatic success stories of our time.

Unita kills seven ANC men in Angola clash

⑤ The Star's Africa News Service

HARARE — Seven African National Congress members have been killed and a number wounded in a clash with Unita, it has been revealed in Luanda.

The ANC's involvement in the war in Angola adds a new twist to the continuing peace talks between South Africa, Angola, the United States and Cuba.

One of South Africa's main objections to the Luanda government is its willingness to accommodate ANC and Swapo fighters. Star 16/5/88

Wounded ANC members in a clinic near Luanda said at the weekend that their vehicles were ambushed by Unita a few days ago. Seven ANC members were killed and seven injured.

In March nine ANC people were killed in an ambush in Uige province, according to a survivor.

Cuban plot 'to sabotage talks' in London foiled

The Star Bureau

Star 16/88

LONDON — Britain's security forces believe they foiled a Cuban plot to sabotage sensitive Angolan peace talks in London recently.

They seized an arsenal of weapons from a jet which brought Cuba's delegates to talks with South Africa earlier this month over the war in Angola.

Medals for Cuban soldiers

Cuba has instituted a medal for Cuban soldiers who took part in the defence of the Angolan town of Cuito-Cuanavale.

The Africa News Organisation (ANO) reported from Havana that the Cuban Council of State issued a statement saying that Cuban soldiers who took "an active part" in the operation "jointly with the Angolan People's Liberation Armed Force" will be presented with the new medal.

The plane contained a grenade launcher, seven machineguns plus magazines, nine handguns and thousands of rounds.

Trouble began when the Cubans were forced to hand over 10 pistols and 500 rounds which they tried to take through customs at Heathrow on May 1.

After an argument, customs officers searched their jet and found the arsenal.

The Foreign Office decreed that the affair must be kept secret to avoid a diplomatic upset, and Scotland Yard and customs officers also refused to discuss the weapons haul.

But a senior detective said: "They had enough on the plane to start a mini war."

The talks, set up by the United States, were attended by senior political figures from the US, South Africa, Angola and Cuba.

Police have not ruled out the possibility of Cuba attempting a propaganda blow against the United States.

Scotland Yard and customs issued a statement saying Cuban security staff had agreed to hand over their weapons "for safekeeping".

5 (circled)



FOREIGN RELATIONS ... Mr Pik Botha in Brazzaville with the Congolese Foreign Minister Mr Antoine Ndinga-Oba during the talks. Picture: REUTERS

An impro

By BARRY STREEK

PARTICULARLY for a white South African, Brazzaville, the city with half-a-million people on the mouth of the mighty Congo River, seems improbable as a venue for the South Africa-Angola talks.

On the one hand, there is Nelson Mandela Avenue, posters demanding the ANC leader's release and pictures of Karl Marx and Lenin.

On the other hand, there are well-run luxury hotels with excellent French or local cuisine. And prices to match: R7 for a bottle of coke, R16 for a bottle of beer and, in the case of one journalist, a bottle of Burgundy wine at R160.

With the gross national product at an average of \$1 230 (R2 700) a head, Congo is certainly not among the poor countries in

Africa and forces this

What mal that the C ed as one Africa and M ism. It also countries.

Yet, Bra capital cit

Certainl France, fi stantial et confirm i

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Cubans: Namibia link for SA

THE South African government will have no alternative but to go ahead with the agreed plan for an internationally-recognized settlement of Namibia if agreement is reached on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

This was made clear by senior South African government officials after last week's talks with an Angolan delegation in Brazzaville.

They said that both Mr John Vorster, when he was prime minister, and President P W Botha had repeatedly stated that the only barrier to a settlement of the Namibia dispute in terms of Security Council Resolution 435 was the presence of Cuban troops.

Implementation of Resolution 435 could, at today's prices, cost as much as \$1 500 million (about R3 000m) and there had been no agreement on who would pay for its implementation.

Congo meeting could lead to new 'detente'

By BARRY STREEK

SOUTH AFRICA'S clandestine relationships with the rest of Africa are slowly coming out of the closet — a development which was graphically illustrated last week in Brazzaville, the capital of the People's Republic of Congo.

Not only were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, involved in direct negotiations with Marxist MPLA government in Angola, but they also held publicly-disclosed discussions with Congolese businessmen and met the President of Congo, Mr Dennis Sasson-Nguesso.

The programme of the ruling Parti Congolais du Travail (PCT), the Congolese Workers' Party, is officially Marxist-Leninist and the government has long-standing ties with the Soviet bloc, Cuba and Angola.

At present, Malawi is the only country in Africa to have diplomatic relations with South Africa.

But Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho and Ivory Coast maintain links through "trade" offices. Trade between Mauritius and South Africa is flourishing.

South Africa also has direct air links with these countries, as well as Botswana, Zambia and the Cape Verde islands. Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe use South African harbours extensively.

Mr Botha repeatedly stressed in Brazzaville that South Africa was an

able venue

Brazzaville, its capital, repression.

It all seem so improbable in these government is regard he more radical regimes in officially committed to social's close ties with Soviet bloc a and Angola.

He does not seem like the a dedicated socialist state.

ngo also has close ties with whom it has received sub-dic aid. The cars and hotels uncial links with the West.

ystem is highly centralized y legal political party, the du Travail (PCT), the Con-rtly, and President Denis

The President, who came to power after a coup in 1979, clearly impressed the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and the the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, during the two-hour meeting on Friday and they discussed, in some detail, the South African government's reform policies.

President Sasson-Nguesso's willingness to host the Angola-South Africa talks and to meet the two South African cabinet ministers demonstrates the pragmatism which has characterized his government's economic policies.

It is this approach that has enabled the improbable venue of Brazzaville to become the site of the talks which may possibly lead to peace in Angola, the withdrawal of Cuban troops and the independence of Namibia.

Push south 'could start fire'

Star 16/5/88

Malan threatens as Cubans advance

Sources now believe Cuba may be moving to aid Swapo insurgents from any possible hot pursuit operations in southern Angola, inflicting heavy casualties on South African forces if such a confrontation takes place after a major Swapo attack on Ovambo-land.

General Malan said today the presence of Swapo was the main reason South Africa objected to the Cuban movements in southern Angola.

He said he would be dealing with the general situation during the Defence budget vote in the House of Representatives this afternoon.

South Africa has refused to be drawn on Swapo leader Mr Sam Nujoma's statement at the weekend that he would like to take part in future rounds of current peace talks between South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the US.

Mr Nujoma, however, said he would refuse to take part in talks involving Unita.

Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi was reported at the weekend as saying he wanted to take part in talks with the MPLA government.

Parties

A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs said today: "It has been stated repeatedly that all parties involved in the Angola/Namibia conflict must be part of any settlement".

South Africa's position continues to be that Unita and the internal parties making up the transitional government in Namibia must be involved in any settlement for the territory.

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

Cape Town

Hostilities in southern Angola and northern Namibia could escalate dramatically as South Africa squares up to face a possible new Cuban/Swapo onslaught on Ovambo-land.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan warned in an interview today that if Swapo forces continued to push through to Namibia behind a Cuban shield, "this could be the spark that starts the fire".

Last week, military sources pooh-poohed reports of a massive Cuban push southwards, saying this was blatant propaganda to improve Cuba's position at peace talks and to create the impression that Cuba was a major force in the region.

But South Africa issued a blunt warning at last week's Brazzaville talks with Angola that there would be a "terrible battle" if the current mass movement of Cuban and other forces continued towards the Namibian border.

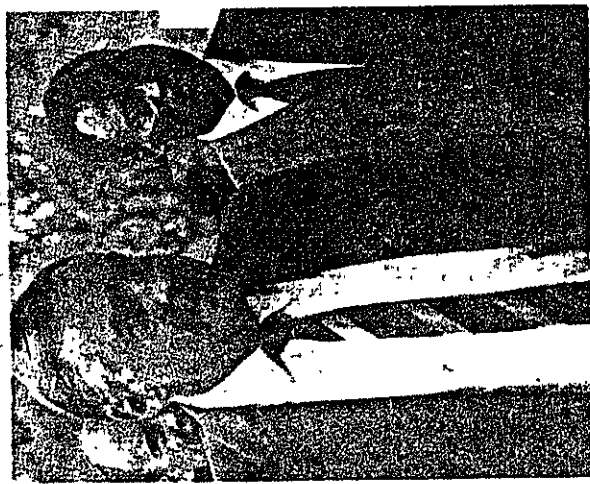
The current regional peace talks may have been the catalyst for the latest military manoeuvres and bellicose statements on the part of the various parties in the region.

Troop activity

Each party is trying to strengthen its bargaining position at the negotiating table.

South African military sources today confirmed intelligence of massive troop movements involving 4 000 to 6 000 Cuban, Fapla and Swapo forces in and around the Angolan region just north of Ovambo-land.

There was no evidence of a massive march southwards, but there was a lot of troop activity, the sources said.



Congo's Foreign Minister, Mr Antoine Ndinga-Oba, greets his South African counterpart, Mr Pik Botha, before talks began in Brazzaville last week on the Angolan conflict.

SA awaits crucial Angolan answer

THE dramatic Angolan-South African peace initiative, which could lead to the ending of 12-year civil war in Angola and the independence of Namibia, is on a knife-edge — and the next few days could be decisive.

The Angolan government was emphatically told by Pretoria at last week's talks in Brazzaville the southward thrust by Cuban and Angolan troops would not be tolerated and if it continued, would result in a "terrible" battle.

The Angolan response to this demand will be decisive to future negotiations.

The SA delegation to the discussions made it clear any attempt to give the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola a victory or to improve their bargaining position through military advances was crucial to the peace initiative.

Both in the four-nation meeting at London two weeks ago and in the Brazzaville talks, complex proposals and counter-proposals for a settlement of the Cuban question have been discussed, but the SA government believes Angolan response to the demand that the southward thrust be stopped is crucial to the future of the peace initiative.

The Angolans were told discussions about a Cuban withdrawal were pointless if they continued to advance their military position at the same time.

If the Angolan response to the SA

BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

demand is regarded as positive, it will be demonstrated to Pretoria the peace initiative is being taken seriously — and the next round of discussions among Angola, SA, Cuba and the US, which will almost certainly be held in Brazzaville again, could be decisive.

The SA government believes if the estimated 7 000 Cuban troops were stopped, an important and concrete test of sincerity will have been passed.

The head of the Angolan delegation to the Brazzaville talks, Defence Minister Fernando van Dunem, undertook to convey Pretoria's views to his government.

Luanda's response, which is expected this week, could determine the fate of the peace initiative.

However, there was some optimism in the SA delegation that this obstacle may be overcome.

The SA team, headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan, found the Angolan approach had changed significantly from discussions held in recent years in the Mozambican capital Maputo, Zambian capital Lusaka, the Cape Verde Islands and Ilha do Sal.

One of the earlier meetings nearly broke up after Van Dunem lectured

● To Page 2 →

SA waits for Angola's answer

Botha on the evils of colonialism and apartheid, but at Brazzaville last week this antagonistic approach had changed completely.

South African diplomats believe one of the chief reasons for this new approach is the marked change in Soviet foreign policy, which has resulted in its decision to withdraw from military involvement in regional conflicts, cut down on heavy spending on remote and often unsuccessful foreign conflicts and concentrate on the internal economic development of the Soviet Union.

"They believe the Soviet Union has told the Third World "enough is enough" and

conveyed to Cuba and Angola that its involvement in southern Africa, particularly in military conflict, will be significantly reduced.

They also believe the willingness of the Angolan government to take part in serious discussions about the Cuban withdrawal and the Mozambican government's positive response to a possible revival of the Nkomati Accord may have been coincidental but are likely to have been stimulated by their own realisation of the implications for them of the new Soviet Union strategies.

● From Page 1

Peace in balance

CAPC Tim's
16/5/88 (5)



By BARRY STREEK and WILLEM STEENKAMP

THE Angolan peace talks are balanced on a knife-edge after a sharp warning by South Africa that the southward movement by Cuban and Angolan troops will not be tolerated.

Three battalion-sized Fapla (Angolan armed forces) groups — each with about 250 Cubans and 150 Swapo insurgents — are moving into Angola's 5 Military Region, just north of the border with Ovamboland, sources said last night.

Military observers said the intention appeared to be to move the groups as far south as possible before the insurgents crossed the border into Ovamboland.

MORE REPORTS See page 2

If they were attacked and driven back across the border, the Fapla troops would be able to cover their retreat and stop any pursuit, preferably by inflicting heavy casualties.

An infiltration by 450 insurgents, even if only partly successful, could have a "serious disruptive effect" on the military situation in the Ovamboland area, the sources said.

Although the rainy season was over, conditions for infiltration were still good and the infiltrators would be backed by a better-than-usual logistical system, thanks to the nearby Fapla groups.

The Angolan government was em-

To page 2



LEFT OUT? ... Dr Jonas Savimbi

Savimbi bids for talks with MPLA

Own Correspondent

LISBON — Dr Jonas Savimbi's pro-Western Unita movement, apparently concerned at being sidelined in talks on ending the Angolan war, has asked Portugal to set up a meeting between the ruling MPLA government and the guerillas to discuss peace.

Dr Savimbi sent letters containing his plea to President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, via a special Portuguese emissary last week.

The emissary, Mr Marcelo Rebelo Sousa, confirmed at the weekend that he had travelled to Dr Savimbi's Jamba headquarters to receive the letters which he had passed on to Portuguese leaders.

Unita officials in Lisbon said Dr Savimbi planned to visit Portugal during a tour of Western European capitals including London and Paris.

His visa application will severely embarrass the Portuguese government which has sought to persuade the rebel leader not to visit as it could jeopardize bi-lateral relations with Luanda. However, Unita has strong support among government officials who would react strongly to any attempt to prevent a visit by Dr Savimbi.

P.T.O.

SA/Angola talks could lead to peace in SWA — Buthelezi

reconsider its stand on sanctions.

Chief Buthelezi appealed for a "constructive international approach" to ending apartheid, describing current "foreign input" in South Africa's affairs as "unbalanced"

He suggested that selected foreign governments should set up an international union, based inside South Africa and linked to existing foreign embassies, to make a joint contribution to change.

This is the first time that any black South African leader has visited Portugal since the 1974 revolution dismantled Lisbon's African empire.

LISBON — The Chief Minister of Kwazulu, Chief Mangosuto Buthelezi, on a four-day private visit to Portugal, has described talks in London on Angola and Namibia as a possibly "significant step" towards peace in the region.

He told an invited lecture audience in Lisbon on Monday night that real regional peace would only come "once South Africa is liberated".

"This in turn will mean liberation for the whole of southern Africa and provide an impetus for the spread

of free market economies throughout the continent."

Chief Buthelezi, who was invited to Portugal by a political think-tank linked to the ruling centre-right Social Democratic government, told a questioner:

"I oppose sanctions against South Africa because I do not want to see my country's economy destroyed. I do not wish to liberate my country and then be left with a repeat of the situation in Angola and Mo-

zambique. More than 50 per cent of the current black population in South Africa is under 15 and we need jobs for them, not an economy in ruins."

War, natural disasters and ill-judged efforts to impose Marxist-style governments, have left both the former Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique in ruin.

Chief Buthelezi said he would be transmitting his anti-sanctions message to Portuguese leaders, including the

Prime Minister, Mr Anibal Silva, with whom he will meet during his visit.

Portugal, West Germany and Britain have consistently vetoed the European Economic Community's efforts to impose sanctions on South Africa. There has been a shift in Lisbon's attitude recently and the Foreign Minister, Mr Joao de Deus Pinheiro, has admitted that unless there were signs of faster progress in dismantling apartheid, Portugal might have to

SWA plan must go ahead if Cubans withdraw SA told

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From BARRY STREEK

D1D 16/5/88

CAPE TOWN — The South African Government will have no alternative but to go ahead with the agreed plan for an internationally-recognised settlement for SWA/Namibia if an agreement is reached on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

After last week's talks with an Angolan delegation in Brazzaville, senior government officials made that point clear.

Mr John Vorster, when he was prime minister, and Mr P. W. Botha have repeatedly stated that the only barrier preventing a SWA/Namibian settlement in terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 was the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

The South African Government has maintained that it is impossible to hold free and fair elections in SWA/Namibia with the presence of such a large foreign force immediately across the country's borders.

Implementation of resolution 435 could, at today's prices, cost as much as \$1 500 million and there has been no agreement as to who will foot the bill.

Costs and other factors could result in a renegotiation of the terms of the resolution, but the

South African Government is adamant that if agreement on the withdrawal of Cuban troops is reached, the internationally-agreed package for SWA/Namibia's independence will be implemented.

It is reliably understood that the SWA/Namibian question was not discussed at Brazzaville, but it is accepted that if agreement on the withdrawal of Cuban troops is agreed, the settlement must then take place.

Ken Pottinger reports from Lisbon that Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement, apparently concerned at being sidelined from the current talks, has asked Portugal to set up a meeting between the ruling MPLA government and Unita to discuss the question of peace in Angola.

Dr Savimbi's request is contained in letters sent to President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

A special Portuguese emissary travelled to Dr Savimbi's Jamba head-

quarters to collect the letters.

Unita officials in Lisbon say that Dr Savimbi plans to apply for a visa to visit Portugal during a forthcoming tour of Western European capitals.

The application may severely embarrass Lisbon's centre-right Social Democratic Government which has sought to persuade the rebel leader not to visit the former colonial capital because it could jeopardise bilateral relations with Luanda.

A conservative Portuguese newspaper has meanwhile reported growing support for a scheme to partition Angola along the Benguela railway line.

The idea was apparently discussed at recent meetings in London between US and Soviet officials.

The division of Angola would please neither Dr Savimbi nor President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, but it has been suggested that if the US and the Soviet Union decided on such a solution

their clients in Angola — Unita and the MPLA government — would be hard pressed not to accept the deal.

Angola peace initiative in the balance

D/D 16/5788

(5)

from BARRY STRECK

CAPE TOWN — The Angolan-South African peace initiative, which could lead to the ending of the 12-year-old civil war in Angola and the independence of Namibia, is on a knife-edge — and the next few days could be decisive.

The Angolan Government was emphatically told by Pretoria at last week's talks in Brazzaville that the southward thrust by Cuban and Angolan troops would not be tolerated, and, if it continued, it would result in a "terrible" battle.

The Angolan response to this demand, expected this week, will be decisive to future negotiations.

The South African delegation to the discussions made it clear that any attempt to give the estimated 40 000 Cuban troops in Angola a victory or to improve their bargaining position through military advances was crucial to the peace initiative.

told the Third World that "enough is enough" and has conveyed to Cuba and Angola that its involvement in Southern Africa, particularly in military conflict, will be significantly reduced.

They say the willingness of the Angolan Government to participate in serious discussions about the Cuban withdrawal and Mozambique's positive response to a possible revival of the Nkomati Accord may have been incidental, but are likely to have been stimulated by their own realisation of the implications for them of the new Soviet strategies.

Editorial opinion P10
See also P11

told that discussions about a Cuban withdrawal were pointless if they continued to advance their military position at the same time.

If the Angolan response to the South African demand is regarded as positive, it will be demonstrated to Pretoria that the peace initiative is being taken seriously — and the next round of discussions between Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the United States, which will almost certainly be held in Brazzaville again, could be decisive.

The head of the Angolan delegation to the Brazzaville talks, Dr Fernando van Dunem, undertook to convey Pretoria's views to his government.

There was some optimism among the South African delegation that this obstacle might be overcome.

The South African team, led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, found the Angolan approach had changed significantly from discussions held in recent years.

One of the earlier meetings nearly broke up after Dr Van Dunem lectured Mr Botha on the evils of colonialism and apartheid, but at Brazzaville last week this antagonistic approach had changed completely.

South African diplomats believe that one of the chief reasons for the new approach is the marked change in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which has resulted in its decision to withdraw from military involvement in regional conflicts, cut down on heavy spending on remote and often unsuccessful foreign conflicts and countries, and concentrate on its internal economic development.

The diplomats believe the Soviet Union has

LONDON — The Angolan government is scheduled to launch its first international emergency aid appeal for \$105m at a major donor's conference in Geneva this week.

Angolans launch \$105m aid appeal

9/1/82
11/5/82
Own Correspondent

The aid is needed to ease the crippling effects of the 13-year-old bush war with Unita.

The Guardian newspaper reports the appeal to be placed before a meeting convened by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, is for more than a million displaced people and \$81m is for food. It quotes

the UN chief co-ordinator of the emergency, Otto Dines, saying: "It is the tip of the iceberg of needs."

The timing of the appeal is important because of the peace talks in Brazzaville between Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Angolan officials.

Cuban withdrawal: SA urged to be realistic

BID 1715188

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CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said yesterday that he was not optimistic that the negotiations on a Cuban withdrawal from Angola would be easy or that they would soon meet with success.

Warned by the LP MP for Riversdal, Mr Douglas Josephs, to be on his guard against Cuban trickery, Gen Malan said the South African negotiators had to remain realistic and cool-headed.

Although he welcomed the Brazzaville talks with Angola, Gen Malan said that high expectations could not be allowed to push aside reality.

"I am not optimistic that the negotiations will be easy or that they will soon succeed," he said.

Gen Malan expressed reservations about the latest peace initiatives, but said he trusted that there would be a posi-

tive outcome from the negotiations.

"A fundamental truth is that talks are not yet peace," he said.

"Even within the milieu of negotiations there is an increase of advanced weaponry in Angola and a concentration of Cuban forces to the south."

"These Cubans are mixed with Fapla forces and are apparently opening up the way for Swapo, which is detrimental to the negotiating climate," Gen Malan said.

Accusing Cuba of actions not in keeping with those expected during peace negotiations, he mentioned that while

exploratory talks were in progress in London, Cuba sent military reinforcements to Angola.

It was for this reason that he and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had stated clearly in Brazzaville that unless the Cubans stopped their southward advance, the talks would be meaningless.

Gen Malan said that for the communists, negotiations were just the continuation of the struggle by other means. Peace as communists understand it is achieved only once all opposition is removed.

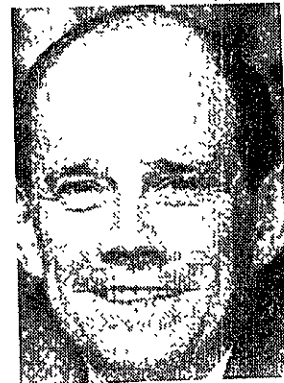
"Negotiations are simply a continuation of the military struggle at the

negotiating table while the military struggle continues," he said.

"The Cubans are exceeding their mandate in Angola. They were not brought there, invited or sent there to form a shield for Swapo."

Turning to the forces controlling Angola, Gen Malan said that the Soviet Union could no longer afford its policy of expansionism.

Afghanistan had cost Russia \$2,5 billion over the past five years. Armament aid to Cuba had run to \$6,4 billion and Angola had sapped Soviet coffers by \$4 billion.



GENERAL MALAN

"Angola has turned out to be an expensive experiment in the export of Marxism," he said.

Angola is a country in economic and social chaos, Cuba lives by the mercy of Moscow and Swapo is generally recognised as a failure.

"For Angola we need an African solution and for that reason the involvement of African countries seeking stability is needed," Gen Malan said. — Sapa

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Malan warns of new aggression by Swapo

Political Staff

Aggressive action from Swapo could be expected soon as a result of the southwards movements of Cuban troops offering a shield to Swapo, said Defence Minister General Magnus Malan.

He warned that "talking was not yet peace". While the SA-Angola talks in Brazzaville were taking place, Cuban forces were moving southwards, apparently in support of Swapo.

Speaking during the defence vote debate in the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr Malan said while he wel-

comed the talks and trusted that the outcome would be positive, "we must be realistic and cool-headed".

It appeared, he said, that about 25 percent of the 45 000 Cuban soldiers in Angola were moving southwards to just north of Ovamboland. With them were Fapla and Swapo forces.

"They are apparently opening the way for Swapo from whom we can expect aggressive actions," he said.

The South African message was that while the MPLA government was holding talks with

South Africa, Cuban "mercenaries" were taking aggressive military steps.

"It just doesn't fit and jeopardises the negotiation climate," said Mr Malan.

South Africa was resolute on this point and Mr Malan and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha had told the MPLA delegation in Brazzaville that the talks were of no use if the Cuban movement southwards did not stop.

While talks were taking place in London, Cuba had been sending troop reinforcements and some of the most sophisticated weaponry to Angola.

ARGUS 17/5/88

5

Cuba links withdrawal to UN troops

MAPUTO. — Cuba is ready to start withdrawing its troops north of the 13th Parallel near the Benguela railway line in Angola by October 10 if United Nations troops arrive in Namibia by September, the Cuban embassy here has said.

The arrival of the United Nations troops would be linked with a UN plan for the independence of Namibia. — Argus Africa News Service.

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LUANDA. — President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola says the Cuban reinforcement is a response to the intensification of the war by South Africa. — Argus Africa News Service.

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HAVANA. — Cuban troops operating in southern Angola near the Namibian border should not affect negotiations for peace in the region, a Cuban official said. — Sapa-Reuter.

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LISBON. — United States Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Anatoly Adamishin are to hold surprise talks tomorrow in Lisbon to discuss apparent snags in negotiations for an Angola-Namibia peace settlement. — The Argus Foreign Service.

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WASHINGTON. — Readers of Izvestiya, one of the most important newspapers in the Soviet Union, have been told that they should not expect a swift solution to the Angolan conflict. — The Argus Foreign Service.

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LISBON. — Unita rebels said they killed 127 government soldiers and two Cubans in attacks that included raids on a power station and an oil depot. They said the biggest battle took place last Thursday when the rebels killed 87 soldiers in an attack on the town of Luimbale in central Huambo province. — Sapa-Reuter.

Cuban tanks move in Angola troop build-up

By DAVID BRAUN
Political Staff

THE nature and scope of the war in northern Namibia and southern Angola could be changed by huge new Cuban and Fapla troop movements in the region.

South African military sources have disclosed that large amounts of conventional equipment were being moved into the area, including tanks, giving rise to speculation that the Cuban and Angolan forces were planning a string of bases along the border with Namibia to facilitate Swapo's operations against the territory.

The military sources were concerned at what appeared to be thousands of Cuban, Fapla and Swapo troops moving in and around the region north of Ovamboland.

Shield

South Africa has already warned Angola there will be a "terrible battle" in the region unless the threatening manoeuvres are stopped.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan warned yesterday that if Swapo forces crossed into Namibia behind a Cuban shield "this could be the spark that lights the fire".

General Malan said in Parliament last night that about 25 percent of the 45 000 Cuban troops in Angola appeared to be involved in the gathering of forces.

He repeated the warning given by him and Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha in Brazzaville last week, that unless the

movement south was halted, further negotiations with the Angolan Government would not make sense.

General Malan also said that the introduction of additional Cuban troops in Angola at the time that exploratory talks were underway in London, as well as the delivery of the most sophisticated weaponry, were not conducive to a climate for negotiations.

Such actions also did not tally with what South Africa had been told, that the Cubans would be taken out of Angola, he said.

Swapo forces

Military sources last night expressed fears that Cuba and Angola were trying to change the nature of the conflict in southern Angola and northern Namibia from a low-intensity war to a conventional war.

What concerns South Africa most is the involvement of Swapo forces in the movements.

General Malan told the House of Representatives last night he welcomed present initiatives aimed at peace negotiations and he trusted there would be a positive conclusion.

However, he cautioned there should be realism and coolheadedness. "I am not optimistic that negotiations are going to yield quick success," he added.

Nonetheless, South Africa wanted peace and stability and stable neighbours, which was why it took part in talks, General Malan said.

● See page 11.



Simpson wins World Class wrestling championship

An angry fan, top right, points an accusatory finger at the wrestlers in the ring at the Good Hope centre last

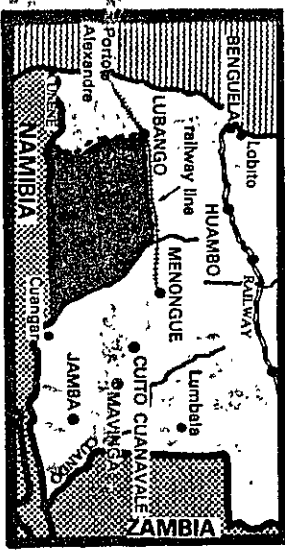
Desert locust plagues

CRUCIAL ZONE

CRUCIAL ZONE
17/5/88
5:12 PM

A SHOWDOWN loomed yesterday between Angola and South Africa over an advance towards the Namibian border of about 11 000 Cuban and Angolan troops — accompanied by several hundred Swapo infiltrators — with both governments taking a hard line.

In Cape Town, Defence Minister General Magnus Malan poured cold water on the prospects for a speedy or successful resolution to Angolan peace talks started in London and Brazzaville this month. While he welcomed the fact that the talks were taking place, he warned that from "the communist viewpoint" negotiations were no more than "the



CRUCIAL ZONE ... The red area is the approximate area of Angola's Fifth Military Region. It is the most crucial for South Africa as it borders on Ovamboland, Swapo's recruiting area and the most densely populated border region.

continuation of the military struggle around the "table" and accused Angola and Cuba of undercutting prospects for a "lasting peace" in the region. Speaking in the House of Representatives, General Malan said neither the southward march of at least three columns of Cuban, Angolan and Swapo troops, nor the reinforcement of Cuban forces in Angola during the recent four-nation London peace talks, was consistent with peace negotiations.

To page 2

P. 7.0



OOPSI ... Not all the water went where it should have gone at the end-of-course display at Epping Fire Station yesterday, and some firemen ended up dripping wet. Report, PAGE 3.

Picture: GLENN SHERBATT

CAF Trip
17/5/88 (221)

From page 1

The general's remarks were reinforced late last night by a SA Defence Ministry spokesman who claimed that the joint Cuban-Angolan-Swapo forces were concentrated in three areas — Xangongo, Lubango and Cahama — about 300 to 400km north of the Namibian border.

The spokesman said some Cuban and Fapla forces were even further south and small groups of Swapo insurgents were "all over the place".

'Self-defence'

In Luanda, Angolan President Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos yesterday defended the estimated 10 000 Cuban reinforcements in his country, saying their arrival was "in response to the intensification of the war by South Africa and in the spirit of self-defence".

Mr Dos Santos also rejected out of hand any question of sharing power with Unita or negotiating with Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel movement for an end to the 13-year-old Angolan civil war.

In another development, the leading US and Soviet government negotiators on Southern Africa will meet in Lisbon this week for talks on the regional peace initiative, a US Embassy official said yesterday.

Crocker

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Mr State Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign

Minister Mr Anatoli Adamishi will hold the talks at an undisclosed Lisbon venue tomorrow.

The meeting is a prelude to the May 29 Moscow summit of President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev at which the Southern African conflict is on the agenda.

Speaking during his budget vote in the House of Representatives, General Malan said that 3 000 South African troops in South-East Angola had killed between 7 000 and 10 000 FAPLA forces and (Cuban) mercenaries since late last year. A total of 31 SADF members died in same period.

South Africa had captured and destroyed \$1 billion worth of equipment in Angola which had received \$4.9 billion in military aid from the Soviet Union in the past five years, he said.

Swapo

The Cubans moving towards the Namibian border — estimated at one-fifth of the total number of in Angola — were interwoven with Fapla forces and Swapo "terrorists", General Malan said.

"They are apparently making the path open for Swapo, from whom we can expect more aggressive action."

Turning to the recent rounds of peace talks, General Malan said that while he hoped for a "positive outcome" to the talks, "we must be realistic and remain cool-headed". — Political and Own Correspondents with Sapa-Reuter-AP.

to the slave fighters is a new fence in scores of ANC trials. apartheid order to a ndal end.

Quatra camp 'is feared by even hardened terrorists'

By Esmaré van der Merwe

Quatra, the ANC "rehabilitation centre" in north-western Angola, is a punishment camp feared by even the most seasoned and hardened terrorist, according to Brigadier Herman Stadler of the South African Security Police.

His view is endorsed by Mr Wim Boooyse, researcher of the International Freedom Foundation in South Africa, who says that Mr Paul Colin Annegarn, the alleged fifth member of the all-white Broederstroom ANC cell uncovered by the police last week, was the first white man — to his knowledge — who had been sent there.

Brigadier Stadler says the SAP has never captured anybody who had been held at Quatra.

ANC dissidents, disillusioned with the strategies and aims of the organisation, are sent there to be "re-educated". But it is believed that people held prisoner there are seldom released.

Stories told by rehabilitated terrorists are hair-raising.

The brigadier says: "ANC dissidents, undisciplined members, and spies get sent to Quatra. Many people are petrified of the camp and the shocking conditions.

"The ANC calls it a rehabilitation camp, but it

is not known if any rehabilitation work is done there, or how it is done."

Sources revealed this week that Mr Annegarn, a suspected deserter from the SADF who had been involved with the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London before being sent to South Africa on an ANC mission, had deserted his mission and left South Africa via Botswana. On arrival in Lusaka he was arrested by the ANC and sent to Quatra.

Mr Boooyse says the ANC's security department, similar to the feared Nazi SS, is in control of the camp. "It is run similarly to the Nazi prisoner camps. Prisoners are confined to small cells and are often kept in isolation. They receive only food rations and are physically and emotionally tortured.

"It is believed that at least two Cuban psychologists politically re-educate the prisoners.

"The aim is to break them down psychologically and to re-educate them.

"In fact, many of them never return. My latest count is that 33 prisoners have never returned from Quatra."

One ANC expert, who does not want to be quoted, says it is believed that many Quatra prisoners are executed by firing squad.

Powerful Angolan^(S) adviser at *Star 1757* peace talks

By Joao Santa Rita

One of the members of the Angolan delegation who attended last week's Brazzaville peace talks with South Africa is one of the most powerful men in the Luanda government.

He is Colonel Jose Maria who was was officially described as an adviser to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

In fact, Colonel Maria is head of the top secret Military Counter Intelligence services (CIM) and is one of the closest confidants of President dos Santos.

When President dos Santos visited Portugal last year, Colonel Maria was the only member of the Angolan delegation who was present at the peace talks that President dos Santos held with Portuguese Prime Minister Mr Cavaco Silva.

The CIM services are independent from the Angolan government's security police, and its officers are said to be trained at a special school in Viana on the outskirts of Luanda. Cuban officers are reported to run the school.

CIM works closely with all the branches of the Angolan armed forces, and CIM officers are said to be assigned to each of the Angolan army's brigades to keep a close watch on the activities of the officers.

Very little is known about the political background of Colonel Maria who, because of his position, is understood to wield considerable influence over President dos Santos.

HOMER!

Surprise US-Soviet talks on Angola

Star 17/5/85

(5)

The Star's Foreign News Service

LISBON — The senior US and Soviet diplomats responsible for Africa will hold surprise talks tomorrow in the Portuguese capital to discuss apparent snags in negotiations for an Angola-Namibia peace settlement, Portuguese sources said.

Word of the unexpected talks broke yesterday as military tensions appeared to heighten in southern Angola, and diplomatic sources said SADF chief General Jannie Geldenhuys had visited Lisbon secretly for talks with Portuguese officials.

Citing Foreign Ministry sources, the Portuguese news agency, Lusa, said US Assistant Secretary of State Mr Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Anatoly Adamishin would "debate the situation in southern Africa" tomorrow night.

In Luanda, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos confirmed that Cuban reinforcements had arrived in Angola, saying this was "a response to the intensification of the war by South Africa".

But the Cuban embassy in Maputo is reported to have said Cuba is ready to start withdrawing its troops north of the 13th Parallel in Angola by October 10 if United Nations troops arrive in Namibia

by September.

The 13 Parallel runs through central Angola, slightly below the Benguela railway.

The Mozambique news agency, AIM, which has close contacts with Cuban officials involved in Angola, said Cuban sources had described the proposed withdrawal to the north of the 13th Parallel as "a new contribution" by Cuba to the resolution of the Namibian question.

Observers, however, note that this proposal is not new in itself. A Cuban withdrawal northwards as part of a plan for a total withdrawal from Angola has been under discussion for several years. The Star's Africa Service reports that there was no word today on whether the Angolan government has heeded South Africa's demand that it halt the strong force that has been advancing towards the Namibian border.

South Africa is reported to have threatened at the peace talks last week in Brazzaville, Congo, to break off the negotiations if the advance is not

stopped. Whether the SADF would send troops to try to head off the column is not known but knowledgeable observers do not rule out the possibility of a clash with SADF or SWATF forces that operate from time to time against Swapo in southern Angola.

This is the first time a combined Fapla, Cuban and Swapo force has made a thrust of this nature.

The Star's Washington Bureau reports that readers of one of the most important newspapers in the Soviet Union, *Izvestia*, have been told that they should not expect a swift solution to the conflict in southern Africa.

Rubb

Undertaker is arrested

A Cape Town undertaker, sought by police country-wide after 11 coffins containing decomposed bodies were discovered at a house at Parow last Wednesday, was arrested at Sundra on the East Rand yesterday.

The man had been sought after the bizarre discovery.

Cape Town police said today that neighbours had complained of a strong odour from the house. When police gained access to the garage, they found the coffins, which contained the bodies of elderly people and one child. — East Rand Bureau.

Opposition parties irate at joint debates

Star 17/5/85

CAPE TOWN — The Government's plans to hold decentralised joint parliamentary debates in each of the four provincial capitals next week have been branded a "colossal farce".

Opposition parties are up in arms about the debates, not least because of the expense of the exercise, which has been estimated at between R1 million and R2 million.

The taxpayers are to pay for the air tickets, hotel accommodation and hired cars for every MP and official who attends the debates.

Both the Progressive

Federal Party and the Conservative Party are threatening a boycott because of the "insulting" times allocated to them for speeches.

The Conservative Party is planning protest meetings in the city halls of the capitals because it has been given less time than the Indian House of Delegates to debate the provincial affairs of the Transvaal and Free State.

The PFP is upset that it is getting less time than the CP to take part in the Natal debate, even though it has several Natal MPs and the CP has none.

Malan calls Cubans 'unreliable forces' ^{Star 18/5/88} (5)

Parliamentary Staff

South Africa had been faced with two options in the middle of last year: to allow the "communist surrogate forces and the Fapla army" to destroy Unita, or to send South African forces to help Unita.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan defended the decision to do the latter during debate on his budget vote in the House of Assembly yesterday.

If Unita had not received South African support it might have been crushed, he said.

"This would have paved the way for the infiltration of communist forces and ANC and Swapo terrorists to SWA-Namibia's whole northerly and easterly areas," he said.

They would even have been in reach of the northern Transvaal.

The Fapla forces had suffered losses of between 7 000 and 10 000, said General Malan.

"In a supportive role to Unita and with Unita our men achieved distinctions that will be talked about for a long time."

The SADF did not have more than 3 000 men in Angola at any time.

The general added that he was surprised to read that the Cubans were receiving medals for their actions at Cuito Cuanevale.

He said he would have given the medals to the Fapla forces.

The Cubans had proved themselves unreliable forces and this message had reverberated throughout Africa. "Their actions proved to Africa that it can get by without them," he said.

SA treads softly on Angola talks — with reason

Political Staff
CAPE TOWN — South Africa's experience over the Lusaka Agreement of 1984, which was meant to bring peace to the region, is one of the reasons the country is treating the latest Angola/Namibia talks with the utmost caution.

The failure of the Lusaka Agreement has been spelt out in detail for the first time in an SADF magazine *Militaria*.

The article, written by Helmoed-Romer Heitman and WA Dornig, explains that the basis of the agreement was that South Africa would withdraw its troops from southern Angola in return for Angola giving an undertaking that neither its troops nor the Cubans and Swapo would exploit the situation to the detriment of the security of Namibia.

In terms of the 12-point Lusaka Agreement, there would be a phased withdrawal, synchronised by a joint monitoring commission (JMC) which first met in Lusaka on February 16 1984.

But even before the JMC was set up at its first staging post at Cuvelai, South Africa made its first complaints on February 24 1984 that 400 to 500 Swapo insurgents were moving south.

An Angolan member of the JMC, Lieutenant-General Sequira, told the South African delegation that his government strongly disapproved of

Swapo violations and would do everything to prevent the organisation entering the area.

After a delay — because the Angolan contingent drove into a minefield and lost four lives — the JMC was established at Cuvelai with great fanfare.

The first joint patrol of 60 men set out three days later, with Swapo still present in the area and the Angolan Fapla representatives claiming that there were communications problems and they would need a week to clear the area.

There were incidents, and after a clash on March 8, in which four Swapo members were killed, it was clear "that Swapo was deliberately ignoring Fapla's instructions to withdraw".

Fapla's sincerity was accepted because they had taken part in the fight against the Swapo patrol.

After a number of other contacts the situation improved, and on March 21 the first staged move took place.

Again there were further contacts with Swapo forces, which were also operating in the south on the border, and the next move to Evale was delayed until April 16.

Six days later the first major disagreement between the South African and Angolan contingents occurred, with an Angolan member claiming that

only Fapla forces could patrol a certain area, with joint forces being called in only to confirm a detected violation.

Top-level talks were held in Lusaka. At the meeting, agreement was reached for the exchange of one South African, one Cuban and 31 Fapla prisoners.

On May 2, despite South Africa still not being satisfied that Swapo forces were being controlled, the JMC moved to Ongiva (the area in which the controversial Cuban/Fapla/Swapo force is now again taking up occupation and bedevilling the latest round of talks).

The authors of the magazine article say that after the promising first two months, Angola's attitude to the JMC changed dramatically for the worse after the move to Ongiva.

From this point on, the South Africa delegation met with hardline attitudes and violations of the Lusaka Agreement.

From June, the Angolan participation was critical and its membership "even devious".

Top-level ministerial talks were held at this stage to get the show back on the road and to develop the peace process, leading to the first direct discussions with the Administrator-General of Namibia and Swapo.

The Cuban withdrawal issue and the imple-

mentation of United Nations Resolution 435 for a solution for Namibia, which had been sidestepped in the Lusaka Agreement, were raised and proved the stumbling point.

South Africa and Angola were also simultaneously negotiating proposals for a joint peace-keeping commission to be established after South Africa had withdrawn, and a treaty on the Ruacana hydroelectric project.

Swapo violations continued and a Fapla build-up was under way, while Fapla was claiming South African violations, particularly by the air force.

From November to March 1985 the JMC was on the backburner, with the annual Swapo offensive starting in January with the onset of the rainy season.

After a last-ditch attempt in March by South Africa to get the JMC revitalised, it became clear that Angola was no longer interested.

On the advice of Foreign Minister Pk Botha, South Africa decided in April to withdraw from Angola.

A meeting initiated by Angola was held on May 9 in Maputo, at which South Africa was told that "Angola was not interested in any further formal security arrangement".

The JMC was disbanded on May 16.

US-Soviet talks on Angola crucial

Star 18/5/88
By Neil Lursen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — Talks in Lisbon today between top American and Soviet officials will be crucial in the effort to find a joint Washington-Moscow approach to ending the bitter conflict in Angola.

Led by Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, and Mr Anatoly Adamishin, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, the talks are a continuation of their meeting in London earlier this month which preceded the four-sided talks joined by South Africa, Cuba and Angola.

If the Lisbon meeting is productive and it looks as though there is room for agreement between the superpowers, it is likely that Dr Crocker will accompany President Ronald Reagan when he flies to Moscow at the end of this month for his summit with Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. Dr Crocker would play a key role representing the US position in Moscow.

If not, it is likely that the discussions in Moscow on Angola and the related issue of Namibian independence will turn into yet another sharp ex-

change of views with little agreement.

The Americans appeared to be optimistic on the eve of the Lisbon meeting. A senior official, Ms Rozanne Ridgway, Assistant Secretary of State for European affairs, said yesterday that the success in reaching a framework for solving the Afghanistan conflict and securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops suggested the possibility of a similar approach in southern Africa.

The Angolans themselves have angrily rejected any suggestion of a comparison between their own conflict and the war in Afghanistan.

There was guarded optimism too at the daily State Department briefing for reporters where the chief spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, said: "We don't see any indication that the parties are losing interest in pursuing negotiations aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

But, asked about the recent increase in Cuban troops in Angola, he warned that any military escalation of the conflict could have a "negative impact" on the diplomatic negotiations to resolve the conflict as well increase the misery of the Angolan people.

Angola gets R150-m for food and medicine

GENEVA — Angola won pledges of R150,5 million from donor nations yesterday to buy urgently needed food and medical aid for the war-torn country, UN officials said.

Forty nations took part

in the one-day emergency meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (Undro).

Major donors were the European Community, which pledged R46 million, Italy with R42 million, France with R16 million and Sweden with R12 million.

Undro co-ordinator Mr M'Hamed Essaafi, who chaired the talks, said: "Angola is satisfied, undoubtedly, by the goodwill which was expressed. I don't believe the figures are final."

The Soviet Union, which backs the Luanda government, did not attend the meeting.

But the United States, which has no diplomatic ties with Angola, sent a delegation which offered to help distribute the supplies. — Sapa-Reuter.

Pope invited

LUANDA — Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos has invited Pope John Paul to make an official visit to Angola, the official news agency *Angop* said yesterday.

Angop said the Angolan president made the invitation when he received papal envoy Cardinal Roger Etchegary on Monday.

Message

MAPUTO — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, reported to be involved in behind-the-scene moves in the Angolan peace negotiation, has sent a message to president Fidel Castro of Cuba. *AP Wire 12/15/88*

No details of the message were released.

The message was delivered to President Castro by Mozambique's culture minister Luis Bernardo Honwana.

NR425 18/5/88 (5)

Unita hits at supply lines to Cuban forces

Political Staff

UNITA troops have begun attacking the supply lines for the 11 000-strong mechanised Cuban/Angolan/Swapo force reported to be moving southwards, according to South African Government sources.

The first attack on the supply lines was made four days ago.

The sources said that South Africa had no intention of reacting militarily to the force and Unita's tactics were to cut the extended supply lines to the force, which on the most recent information was about 350km from the SWA/Namibian border.

Meanwhile, there have been other major developments in the rapidly changing position in

the latest attempts to resolve the war in Angola:

● A Cuban offer to withdraw its troops north beyond the 13th parallel a month after United Nations troops arrive in SWA/Namibia was not being taken seriously by South Africa today;

● The Lisbon meeting today between the US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, was being keenly watched by South Africa amid expectations of substantial progress being made;

● United States sources were indicating that there were major problems in Cuba's war effort in Angola with the Cuban leader, Dr Fidel Castro, trying to command his troops telephonically from Havana.

South African sources were puzzled today by the Cuban offer to withdraw beyond the 13th parallel by October.

The sources pointed out that a United Nations force could not be brought together and installed so quickly as there would have to be a special sitting of the UN Security Council to approve plans and a budget of more than R1 000-million.

In terms of the proposals 2 000 civilians would also have to be brought in.

A senior source suspected that the offer might have been made because the latest Cuban tactical plans in sending the highly mechanised force south had misfired.

US-Soviet summit, page 4.

SADF Angola clash 'unlikely'

By JIM FREEMAN

A PITCHED battle between the South African Defence Force and a Cuban-Angolan column moving southwards, through Angola towards the Namibian border is highly unlikely, say Western diplomatic sources.

The diplomats say the Cuban-Angolan advance is not a move timed to coincide with the recent four-way peace talks in London and last week's bilateral talks in Brazzaville.

Foreign powers have been monitoring the column's advance since December, they say.

Military and political considerations almost certainly mitigate against an armed conflict with both sides having too much to lose in a clash, say the sources.

The threat that Swapo insurgents could be moving with a force estimated at 11 000 men as a prelude to the "annual" infiltration of northern Namibia could also be a "blind", the diplomats add.

The diplomats feel that South Africa's timing in announcing the advance, and the subsequent outcry, could be a move to draw world attention to the situation in the sub-conti-

nent and underline the urgency for peace.

A powerful force on the Namibian border could be the only lever to persuade South Africa to abandon its aid for the Unita rebel movement and speed up the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia.

On the military front, both the South Africans and the Cuban-Angolan alliance are too strong to be able to attack each other without suffering excessive losses, they maintain.

From a South African political viewpoint, a high-tech battle involving tanks, artillery and aircraft would result in too great a loss of life to justify to the electorate.

The southward thrust is seen firstly as a tactic to draw away a large part of the SA Defence Force and Namibian Territory Force concentrated around Cuito Cuanavale before an Angolan attempt to relieve the beleaguered town.

Secondly, if Angola can reoccupy the southern part of the country kept fallow by the SADF for the past five years, Luanda could be in a far stronger bargaining position at peace talks aimed at resolving the Namibian independence deadlock and ending the civil war in Angola.

Angola: US, USSR meet again

WASHINGTON. — The US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Chester Crocker, will meet his Soviet counterpart in Lisbon today for further talks on Angola and Namibia.

The talks between Mr Crocker and Mr Anatoly Adamishin come amidst reports of a Cuban build-up in southern Angola and will be the first since the two held unprecedented peace talks on Angola with representatives of Cuba and SA this month.

In Havana, Cuban spokesmen said

the fact that Cuban troops were in southern Angola near the Namibian border should not affect negotiations for peace. He said: "We are operating at the request of the Angolan government but SA admittedly has troops in southern Angola against the sovereign will of the Angolan government."

Meanwhile, General Malan said yesterday that the SADF's involvement in Angola in support of Unita would go down in the force's history as one of its highlights and a period of fantastic achievements. — Sapa-Reuter

D/D 18/5/88 (S)

Cuban troops should not affect peace negotiations says official

HAVANA — The fact that Cuban troops are operating in southern Angola near the Namibian border should not affect negotiations for peace in the region, a Cuban official said.

The official, who said he was not speaking for the government, was commenting on a charge made by the South African Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, that Cuba was undermining the Angolan peace talks by moving troops closer to SWA-Namibia.

"We are operating within Angolan territory at the request of the Angolan Government but South Africa admittedly has troops in southern Angola against the sovereign will of the Angolan Government," the official said.

Gen Malan said he told the Angolans at a meeting in Brazzaville last week that unless the Cuban troops move from areas close to Angola's frontier with Namibia,

"discussions made no sense".

On May 3 and 4 in London, representatives of Cuba, Angola, South Africa and the United States held talks aimed at finding a negotiated settlement for the conflict in southwest Africa.

Those talks and those held in Brazzaville were seen as part of new peace initiatives that held out hope for an end to the 13-year-old Angolan war.

The Cuban official added that "further talks do make sense because their essence is to find ways in which South Africa will stop its aggression against Angola and will abide by the UN resolution which calls for Namibian independence.

"If the talks are successful, Cuban troops will not only be withdrawn from southern Angola but will be sent home over a period of four years," he said.

Cuba announced on

May 2 that its normal lines of defence in southern Angola had been moved southward and that its troops were now carrying out military activities close to the frontier.

The Cuban Communist Party newspaper said the decision to move its troops southward "was due to the pigheadedness of the South Africans and their irrational decision to maintain the occupation of part of Angolan territory".

● Meanwhile, Angola has won pledges of \$75 million from donor nations to buy urgently needed food and medical aid for the war-torn country, UN officials said.

Forty nations took part in the one-day emergency meeting under the auspices of United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation.

Major donors were the European Community,

which pledged \$23 million, Italy with \$21 million, France with eight million dollars and Sweden with six million dollars. The balance was contributed by 10 other states.

The Soviet Union, which backs the marxist government in Luanda, was absent.

The United States sent a delegation which offered logistical help in distributing food and relief supplies.

● Unita have stepped up their attacks in an apparent show of force on the eve of fresh regional peace talks, this time in Lisbon between top US and Soviet negotiators.

Diplomats and rebel sources said the push was timed to show Unita was still a force to be reckoned with as talks between Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the United States gather pace. — DDC-Sapa-RNS

Santam lifts earnings 41%

CAPE TIMES 18/5/88

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By LAWRENCE TOTHILL
Investment Editor

SANTAM INSURANCE has announced an after-tax profit of R18,4m for the half-year to March 1988, which is 41% up on the corresponding year ago figure of R13m.

Earnings per share equal 26,3c (18,6c) for the half year and the company has increased its interim dividend to 8c from 6c a share — a rise of 33%. Some of this increase should be seen as bringing the interim more in line with the final dividend.

Reflecting the trend which had become apparent last year, Santam Insurance showed an underwriting surplus for the period of R11,7m which was 31% up on the R8,9m in the same period last year.

Investment income also reflects the better cash flow arising from the improved underwriting surplus and stood at R17,4m (R12,7m).

MD Oosie Oosthuizen, said the underwriting surplus was after providing fully for the Natal floods (R6m) and the more recent floods in the Orange Free State and the northern Cape (R12m as an outside figure).

"Our premium levels were such that we were able to absorb the losses arising from these 'catastrophes', keep our premiums frozen for the year, and

still show a satisfactory underwriting surplus.

"It means that we are doing the scientific underwriting which is expected of a responsible insurer."

A feature of the interim report is that gross premium income at R326,5m has hardly risen from the year-ago R323,7m, while net premium income reflects a similar modest rise to R295m (R291,4m).

Oosthuizen said this was due to the loss of certain personal group scheme business which had accounted for about 8% of premium income.

"When I say 'loss' I really mean we relinquished that business, and we have been able to replace it with better business. This is reflected in the improved underwriting results. The profit margin is up on last year but still within internationally accepted standards."

The interim report shows that insurance funds at R233,6m are sharply higher than the R142,5m of a year ago.

Oosthuizen says these are so satisfactory now that the company is well placed to satisfy any new proposals which might flow from the Melamet Commission which is expected to recommend some quite stringent reserve requirements for short-term insurance companies.

Malan: Sub-continent is a swamp of spies ^{DID 1915788} ²⁵⁴ (S)

Parliamentary Staff

CAPE TOWN — Southern Africa had become a "swamp" of espionage with its own rules and morality, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said yesterday.

During the debate on the Defence Budget, General Malan said South Africa reserved the right to strike back at ANC terrorists in neighbouring countries.

But, below the level of official government action, where the defence force acknowledged and announced when it had carried out cross-border strikes, "lies the level of international espionage, operations and agents."

"Southern Africa has become a swamp of international agents from western and communist secret services," he said.

"It is a grey world about which John Citizen only hears. It is a world with its own rules and morality."

For security reasons South Africa was forced, unwillingly, by its enemies to participate in this "world".

"But, you must not expect the government to talk publicly about these matters," he said.

"It would endanger peoples' lives. Our whole information flow depends on people who

are prepared to work with us.

"It enables us to identify the ANC, its living quarters and its routes, among others, through Zimbabwe."

It had also enabled the SADF to identify the Cuban advances in Angola but people should not expect the government to go into detail about these things.

In spite of apparent attempts to find peaceful solutions to "conflict situations" the Kremlin had clearly bound itself to expanding its field of influence through covert means.

These included propaganda, misinformation, agents, bribery and secret financial support.

Where the situation demanded it, Russia had often followed up these methods with more direct actions such as in Afghanistan and Angola.

The question was how were these methods to be counter-acted?

"Handling conflict demands that you must be ahead — particularly with intelligence or information," he said.

General Malan went on to say that South Africa would like to see the sub-continent removed from the power play of East-West politics.

"The disintegration and collapse of Africa has reached such a critical stage that the continent can no longer afford to be part of this power play. Africa cannot be the playground of the major powers."

Africa, of which South Africa was an integral part, should look to its problems on its own.

General Malan said South Africa did not want to prescribe a political formula for Angola and expected the Soviet Union to show "some flexibility" on this issue.

"The Soviet Union can no longer afford to underwrite the conflict that has developed around a pro-Moscow MPLA government."

National reconciliation was imperative in Angola in order to end what he described as the "internal tensions" in the country.

General Malan said that "in the same way" South Africa did not want to become involved in the internal problems of Mozambique.

He said reports that South Africa was considering sending soldiers to protect the Cahora Bassa power line or to train Mozambican soldiers for this purpose were "unfounded."

Prospects 'good' for Angolan peace plan

Ad. Cal. S
19/5/88

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The Argus Foreign Service

LISBON. — The top US and Soviet policy-makers for Africa are expected to announce positive movement today in the complex negotiations for a regional peace settlement in Angola and Namibia.

Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, are to speak separately to journalists about their talks yesterday.

Though both men were tight-lipped about the results of their meeting, the second such encounter in three weeks, there were strong indications that multi-lateral negotiations remained on track for a Cuban pull-out from Angola and independence for Namibia.

Moscow summit

Mr Adamishin is scheduled to give a news conference at the Soviet embassy while Dr Crocker is due to speak to reporters after a brief meeting with his Portuguese counterpart, Mr Jos Durao Barroso.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz said the Angola-Namibia issue would receive "more attention" at the May 29 US-Soviet sum-

mit in Moscow "than any other regional question".

During their meeting yesterday at the US embassy compound and later over a "working dinner", Dr Crocker and Mr Adamishin discussed how to maintain momentum in the interlocked negotiations for a Cuban withdrawal from Angola and Namibian independence.

Military build-up

"The agenda centred on a Cuban withdrawal, Unita and Namibia," said a US diplomatic source, adding that the question of the Cuban military build-up had also been discussed.

One source close to the talks said there seemed to be "good prospects" for progress on a regional peace settlement.

For seven years, Dr Crocker has led the US effort to mediate a solution linking the exit of some 40 000 Cuban troops from Marxist-ruled Angola to Pretoria granting Namibian independence.

The on-and-off negotiations gained new impetus when Dr Crocker brought together representatives from Pretoria, Luanda and Havana on May 3 and 4 for talks in London.

A new round of four-party talks is expected later this month.

ALL TIMES 19/5/88

Namibia's freedom 'central to peace talks'

LUANDA. — Swapo said yesterday it had received assurances from Angola, Cuba and the United States that there could be no peace settlement in Angola and Namibia without independence for Namibia.

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya, information secretary for Swapo, said in an interview that independence for Namibia was central to the current peace initiative involving South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States.

"We have had high-level talks with Angolan, Cuban and American authorities and they all reassured us there would be no re-negotiation of (UN Resolution) 435 and that there could be no deal that does not include immediate implementation of 435," he said.

Mr Hamutenya said that Swapo was not taking part in the negotiations at the moment because it had no part to play at the present stage.

He claimed that South Africa had been forced to the negotiating table by what he called the deteriorating military position it faced on its frontiers and in southern Angola.

● In Windhoek, a spokesman for the SWA Territory Force said yesterday that Swapo insurgents had abducted 40 pupils and five teachers from a school north of Ombalantu. — Sapa-Reuter

Peace talks

LISBON — American and Soviet officials met in Lisbon yesterday for fresh peace talks on Angola amid reports of a Cuban military build-up and an offensive by Unita rebels.

Assistant secretary of State Dr. Chester Crocker and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, discussed how to keep up the momentum of complex negotiations aimed at ending the 13-year-old war in Angola and securing independence for Namibia. — Sapa-
Reuter. (S)

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1975

Malan repeats warning on talks

Cubans now only 70km from border

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19/5/88

CAPE TOWN — Cuban troops were now only about 70km from Namibia, where they were massing with Swapo and Fapla forces at Ngiva — one of five spearheads close to the border, intelligence sources said.

Other concentrations of the combined Cuban-Swapo-Fapla elements were being established at Techipa, Xangongo, Catequero and Mupa.

The sources said yesterday it was not yet clear how many Cuban troops had reached the five assembly points, but earlier this week Defence Minister Magnus Malan said about a quarter of the 45 000 Cubans in Angola were involved in a push towards the south.

He warned if it continued the current Angolan peace negotiations would be pointless and further Cuban advances, seen as an attempt to strengthen their bargaining position, could be the "spark to start the fire".

Political Staff

Malan said SA was well aware of the communist tactic to use negotiations as an extension of the conflict, while at the same time trying to make military advances in the hope SA would do nothing to endanger the peace talks.

Yesterday he warned again the Cuban advances "had to stop".

It is understood large numbers of the Cuban forces are still between the Namibe and Benguela railway lines, with others at Lubango, which is an important air base.

Intelligence reports yesterday indicated Unita forces, operating widely between the Benguela and Namibe lines, were harassing the Cuban columns.

Unita has claimed widespread successes in the past week.

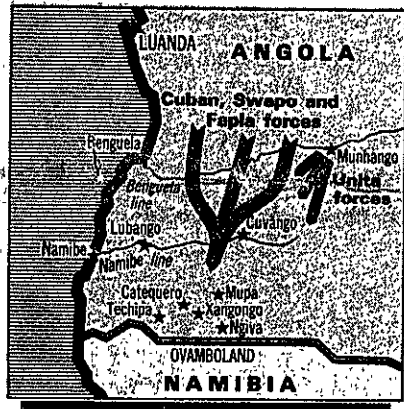
'Angolan toll 20 000'

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

WAR casualties in Angola are estimated at between 20 000 and 25 000, according to SA Institute of International Affairs researcher Andre du Pisani.

In Namibia, he says, close to 11 000 Swapo members, civilians and members of the SA Defence Force and SWA Territorial Forces have died since the start of the war in 1966.

Du Pisani recently published a paper on the SADF's role in southern Africa in which he examined its "surrogate rela-



● To Page 2 ➡

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Study puts Angolan war toll at 20 000

tionships", especially with Unita which, he says, was reconstituted by the SADF in 1975 and propped up by SA ever since.

In his paper, Du Pisani says the political consequences of SA's war strategy in Namibia and Angola have had a significant influence on these countries.

⬅ ● From Page 1

He predicts long-term negative implications for Angola, which, he says, has been socio-economically and politically disintegrated.

US strategy focus on Cuban pull-out

Star

19/5/88

By Neil Lursen,
The Star Bureau

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WASHINGTON — America's strategy at the Moscow summit will be to urge the Soviets to help bring about a timetable for Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola that is acceptable to South Africa.

Beyond that goal, the United States will also push for Soviet encouragement of a process of national reconciliation inside Angola, a process that will bring Unita into the country's national political life.

In spite of apparent US optimism that there is the possibility of agreement on Angola when President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev meet in the Soviet capital from May 29 to June 2, it is clear that it will be easier to tackle reconciliation than the troop withdrawal.

Both Angola and Cuba have accepted a total withdrawal of Cuban troops in principle, but there is still a wide gulf between their proposed timetable and a withdrawal plan acceptable to the South African Government.

Sources here say the difference between the two sides adds up to three years.

The Angolans and Cubans have offered a conditional withdrawal time of four years while South Africa wants it to be less than one year.

The Star's Foreign News Service reports from Lisbon that Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, are expected to announce positive movement in the complex negotiations for a regional peace settlement on Angola and Namibia today.

MOMENTUM

They will speak separately to journalists to report on their talks in Lisbon yesterday.

Dr Crocker and Mr Adamishin spent yesterday discussing how to keep up the momentum of complex negotiations.

Mr Michael Armacost, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said the US would press the Soviets at the superpower summit to speed the departure of Cuban troops from Angola.

Mr Armacost said: "I think there is some real possibility of moving towards a settlement in Angola."

He was speaking on a "Worldnet" televised news conference with journalists in London, Paris, Lagos and Delhi.

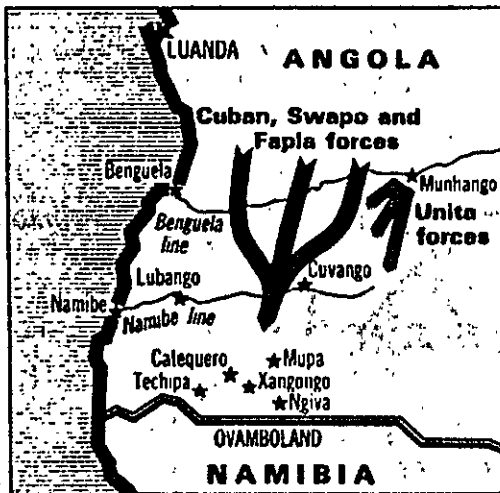
Mr Armacost said talks in London and Brazzaville aimed at resolving the civil war had made genuine progress, with Angola standing by its offer of a complete withdrawal of the 40,000 Cubans and South Africa reaffirming its commitment to grant Namibia independence.

Cuban troops massing 70km from border

CAPL T. 7/15 19/5/88

INTELLIGENCE sources claimed yesterday that Cuban troops were only about 70km from Namibia where they are massing with Swapo and Fapla forces at Ngiva — one of five spearheads close to the border.

The sources claimed that other concentrations of the combined Cuban Swapo-Fapla elements were being established at Techipa, Xangongo, Catequero and Mupa.



The sources said yesterday it was not yet clear how many Cuban troops had reached the five assembly points but earlier this week the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said about a quarters of the 45 000 Cubans in Angola were involved in a push towards the south. Yesterday he warned again that the Cuban advances had to stop.

Intelligence reports yesterday also indicated that Unita forces, which are operating widely between

To page 2

From page 1

the Benguela and Namibe lines, are harassing the Cuban columns.

● In Lisbon US and Soviet officials met yesterday for new talks on Angola.

The US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, discussed how to keep up the momentum of complex negotiations.

On Tuesday Dr Crocker was in Brazzaville where he met the Congo's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. Dr Crocker said Washington was relying on Soviet support in current efforts to end conflicts in Southern Africa.

The US is expecting from Moscow "not only words but also deeds to genuinely and concretely back the search for a settlement in this region of Africa," Dr Crocker told reporters. — Political Staff and Sapa-Reuter

TOTAL

US, Soviets meet for fresh peace talks on Angola

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LISBON — United States and Soviet officials met here yesterday for fresh peace talks on Angola amid reports of a Cuban military build-up and a fresh Unita offensive.

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The US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Chester Crocker, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, discussed how to keep up the momentum of complex negotiations aimed at ending the 13-year-old war in Angola and securing independence for SWA/Namibia.

"Angola, a Cuban withdrawal, Unita and Namibia again form the bulk of the agenda," a US source said, adding that Dr Crocker was also likely to question the Soviet Union on reports of a Cuban build-up in southern Angola.

Both the US and South Africa have voiced concern that the Cubans are reinforcing their estimated 40 000-strong contingent in Angola to strengthen their hand in the peace talks.

Remarking on the build-up on Monday, the South African Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said that Cuba risked "harming the climate for negotiation".

However, the US state department remains steadfast that the peace

process will continue.

The Lisbon meeting, the latest in a three-week flurry of talks also involving Angola and South Africa, took place as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) claimed fresh military victories.

"We are intensifying our actions in Angola. We will not stop the war just because of the talks and we hold the key for any lasting peace," a Unita spokesman said.

The movement, which has said that its forces killed more than 300 government soldiers in the past week, welcomed the latest peace moves.

Unita's Lisbon-based spokesman, Mr Alcides Sakala, said that the talks "are still very much on global lines".

Adding: "When they get down to basics we must become involved."

Angola's marxist government has flatly refused to deal with Unita, who receive US funds and are supported by South African troops inside Angola.

South Africa also occupies SWA/Namibia in defiance of the United Nations.

Luanda has demanded a halt to all outside aid to the rebels as part of any settlement and diplomats say that Unita's future role is probably the trickiest problem facing the negotiators.

"Dr Crocker will probably bring up the issue of the rebels," one diplomat said.

Soviet sources said that Mr Adamishin was likely to repeat Moscow's view that only Luanda can decide if it wants to discuss power-sharing with Unita.

The meeting could also set the agenda for a repeat of the inaugural talks held in London two weeks ago between Cuba, Angola, the US and South Africa, diplomats said.

"The two negotiators are well aware that detailed progress reports will be expected by the time Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev hold their summit at the end of the month," one diplomat added. — Sapa-RNS

Malan warns Angola as Cubans advance

DID 19/5/88

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Daily Dispatch Correspondents

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, warned Angola again yesterday that the southward advance of Cuban troops had to stop — and he accused Zimbabwe of effectively “declaring war” on South Africa.

The Cuban troops were reported to be only 70 km from South West Africa/Namibia where they are massing with Swapo and Fapla forces at Ngiva, one of five assembly points close to the border.

Other concentrations of the combined Cuban-Swapo-Fapla elements are being established at Techipa, Xangongo, Catequero and Mupa.

Intelligence sources said yesterday it was not yet clear how many Cuban troops had already

reached the five assembly points but earlier this week General Malan, said about a quarter of the 45 000 Cubans in Angola were involved in a push towards the south.

He warned that if it continued, the current Angolan peace negotiations would be pointless and that further Cuban advances — seen as a sly attempt to strengthen their bargaining position — could be the “spark to start the fire”

General Malan said South Africa was well aware of the communist tactic to use Swapo as a tool in the conflict. He said the same time as the military make military moves in the hope of South Africa would to endanger talks.

Yesterday he said again that the advances had to stop.

It is understood large numbers of Cuban troops are heading south from Benguela and Benguela lines with a large number of troops in Benguela, which is an important air base.

Intelligence also indicated Unita forces, which are operating widely between the Benguela and Namibe lines, are harassing the Cuban columns.

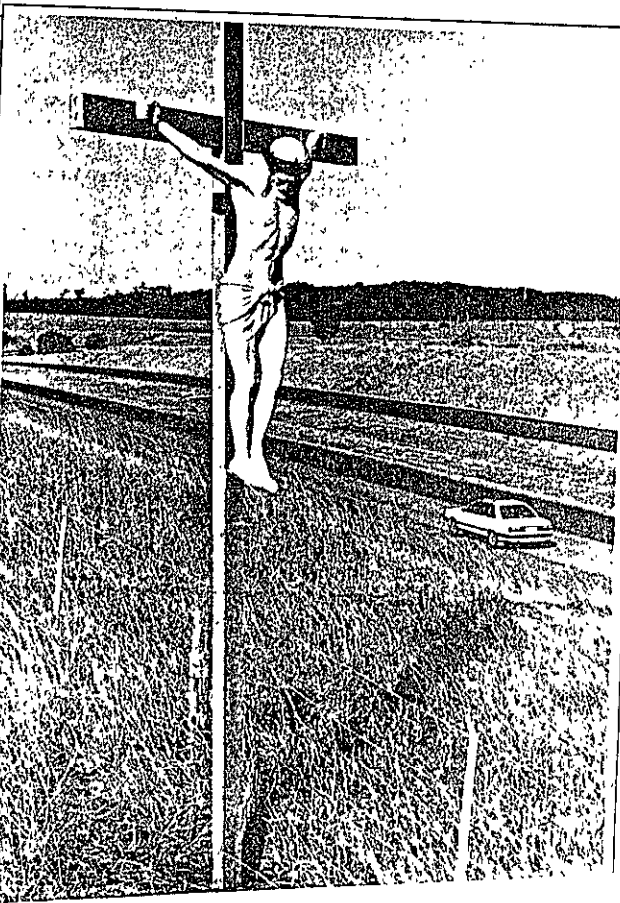
In a hard-hitting speech during his defence Vote in the House of Assembly, General Malan accused Zimbabwe of effectively “declaring war” on South Africa and said the Mugabe government was increasingly involved in the “export of revolution and terrorism” to the Republic

General Malan said that while South Africa was prepared to co-exist with its “marxist neighbours” it would fight all attempts to export revolution into the country.

“We will fight it in every imaginable manner, conventional and unconventional, if this is necessary,” he said.

“While Mr Mugabe leaves no stone unturned in accusing South Africa of destabilisation and other horrendous deeds, his country’s official policy includes moral, political and financial support for the ANC.”

General Malan said the number of terrorist acts that could be traced back to Zimbabwe had increased by 52 per cent last year compared with 1986.



Nigeria SA team has quit Guinea

LAGOS — Nigeria announced yesterday that all seven South Africans working in Equatorial Guinea had left the country, following strong objections from the military government in Lagos.

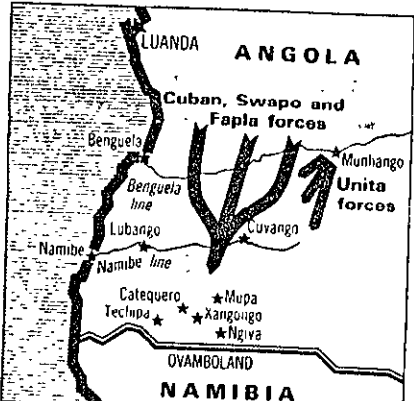
Nigeria’s ambassador in Malabo, Captain Festus Forben, said: “The leader of the South African team was the last to leave last Monday — as of now our anxiety is over.”

The was no immediate confirmation of the Nigerian announcement from Equatorial Guinea itself.

Pretoria intervened publicly in the row on May 12 when the Department of Foreign Affairs assailed Nigeria for putting pressure on its neighbour to end valuable aid projects.

“South Africa is continuing discussions with Equatorial Guinea for the proposed continuation of the projects,” the department said in a statement.

Meanwhile the



The area where Angolan and Cuban forces are moving towards southern Angolan bases.

General Malan said that one of the “serious implications” of the Broederstroom discovery of advanced weapons was the evidence that they were brought in through Zimbabwe and Botswana.

“Zimbabwe is indeed directly and indirectly involved in the export of revolution and terrorism to South Africa.”

General Malan said that probably the best known of the militant statements made by Mr Mugabe was the Soweto Day speech on June 15, 1986 in which he said:

“The only language the Boer will understand is the language of the gun. A bullet for a bullet, they will understand that very easily. The Boers are afraid to die, they fear death. The more of them you kill, the nearer you get to your goal.”

General Malan said: “If this is not a declaration of war, I would like to know how you declare war.”

See also pages 7 and 11

ANGOLA/NAMIBIA

Peace in their time?

A political settlement in Namibia may still be a long way off — but there are strong signals that SA has never been more committed to breaking the regional logjam holding up independence for the disputed territory. There are good reasons for this. Even South African alarm at new Cuban and Swapo advances in southern Angola, and Angolan claims that the manoeuvres are aimed merely at countering SADF and Unita strategies, are unlikely to derail the latest peace initiative, according to government sources.

This belief is strengthened by an unplanned top-level meeting in Lisbon, scheduled for Wednesday this week, between senior US and Moscow Africa experts, which Western diplomats in the Portuguese capital link to the threatening Cuban troop movements.

Assistant US Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker and his Soviet counterpart Anatoly Adamishin were to meet (unexpectedly) in Lisbon for what Portuguese officials described as an assessment of the latest developments in the four-party efforts to negotiate an Angolan peace.

A South African government source says the mutual sabre-rattling should not be allowed to detract from the significance of last week's talks between SA and Angola in Brazzaville and the prospect of further and even more constructive meetings. Pretoria now knows that time is running out and that it may never have a better chance to settle — on acceptable terms — in both Angola and Namibia.

Defence Minister Magnus Malan's seemingly harsh comments and apparent pessimism in parliament this week have to be seen against the background of what is at stake. Both sides — Angola, Cuba and the Soviet Union on the one hand, and SA and Unita on the other — want "peace with honour." A certain amount of posturing in the run-up to achieving that is inevitable.

A surprisingly optimistic view of the latest initiative came this week from veteran Namibian politician, Bryan O'Linn, currently chairman of the Namibia Peace Plan Study and Contact Group 435 (NPP), a Windhoek-based think-tank that liaises with pro-Resolution 435 groups, including Swapo.

O'Linn, no friend of Pretoria, nevertheless believes SA now has good reason to want to settle in Namibia and Angola and is optimistic that positive results will be achieved. "I think they know that when there is a new administration in the US, the price (of peace) will be higher. They may be left holding the Cuban-linkage baby alone. I



must credit them with the wisdom to know that," he told a press briefing in Cape Town this week.

He hopes SA will not see the latest initiative as merely another "diplomatic exercise and delaying tactic," but as a genuine effort to find a way to implement Resolution 435. "Most Namibians and most important political parties in Namibia reject the coupling of Cuban withdrawal to the implementation of 435. Namibians resent being held hostage to achieve the settlement of all the problems of southern Africa," he says.

O'Linn adds that SA has been shielding behind "constructive engagement" and US support for Cuban-linkage since 1981; but constructive engagement is dead or dying and sanctions are emerging as the US's primary policy instrument in the region. He is convinced that it is in both the short- and long-term interest of SA to implement 435 this year.

O'Linn rejects government assertions that the settlement plan is 10 years old and outdated. He says it has been modified over the years and remains the most acceptable plan for independence.

The Lisbon talks may also focus on a possible partitioning of Angola along the Benguela railway — a move viewed with some sympathy in both Moscow and Washington despite outright opposition from the two clients fighting the war on the ground.

Meanwhile, in a clear bid to ensure it is not ignored in the present negotiations, the pro-Western Unita movement announced in

Lisbon on Monday that it had launched a new offensive in the eastern Cazombo area of the country and was on the brink of totally controlling the area through which the vital Benguela rail crossing into neighbouring Zaire runs.

For its part, Cuban-backed government forces were said to be concentrating troops and armament in Menongue in preparation for a large scale offensive against Mavinga, behind the present South African-Unita line harassing Cuito Cuanavale.

Ironically, it looks as if SA and Angola, the two main players, will sooner or later have to deal with their Unita and Cuban partners. Or else peace will only be a pipe dream.

South African diplomats have already activated diplomatic and other international channels to secure the release of the SA Defence Force soldier being treated for wounds in a Cuban hospital.

A first priority has been to request Havana to allow Private Johan Papenfus to receive parcels and letters from his family.

'I'm not even sure where Cuba is'

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

There was shock and rejoicing at the Witbank home of Mr Frank Papenfus last night after he heard the "incredible" news that his missing younger brother Johan was alive in Cuba.

However, Escom employee Mr Papenfus (30) said he was still worried about his brother "and to tell you the truth I'm not even really sure where Cuba is".

He said his 25-year-old Sats tradesman brother, who was based in Pretoria, had been reported missing exactly two weeks ago.

"Of course we were extremely worried," said Frank, who is married with two young children, "but we never gave up hope."

Last night a friend phoned his wife to say there was news about Johan on the 5 pm radio news. "We tuned on the 6 pm TV news and there it was ... it was so unexpected. I'm worried about his health and hope everything is all right for him over there."

Mr Papenfus said he was anxiously waiting to hear the full story.

The brothers' parents are both deceased.

Johan, who is Witbank-born and educated, had been up at the border for about a year and was due to finish his national service in December.

South Africa is believed to be in a favourable position to secure his repatriation. Unita is known to be holding at least two Cuban pilots captured in recent battles.

Private Papenfus (25) of Sunnyside, Pretoria, was captured in southern Angola on May 4 after taking part in operations against Swapo.

The SADF announced he was missing on May 5.

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, announced in Parliament yesterday that Private Papenfus was in hospital in Cuba.

He said he believed he was receiving humanitarian treatment after being transferred to a hospital in Cuba for specialised medical treatment.

Mr Malan said the Government was doing everything possible to get Private Papenfus re-united with his family.

Diplomatic sources said today that Private Papenfus had already sent a message via the Cubans to his family, a sister who lives in Pretoria and a brother who lives in Witbank.

They said the Cuban mission at the United Nations in New York had contacted Mr Les Manley, South African Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, to report that Private Papenfus was being held in Cuba.

Surgery

Private Papenfus had been wounded in the leg and apparently there were no adequate facilities in Luanda to save the limb.

The surgeons in Cuba had done a major reconstruction of his leg.

Cuba's approach and attitude to the Papenfus case has impressed the South African Government, which in the past has offered similar care and facilities to captured Cuban troops.

South African diplomats believe Cuba's handling of the incident could be an act of good faith in advance of a further round of talks between South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the US, which have been scheduled for next month.

Miss M M F Papenfus, the wounded soldier's sister, spent last night dodging members of the press, reports our Pretoria Correspondent.

Private Papenfus's foster father, Mr Johan Language, said last night he had been told by Miss Papenfus that she would not return to the flat she shared with her brother while members of the press "were hounding her".

By David Braun, Political Correspondent

SA acts fast to free soldier

Cubans held by Unita are key to repatriation

ster 20/5/78

SA POW in

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A SOUTH AFRICAN soldier, reported missing in action against Swapo in the operational area, has been flown to Cuba for specialist hospital treatment, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, announced yesterday.

Private Johan Papefus, a 25-year-old national serviceman of Sunnyside, in Pretoria, went missing in action against Swapo earlier this month, said General Malan.

He had now been informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs that Pte Papefus had been flown to Cuba as he could not receive the specialist treatment in Luanda.

The captured soldier was in a satisfactory condition in a Cuban hospital after receiving the required treatment.

"I believe that he is receiving humanitarian treatment, for which I am thankful," said General Malan.

"The matter is being pursued through normal diplomatic and inter-

national channels."

Everything possible was being done to ensure that the soldier was reunited with his sister, Miss M M F Papefus, and his family as soon as possible.

Last night Miss Papefus, who works for Armscor, appeared to have gone into hiding.

She had collected clothing at her Sunnyside flat before departing to an unknown address.

The caretaker of the building said Miss Papefus refused to speak to the media because she was not allowed to talk about the incident.

The SADF announced last week that Pte Papefus had gone missing on May 4 after a skirmish with Swapo in the operational area. An SADF spokesman said at the time they had conducted an intensive search for him.

Another South African soldier, Lance-Corporal Hendrik Jacobus Venter, 20, was killed in the same action.

The SADF last night said there was still no sign of Corporal Pieter Gerhardus Viljoen du Toit, 19, who was reported "missing, believed dead" after a skirmish with Swapo guerillas in the operational area on April 18. Political Staff, Own Correspondents and Sapa.

CUBA

The long, long road to Brazzaville talks

Star 20/5/88 (5)

By Joao Santa Rita
The Star's Africa News Service
The Angolan peace talks, due to resume in Brazzaville next month, came about only after months of painstaking diplomatic effort in several countries.

The deadlock that had gripped the issue for nearly two years began to loosen last September when American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, made a surprise trip to Luanda for talks with the Angolan authorities.

The last time he was there was in July when the usually discreet Dr Crocker bluntly accused the Angolans of wasting his time. But this time he described the talks as serious and business-like.

Agreement made

Not much attention was paid at the time to this remark but it now appears that it was at that meeting that an agreement was made to put the negotiations back on track.

Since then there has been a complicated sequence of diplomatic and military developments, leading to the negotiations in London last month and the subsequent talks in Brazzaville. The main developments were:

- September/October — Angolan and Cuban offensive against Unita defeated in a major battle at the Lomba River.
- November — Presidents Fidel Castro of Cuba and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola travel to Moscow. Decision taken to strengthen the Cuban force stationed in Angola to prevent a South African and Unita advance towards the town of Cuito Cuanavale.

● December — President Reagan of the United States and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev hold a summit meeting in Washington. The Angolan question, although low on the agenda, is discussed.

● January 28 and 29 — As the war in south-eastern Angola reaches a stalemate, Dr Crocker meets Angolan and Cuban representatives in London. For the first time, Havana and Luanda agree on the principle of a total withdrawal, the Americans claim.

During January, West German right-wing politician Dr Franz-Josef Strauss visits southern Africa and says he has been told in Moscow that the Soviets are ready to compromise in Angola. Dr Strauss meets Angolan rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

● February — American Secretary of State George Shultz meets Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. One of the topics discussed is believed to have been Angola.

● March 6 — South African Minister of Defence Magnus Malan suggests South Africa might be willing to negotiate with the Soviet Union on the Angolan question. He says South Africa does not want to impose a pro-South African government in Luanda and is ready to accept a non-aligned, neutral government.

● March 9 — Dr Crocker travels to Luanda for more talks with the Angolans.

● March 14 — South Africa Foreign Minister Pik Botha goes to Geneva for talks with Dr Crocker.

● March 21 — Dr Crocker meets Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin to discuss Angola.

● March 25 — Mr Shultz meets Mr Shevardnadze in Washington. Angola is high on the agenda. Mr Shevardnadze then goes to Lisbon for talks with the Portuguese on the Angolan question. In Lisbon it is announced that the prime minister of Cape Verde,

where negotiations have taken place in the past, will visit Portugal the following month and that Angola will be discussed.

● March 31 — South African director general of foreign affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, goes to Washington for talks on Angola.

● April 22 — A Portuguese newsletter says Cuban forces are moving in great numbers from Lubango towards the town of Ongiva on the Namibian border, aiming to advance the defence lines in Cunene province against constant attacks by South Africa. The report passes unnoticed by the international media.

● April 28 and 29 — Dr Crocker meets Mr Adamishin in London to discuss Angola. A senior member of the ruling Angolan MPLA-Workers Party, Mr Pedro van Dunem, travels to Cape Verde and announces that talks between South Africa and Angola are to take place soon.

● May 3 and 4 — South African, American, Angolan and Cuban officials meet in London for talks.

Forces advancing

● May 8 — It is reported on Yugoslavia that Cuban, Swapo and Angolan forces are advancing towards the Namibian border. Reports are initially dismissed by South African government sources as propaganda but later South Africa says the move could affect the peace talks.

● May 9 — US National Security Council member, Mr Herman Cohen, who attended the London talks, flies to Maputo for talks with Mozambican Prime Minister Mario Machungo and the chief of staff of the Mozambican armed forces, General Hama Thai. Previous South African reports had said President Joaquim Chissano of Mo-

zambique was involved in behind-the-scenes contacts with the Angolan government over the negotiations with South Africa.

● May 11 — In Maputo, Prime Minister Machungo meets US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Charles Freeman who says afterwards that Mozambique can help bring independence to Namibia and peace to Angola.

● May 12 and 13 — Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan go to Brazzaville for talks with Angolan Ministers. At the same time the chief of the SADF, General Jannie Geldenhuys, who attended the London talks, flies to Lisbon where he meets the Portuguese armed forces chief of staff and the foreign minister.

● May 15 — Dr Crocker goes to Kinshasa for talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire.

● May 15 — A Mozambican envoy arrives in Havana with a message from President Chissano to President Castro.

● May 18 — Dr Crocker holds talks in Lisbon with Mr Adamishin.

Captured soldier likely to be a propaganda bonus for Cubans

By Neil Lurssen, Star 20/5/88
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The capture of the wounded Sergeant Johan Papefus may be a heaven-sent propaganda bonus for the Cubans.

They could easily have handed the young soldier over to the South African forces who would have flown him home in hours for the specialised medical treatment he apparently needs.

But such an act, even though humanitarian, would have passed relatively unnoticed in the flurry of news about Angola amid troop movements, peace initiatives and preparations for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting at the end of this month where the conflict will be an important item on the agenda.

The Cubans chose to pass on to the South Africans information about their captive at the United Nations, a useful focal point. They could have made contact in Washington or elsewhere in the world. The UN headquarters provide a good venue for a propaganda campaign.

By flying Sergeant Papefus to Havana for medical treatment, the Cubans clearly hope to score several points. Their action demonstrates to the world that they are "compassionate even to their enemies" a "highly-developed country capable of providing specialised medical care" and a "military force to be reckoned with that takes South African prisoners".

Washington analysts believe that the propa-

ganda or image factor is an important reason for Cuba's massive military presence in Angola. President Fidel Castro wants to be seen as a Third World leader who not only condemns apartheid but is prepared to send his young men to confront the ogre.

So determined are the Cubans to fulfill this role, say the analysts, that they are willing to ignore the Soviet Union which has become less enthusiastic about distant military adventures.

Cuban officials have gone to lengths in recent weeks to display their military strength in Angola, taking Western reporters on guided tours of the battle zone and making comments to illustrate their confidence.

The reporters have quoted Cuban military officers as saying they are ready to go into Namibia if they have to and that the SADF is at a military disadvantage. The image is that of a Cuban force spoiling for a scrap and confident.

This is seen as a war of words that is parallel to the diplomatic initiatives now taking place around the 13-year conflict in Angola. The young South African army sergeant from Sunnyside, Pretoria, has become the latest pawn in this battle of images and words.

Apart from the natural inclination of Cuban doctors to care for their patient, his recovery will be living proof of Cuban expertise and compassion, and thus a valuable message for Havana to send to the world.

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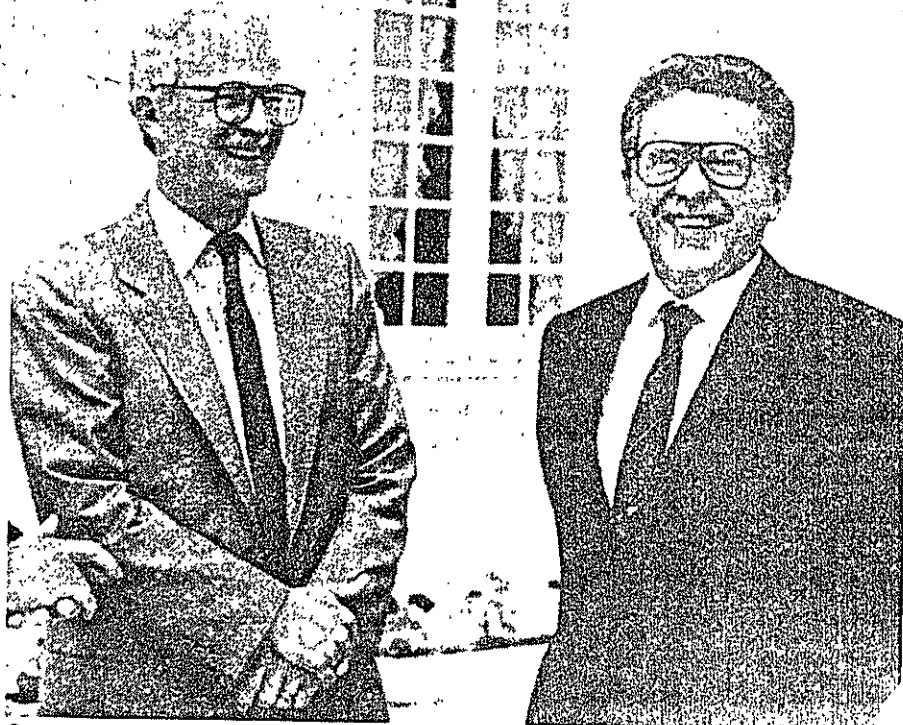
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Superpower meeting: US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker (left) and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin outside the US Embassy in Lisbon yesterday prior to their talks on the situation in southern Africa.

Soviets eager for Angolan settlement

The Star's Foreign News Service

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union is prepared to act as a co-guarantor of any regional peace agreement which may emerge from the negotiations between South Africa and Angola, a senior Soviet official said today.

A deal involving withdrawal of both South African and Cuban forces from Angola, tied to the implementation of the UN-supervised plan for independence in Namibia, is clearly regarded with enthusiasm in Moscow.

However, Mr Vladilen Vasev, head of the Southern Africa Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, saw several problems.

He said the Angolan government would not accept any involvement of Unita in an international settlement.

Another difficulty was how to synchronise the time-scale of the South African withdrawal from Namibia and that of the Cuban forces from Angola.

But Mr Vasev made clear the Soviet enthusiasm for an agreement.

West German govt rejects anti-SA call

MUNICH — West Germany's governing coalition yesterday rejected a call in parliament by the opposition Social Democrats for greater political pressure on South Africa.

The call came in a debate on South Africa watched by several South African and black African diplomats in the public gallery of the Bundestag in Bonn. The opposition Social Democrats called for a withdrawal of Bonn's South African ambassador and an end to official visits to South Africa by West German parliamentarians.

Speakers for the three coalition parties said the Bonn government's policy towards South Africa must remain part of a united European Community approach. Foreign Ministry State Secretary Mr Helmut Schaefer warned South Africa that it ran the risk of united European Community retaliatory action if it went ahead with proposed legislation to ban foreign financial aid for opposition groups.

Government speakers rejected opposition Social Democrat criticism of West German firms operating in South Africa.

Social Democrat Africa expert Mr Guenter Verheugen accused West German companies of suppressing union activities. But Economics Ministry State Secretary Mr Rudolf-Georg von Wartenberg said West German firms in South Africa were increasingly following the European Community guidelines for business operations.

Beef exports roasted

The Star's Foreign News Service

DUBLIN — Irish hopes of becoming the European Community's main exporter of beef to South Africa are being threatened by an Irish member of the European Parliament.

Ten thousand tons of Irish beef have been bought by South Africa this year, compared with 7 000 tons in 1987.

The trade is optimistic that sales could reach R340 million by the end of the year.

But an Irish Euro MP, Mr Chris O'Malley, who represents a Dublin constituency, has objected to the fact that the EC helps finance such exports.

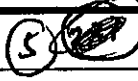
He is launching a campaign to have the export supports with-

drawn, a move that has infuriated the Irish cattle trade, farm organisations and members of his own Fine Gael Party.

According to a spokesman for the Irish cattle trade, South Africa, which was formerly a net exporter, has been forced to buy beef for the past three years because of drought.

Ireland hopes to take over from France as South Africa's main supplier.

Mr O'Malley argues that the sales would be subsidised roughly pound for pound by the European taxpayer through a notorious mechanism called "export refunds", whereby an EC member sells to an outside country at lower prices and then has the difference made up from EC funds.

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Surprise round of talks on Angola

The Argus Foreign Service

LISBON. — The top United States and Soviet policy-makers met for an unexpected second day of talks and indicated positive developments in negotiations for a Southern African peace settlement.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Dr Chester Crocker told a news conference there appeared to be "more flexibility" by Cuba about shortening its proposed four-year timetable for the withdrawal of its 40 000 troops from Angola.

"It is positive that the United States and the Soviet Union are talking," Dr Crocker said, referring to his seven-year effort to broker a regional peace solution.

POLITICAL WILL

At a separate news conference Soviet Deputy-Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin underlined Moscow and Washington's "political will" for a regional settlement, linking independence for SWA/Namibia to a Cuban withdrawal.

"We believe it is possible to untie the Angola-Namibia knot. Difficult but possible," Mr Adamishin said, adding that Moscow would consider serving as a "guarantor" for such an agreement "if we are asked."

He was "not violating any secret" in disclosing that Luanda and Havana had proposed September 29 this year, the 10th anniversary of the UN's Resolution 435, as the date for Pretoria to begin implementing the UN independence formula.

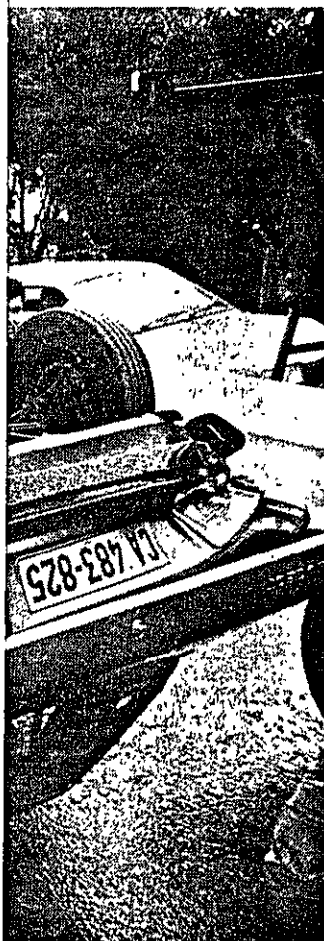
The two diplomats, who met in the US Embassy in Lisbon on Wednesday, spoke to reporters separately before a second round of discussions yesterday afternoon.

MOSCOW SUMMIT

They said yesterday's previously unannounced talks were the last in their recent series of bilateral meetings before the May 29 superpower summit in Moscow, where the Namibia-Angola issue will figure prominently.

Dr Crocker is also expected to preside over a second round of four-party negotiations, involving South Africa, Angola and Cuba, before the summit.

The four first met in London on May 3 when Cuba and Angola proposed a four-year timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops.



Pictures: JOHAN SCHRONEN.

y of Cape Town yesterday



AFTER THE PEACE TALKS

The View from Angola

THE Angolan presidential palace dominates a promontory overlooking Luanda Bay. The efficiency suggested by the glass and stainless steel high tech of the palace is jarringly at odds with the adjacent swimming pool. It is an island, or a prison, cut off from the reality of an economy shattered by nearly 20 years of war, independence and ideological struggle.

President Jose dos Santos speaks to members of the foreign press on Monday, just three days after the end of the May 13 Angolan-South African bilateral talks in Brazzaville, Congo.

Often categorised as effusive and soft-spoken, Dos Santos was this day taking an obvious pleasure in parrying questions from the journalists.

Dos Santos said that the Angolans firmly believed that South Africa is interested in finding a negotiated settlement to the problems it faces in Namibia and Angola. He stressed that for the Angolans, the future of Namibia remained "the centrepiece of any meaningful agreement with South Africa."

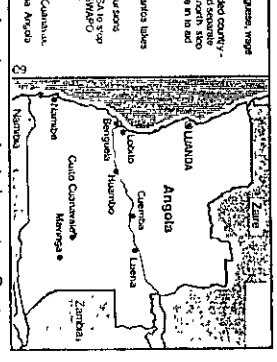
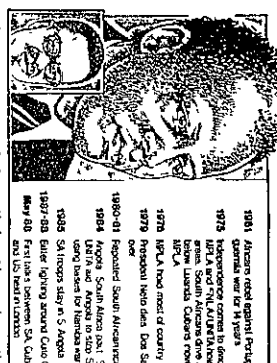
Dos Santos denied that the Angolans and their Cuban allies were involved in a military build-up, saying it was in response to the increase in attacks on Angola from South Africa and other countries.

The two parties are reinforcing their military positions. The number of Cuban troops in Ango-

The Angolan president gives his side of the peace talks: Angolan and Cuban forces are indeed moving south, but there is no intention of invading Namibia
Interview in Luanda by JACKSON PHILLIPS

Lu has jumped by some 12,000 these past months and according to Western diplomats now totals at least 45,000 men. Hundreds of tanks and counter-attacks of military material are arriving daily at the southern Angolan port of Namibe, while Cuban forces, previously some 250km from the Namibian border, have moved southwards and, according to informed sources, are now only a score or so kilometres from the border.

Dos Santos denies any intention of invading Namibia, pointing out that Angola had never attacked its neighbours and that with "South Africa experimenting (with) sophisticated weapons on Angolan territory" it was "perfectly reasonable for Angola, which doesn't produce arms) to dis-



In the steps of Agostinho Neto (inset), Angolan president Jose dos Santos presides over a vital chapter in his country's history

bank arms." This vote, dropped a month as he added that Angola was determined to protect national sovereignty.

Cuban diplomats in Luanda, taking a cue from South African diplomacy, take immense pleasure in poking about "the porous roads into Namibia."

The move southwards by Angolan and Cuban forces is seen as a bid to strengthen their bargaining position at future talks. Much of southern Angola consists of little upon miles of scrub not occupied militarily by either side. The Angolan

Cuban move is aimed at preventing UNITA taking the advantage of any future nuclear disengagement, as a security measure between South African and Cuban troops on the other

side. (Civilians: Angola has always received any arms, whether implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for a South African withdrawal from Namibia, the immediate independence of the territory and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

However, by talking to the South Africans in

London and then Brazzaville, the Angolans have effectively accepted the South African and United States position linking South African withdrawal with a Cuban troop withdrawal.

Dos Santos said that "while it is possible to resolve the problems of Angola independently of Namibia, the solution would take a long time and much military and economic effort."

The president preferred to see "Namibia as the main issue, because Namibia is the logical basis for aggression against Angola."

Dos Santos added "Our main aim is to remove that base."

The key question for diplomats and observers in Luanda is whether Angola would accept a separate peace with South Africa which did not include implementation of Resolution 435, which few people believe South Africa is ready to accept.

Swapo is putting on a brave public front in the face of this possibility. Secretary general Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, says he doesn't believe the Angolans "have accepted linkage."

Diplomats from Nordic countries close to Swapo confirm, however, that the organisation is fearful of "having to make political concessions that they would prefer not to make."

Toivo ya Toivo categorically rejected the recent call by the South African-backed transitional government to return to Namibia and prepare the way together for independence. "If the call come from South Africa, they are well accepted, but in from their promoters," says Toivo ya Toivo.

But if South Africa agreed to begin to implement 435, would Swapo take the leap and its becoming embroiled in political struggles to prevent South Africa winning the peace? Some observers believe Swapo leaders in the present status quo.

Given past South African unfairness, the will probably never have to make the choice Frontline states are already putting pressure on Angola not to be "bumped" by South Africa in a peace accord. It is being feared that South Africa will demand the closure of African National Congress bases in Angola in return for guarantee that it neither South Africa nor South African-based UNITA rebels would use Namibia as a base to attack Angola.

Toivo ya Toivo was very muted on what sort of support a future independent Namibia would give the ANC. "To what extent we will be able to support the liberation movements depends on our economy and is very tied into that of South Africa," the Swapo secretary general admitted.

Dos Santos realises that the problems of South Africa are not all going to be solved at once "It is not us who are insisting on Namibian independence: it is the United Nations."

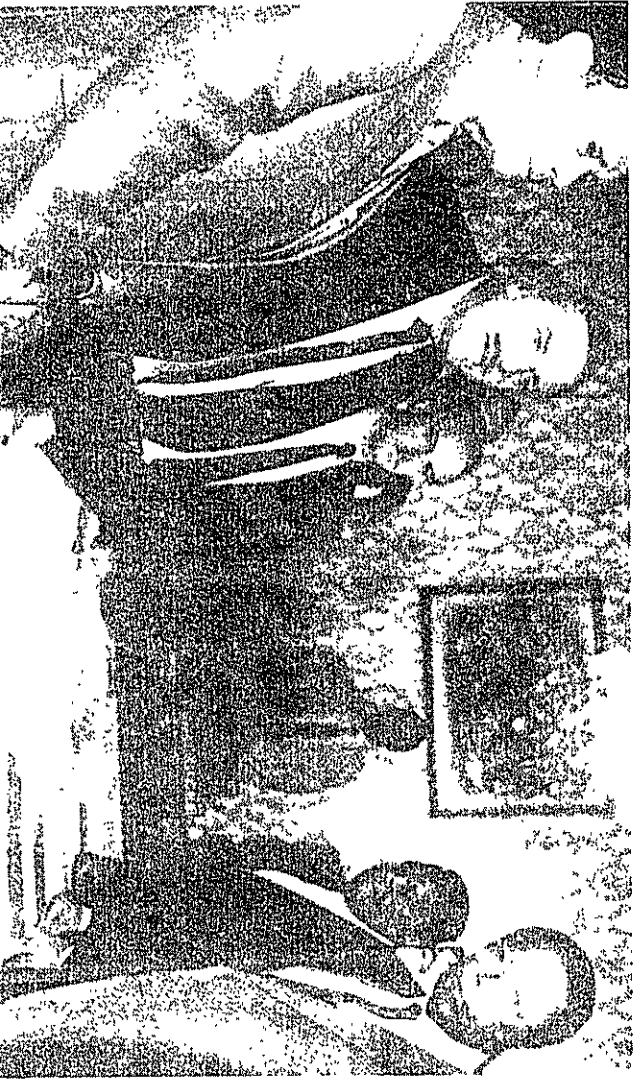
"We are awaiting the South African counter propositions which we are certain will come in Brazzaville before the end of June. The one dominant sentiment in Angola is that the only hope of a brighter future depends on peace. Soviet diplomats in Luanda are, say their Western colleagues, pushing hard for a political

Ignore the public posturing: Peace is still on 'go'

The warm farewell given to the South Africans as they left the Congo perhaps says more about the peace talks than the sabre-rattling which has followed.

Own Correspondent: Cape Town

DESPITE talk of a build-up of military tensions in southern Angola, despite the tough talk on both sides, the peace initiative is not yet dead. In the clammy heat of Brazzaville in the People's Republic of Congo at the end of last week, it was clear that progress had



Ready to talk — Left Dofane Minister Marnus Malen and Foreign Minister Pk Botha open talks in the Congolese

es in Namibia and Angola." He stressed that for the Angolans, the future of Namibia remained "the cornerstone of any meaningful agreement with South Africa."

Dos Santos then began his address to the Angolans and their Cuban allies, who were invited at a military build-up. He was in response to the increase in attacks on Angola from South Africa and other countries.

The two powers are reinforcing their military positions. The number of Cuban troops in Ango-

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In the clammy heat of Brazzaville in the People's Republic of Congo at the end of last week, it was clear that progress had been made between the Angolan and South African governments.

Although the South African participants were careful not to talk about "optimism" but rather "cautious hope", the significance of the hawkish Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, travelling to a country whose government proclaims Marxism-Leninism as its policy to meet a delegation from what he calls the Marxist MPLA government, should not be lost. The Angolan delegation also included the deputy chief of staff of Fozpa, Major-General Roberto Leal Monteiro.

Nor should it be forgotten that Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha said after three-and-a-half hours of negotiations that both delegations agreed there was no military solution to the problem. His statement was not disputed by the two generals nor by the head of the Angolan delegation, Justice Minister Fernando van Dunem.

Moreover, the warm farewell given to both Botha and Malan by the Congo's Foreign Minister, Antoine Ndanga-Oba, at Maya-Maya Airport on Friday night was testimony that the talks, and the high diplomatic risks for the Congolese government, had not been in vain.

The fact that Malan and Botha were part of the South African delegation indicated that the South African Defence Force and the Department of Foreign Affairs were, for once, talking the same language and strategies. It was inevitable that as soon as both de-

at the southern Angolan port of Namibe, while Cuban forces previously some 25,000 from the Namibian border, have reached South-western Angola to 100,000 from the port.

score of so kilometers from the port.

Dos Santos denies any intention of invading Namibia, pointing out that Angola had never attacked its neighbours and that what South Africa is experiencing, through soldiers' camp weapons of Angolan territory. It was particularly notable that Angolan, which does not produce arms to other

This week dropped a noun as he added that Angola was "determined to protect national sovereignty."

Cuban diplomats in Luanda, adding a cue from South African diplomats, did not mention disaster in joking about that pursuit had, and Namibia.

The above southerners by Angolan and Cuban forces is seen as a bid to strengthen their own independence of future talks. Fusion of southern Angolan consists of 1 table upon table of security arrangements. Initiative is either side. The Angolan

could advantage of any future mutual change. Peace agreement between South African and Cuban forces on the one hand and Angolan/Cuban forces on the other.

Critically, Angola has always reserved any arms review implementation to its Security Council. The UN Security Council has not yet approved a plan which would allow South Africa to re-occupy the territory and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.



Ready to talk — Left, Delancey Minister Magnus Malan and Foreign Minister Pik Botha open talks in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville with Angolan Justice Minister Fernando Van-Dunem

Picture WENDY SCHWEGMANN, Reuters

legations returned to their home countries a large amount of public posturing would take place; neither the South Africans nor the Angolans could possibly be seen to have been defeated or to have retreated.

One of the participants summed it up neatly. "We have to create a situation in which everyone wins. South Africa has to win, Angola has to win, Cuba has to win and the Soviet Union has to win. That is enormous, but that is what we have to do."

Difficult as that may be, the fact is the two delegations agreed that the next talks would meet in London three weeks ago — South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States — would meet again, probably in Brazzaville.

The plan for a third meeting, soon after the previous two, can only mean that something substantial is afoot — and that must be an agreed timetable for the withdrawal of the Cuban troops.

Immediately after the Brazzaville talks and in parliament this week during the defence department vote, the South African government made it clear it will not allow the Angolan/Cuban forces to use the negotiating period to gain military advantage. And if they did not heed the warnings, they could expect to feel the full might of the SADF.

Die Burger, the official mouthpiece of the National Party in the Cape, this week

Swapo is putting on a brave facade in the face of his possibility Secretary general Andrius Tsveto. Tsveto says he doesn't believe the Angolans "have accepted" the Swapo confirmation, however, that the UN mission is fearful of making it make so it is obvious that they would prefer to see the return of the South African troops to the government to return to Namibia. It is clear that the Swapo government is not yet ready to accept the withdrawal of its troops.

Given past South African intransigence, they will probably never have to make the choice. Frontline states are under growing pressure on Angola not to be "duped" by South Africa in an peace accord. It is being pointed out that South Africa will demand the closure of African National Congress bases in Angola in return for guarantees that neither South Africa nor South African-based UNITA rebels would use Namibia as a base to attack Angola.

Tsveto was very quiet on what sort of support a future independent Namibia would give the ANC. "To what extent we will be able to support the liberation movements depends on our economy and it is very tied into that of South Africa," the Swapo secretary general admitted.

Dos Santos realises that the problems of South Africa are not all going to be solved at once. It is not as if he is missing on Namibian independence; it is the United Nations.

"We are awaiting the South African counter-propositions which we are certain will come in Brazzaville before the end of June."

The one dominant sentiment in Angola is that the only hope of a brighter future depends on peace. Soviet diplomats in Luanda are, say their Western colleagues, pushing hard for a political solution.

Few Angolans believe there is any military solution. Army morale is plummeting to low in places with soldiers weary of fighting and dying while some get rich through trading goods bought at the only shops that are open, those reserved for government officials.

UNITA rebels regularly attack most areas outside the main towns and roads. One day after our arrival the electricity went off in Luanda. Travelling to a Swapo camp the next day, the reason became apparent: five pylons lying on their side.

One week later, the capital still had no electricity.

Military commanders recount with bravado the lack of any rebel activity in their area, but once a reporter suggests a trip down a road, the officer preaches prudence and caution.

But war-weary though Angola may be and eager as Dos Santos is to rebalance the economy, Angola is hardly singing for peace. It is clear from a visit to the southern part that here at least there is a certain pride in knowing that South Africa has failed in its efforts to capture Cunene-Namibe and thus allow UNITA to establish a credible alternate government.

Looking at it from the Angolan side of the border, it is clear that over the past six months the South Africans have lost for the first time their dominance of the Southern African landscape.

Meanwhile, outside the presidential palace gates, there is what in this country passes for a signpost. Only an L and an A are visible.

1764

Friday May 20 1988 3

(5)

Surprise round of talks on Angola

The Argus Foreign Service

LISBON. — The top United States and Soviet policy-makers met for an unexpected second day of talks and indicated positive developments in negotiations for a Southern African peace settlement.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Dr Chester Crocker told a news conference there appeared to be "more flexibility" by Cuba about shortening its proposed four-year timetable for the withdrawal of its 40 000 troops from Angola.

"It is positive that the United States and the Soviet Union are talking," Dr Crocker said, referring to his seven-year effort to broker a regional peace solution.

POLITICAL WILL

At a separate news conference Soviet Deputy-Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin underlined Moscow and Washington's "political will" for a regional settlement, linking independence for SWA/Namibia to a Cuban withdrawal.

"We believe it is possible to untie the Angola-Namibia knot. Difficult but possible," Mr Adamishin said, adding that Moscow would consider serving as a "guarantor" for such an agreement "if we are asked."

He was "not violating any secret" in disclosing that Luanda and Havana had proposed September 29 this year, the 10th anniversary of the UN's Resolution 435, as the date for Pretoria to begin implementing the UN independence formula.

The two diplomats, who met in the US Embassy in Lisbon on Wednesday, spoke to reporters separately before a second round of discussions yesterday afternoon.

MOSCOW SUMMIT

They said yesterday's previously unannounced talks were the last in their recent series of bilateral meetings before the May 29 superpower summit in Moscow, where the Namibia-Angola issue will figure prominently.

Dr Crocker is also expected to preside over a second round of four-party negotiations, involving South Africa, Angola and Cuba, before the summit.

The four first met in London on May 3 when Cuba and Angola proposed a four-year timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Negotiators from superpowers agree to outline peace plan for Angola

LISBON — The United States and the Soviet Union are two countries which have been supporting opposite sides in the Angolan war but yesterday negotiators from the two superpowers agreed to outline a plan for bringing about peace here.

The assistant-Secretary of State for African Affairs in the US, Dr Chester Crocker, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Anatoly Adamishin, have reportedly drawn up a three point plan which they hope will persuade conflicting sides to accept.

Mr Adamishin appeared optimistic about the outcome of the talks and told journalists he would hold an unscheduled round of talks with Dr Crocker.

He said the two sides wished to exchange opinions over ways of ending "various regional conflicts" around the world.

The two men were originally due to meet for one day only.

The two negotiators limited themselves to a cautious assessment of the peace initiative.

Mr Adamashin announced that the next round of talks involving South Africa, Cuba, Angola and the US, would take place in Brazzaville next week but that Moscow would not be present.

He said neither the Soviets nor the Americans supported the suggested partition of Angola and both agreed that a military solution was not possible while Angola would have to solve the Unita rebel-

lion by itself.

Lisbon Radio reported that the plan included the following points:

- ★ The 40 000 Cubans would be removed within 12 months, coinciding with a complete withdrawal of South African troops from Southern Angola.

- ★ Efforts which are not linked to the Cuban withdrawal would be stepped up to bring independence to Namibia and the holding of free elections.

Previous demands were for the territory simply to be handed over to the Swapo guerrillas.

- ★ At a later stage Moscow and Washington would pressure their Angolan allies — the ruling MPLA government and Unita rebels respectively — into a reconciliation.

This could be problematic considering Luanda's entrenched opposition to any dealings with Unita's charismatic South African-backed leader Mr Jonas Savimbi.

Portugal, the former colonial power that gave Angola its independence in 1975, is pushing to host the final peace talks.

In Washington the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said there were good prospects for peace and reconciliation in Angola and said the regional conflict would be on the agenda of the next summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev at the end of May. — Sapa



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Sandton City, Durban

LISBON — US and Soviet negotiators were reported to have agreed yesterday on an outline plan for bringing peace to strife-ridden Angola.

Meeting in Lisbon in the context of current four-party efforts to end the 13-year-old conflict, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin reportedly hammered out a three-point plan they hope to persuade the two sides in the conflict to accept.

Adamishin appeared optimistic about the outcome of the talks and told journalists he would hold an unscheduled further round of talks with Crocker later today in Lisbon. He said the two sides

New superpower plan for Angola

KEN POTTINGER

wished to exchange opinions over ways of ending "various regional conflicts".

Lisbon Radio reported that the two had agreed on a plan including proposals for a 12-month Cuban withdrawal at the same time as a SA withdrawal; stepped-up efforts towards Namibian independence; and later pressure from the superpowers on the MPLA and Unita for a reconciliation.

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Business Day

AY, MAY 20 1988

60c (54c + 6c tax)

L and CAPE 80c (71c + 9c tax)

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A TIMES

SA soldier ends up in Cuban hospital

CAPE TOWN — An SA soldier reported missing in action in the operational area had been flown to Cuba for specialised hospital treatment, Defence Minister Magnus Malan said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

He had been informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs that Private Johan Papenfus, 25, a national serviceman from Pretoria who had gone missing in May this year, could not receive the specialist treatment in the Angolan capital Luanda.

He was now in a satisfactory condition in a Cuban hospital after receiving the required treatment.

"I believe that he is receiving humanitarian treatment for which I am thankful," Malan said.

DANIEL SIMON reports Papenfus's sister appeared to have gone into hiding in Pretoria last night.

MMF Papenfus, who works for Armscor, collected clothing at her Gretelhof, Sunnyside, flat before departing to an unknown address.

It is understood she was reluctant to speak to the media because she had been asked not to discuss the matter.

The SADF said last week Papenfus had gone missing on May 4 after a skirmish with Swapo in the operational area.

The SADF said last night there was still no sign of Corporal Pieter Gerhardus Viljoen du Toit, 19, who was reported "missing, believed dead," after a skirmish with Swapo guerrillas on April 18. — Sapa.

Heated debate threatens as

USE ALL GOLD

JOHANNESBURG. — There was joy and shock at the Witbank home of Frank Papenfus when he heard that his missing younger brother Johan was alive and in hospital in Cuba.

South Africa has already activated diplomatic and other international channels in attempts to secure the release of Private Papenfus, 25, who was wounded and captured in southern Angola on May 4 during an operation against Swapo.

He's alive! Joy for POW's family

Mr & Mrs 20/5/88 (5)

A priority has been to request Havana to allow Private Papenfus to receive parcels and letters from his family.

His brother Frank, 30, said he was still worried about Johan "and to tell you the truth I'm not even really sure where Cuba is".

He said his 25 year-old Sats tradesman brother, of Pretoria, had been reported missing two weeks ago.

"Of course we were extremely worried," said Frank, who is married with two young children, "but we never gave up hope".

"So unexpected"

Then last night a friend phoned his wife to say there was an item about Johan on the 5pm radio news.

"We tuned in to the 6pm TV news and there it was. It was so unexpected. I'm worried about his health and hope everything is alright for him over there."

Frank said he was anxiously waiting to hear the full story.

"There is nothing we can do at present. The SADF have not contacted me about Johan."

The brothers' parents are both dead.

Johan, who was born and educated in Witbank, and who lived in Sunnyside, Pretoria with his sister, Miss M M F Papenfus, had been on the border for about a year and was due to finish his national service in December.

Private Papenfus's foster father, Mr Johan Language of Pretoria said last night that he and Miss Papenfus were briefed by a senior Defence Force officer last Friday and told not to say anything about Johan before an announcement had been made in Parliament.

"We were both very happy to hear that he is alive and hope to see him home soon."

South Africa is believed to be in a favourable position to secure his repatriation as its ally, Unita, is known to be holding at least two Cuban prisoners of war, pilots captured in recent hostilities in the region.

Well treated

Diplomatic sources said today that Private Papenfus had already sent a message via the Cubans to his family.

They said the Cuban mission at the United Nations in New York had contacted Mr Les Manley, South African Ambassador to the UN in Geneva and the former head of mission at the UN in New York.

The Department of Foreign Affairs then passed on the news to the Department of Defence.

According to sources, Cuba assured the South African Government that Private Papenfus was being well treated.

He had been wounded in the leg, and there were no adequate facilities in Luanda to save the limb.

Surgeons in Cuba had done a major reconstruction of his leg. — The Argus Correspondent, Political Staff.

● Angola peace talks latest — page 3.

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ARGUS 20/5/88

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Unita claims more victories after talks

LISBON — Pro-Western Unita rebels reported further military victories against Angola's Marxist government yesterday, just one day after US-Soviet talks on moves to end the long-running civil war. A Unita statement distributed in Lisbon said rebels had killed 51 government soldiers in a series of attacks in Lunda, Benguela, Kuanza Norte and Huambo provinces since May 10.

A flurry of rebel communiques earlier in the week claimed Unita killed more than 300 government soldiers in raids on barracks, fuel depots, power plants and airfields in an apparent show of force during fresh Angolan peace moves.

Unita has so far been excluded from the peace process, which began two weeks ago in London with an unprecedented meeting between Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos reportedly said yesterday a buildup of Cuban forces in Angola was a direct response to an increase in military aggression by South Africa.

In response, a spokesman for the SADF said that as talks were presently underway between South Africa and Angola, the Department of Foreign Affairs would have to comment on the report.

Referring to the Angolan statement that 9,000 South African soldiers using war planes, long-range artillery and tanks were fighting government troops in Southern Angola, the spokesman said the defence force had already provided the media with the correct facts. — Sapa-AP.

Soviet offer to back SA peace

Own Correspondent

MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union is prepared to act as a co-guarantor of any regional peace agreement which may emerge from the current negotiations between South Africa and Angola to end the conflict between them, according to a senior Soviet official.

Mr Vladilen Vasey, head of the Southern Africa Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, spelt out several stumbling blocks.

He said the Angolan government would not accept any involvement of Unita, the South African- and US-backed guerilla movement led by Dr Jonas Savimbi, in an international settlement. "They consider this as an internal affair," he said.

In Washington, the Under-secretary of State, Mr Michael Armacost, said the Soviets recognized the need to include Unita in the political process and no longer saw the group as "a creature of South Africa, with no routes in Angolan politics or Angolan society".

And the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, said on Thursday: "We believe Unita has nationalist legitimacy and an important base and needs to be taken into account."

But in Luanda yesterday, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos took a hard line, saying that his government rejected negotiations with Unita, with or without Dr Savimbi, Angop reported.

He also argued that the build-up of Cuban forces in Angola was a direct response to an increase in military aggression by South Africa.

"We had no alternative but to ask Cuba to strengthen its forces in the face of an intensification of South African attacks since September," Mr Dos Santos said.

Mr Dos Santos's rejection of talks with Unita followed indications that both the United States and the Soviet Union were trying to bring the Angolan government to the negotiating table with the rebels.

SA aggression blamed for Cuban build up ^{DLB 2115/8Y} (5)

Govt to go ahead with peace proposal

LISBON — The president of Angola, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, said yesterday a build up of Cuban forces in Angola was a direct response to an increase in military aggression by South Africa.

"We had no alternative but to ask Cuba to strengthen its forces in the face of an intensification of South African attacks since September," Mr Dos Santos said in an interview reported by the official news agency Angop.

The United States and South Africa say Cuban reinforcements in Angola are being deployed further south than ever before, raising the potential for clashes with South African troops and threatening to undermine southern African peace talks.

US officials say Cuba has sent between 3 000 and 8 000 soldiers over the past six months to join the 37 000 already stationed there.

Angola says 9 000 South African soldiers using war planes, long-range artillery and tanks are fighting government troops in southern Angola.

The Angop report came amid negotiations supported by the Soviet Union and the US aimed at ending Angola's 13-year civil war and granting independence to SWA/Namibia.

Mr Dos Santos also said his marxist government rejected negotiations with Unita, with or without rebel leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Mr Dos Santos' rejection of talks with Unita followed indications that both the US and the Soviet Union were trying to bring the Angolan Government to the negotiating table with the rebels.

The US assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, left Lisbon for Washington yesterday after talks on the southern African peace process with his Soviet counterpart, deputy Foreign Minister Mr Anatoli Adamishin.

The US State Department described the negotiations as "detailed, constructive and businesslike".

The Portuguese weekly newspaper, O Jornal, said yesterday Soviet officials met Unita representatives in Paris at the end of last year for talks on the Angolan peace process.

After the Lisbon talks

on Thursday, Mr Adamishin said the superpowers were working toward a bilateral accord that would provide an external framework for the warring parties in southern Africa to reach a settlement themselves.

He drew a parallel with the Geneva accord on Afghanistan and said the discussions on southern Africa would continue at the superpower summit meeting in Moscow May 29.

He said an end to US aid to Unita was a necessary condition of any settlement. However, Mr Adamishin said Soviet military aid to Angola would not halt until a peace agreement was reached.

● The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in an interview on Thursday, South Africa would implement a United Nations plan for the independence of SWA/Namibia if an estimated 40 000 Cuban troops left neighbouring Angola.

SWA/Namibian independence and a Cuban withdrawal were the decisive issues in southern Africa peace talks which

got under way this month, he said.

Mr Botha's statement was the first confirmation by South Africa that independence for SWA/Namibia was on the negotiating table.

South African and Angolan delegations met in the Congolese capital Brazzaville last week as a follow up to talks also involving Cuba and the United States in London this month.

Mr Botha said he had given Angola broad outlines of South Africa's proposals at the Brazzaville meeting.

Detailed proposals would be forwarded to Luanda and the US once they were completed and approved by the cabinet.

The proposals would be discussed at the next round of four-nation talks, which would probably take place next month, Mr Botha added.

The key issues at the next meeting would be a time scale for Cuban withdrawal and the number of soldiers to be withdrawn within a specified time, he said. — Sapa-AP-RNS

ANGOLA - WHAT NOW?

WEEKEND FOCUS

AS the next round of Angolan peace talks is being awaited, hopes remain that there is some movement towards ending the war which has been dragging on for more than 12 years. The history of peace-seeking moves and negotiations has been one of rising and fading hopes. Will hopes remain high this time? Political writer FRANS ESTERHUYSE reviews the situation...

CHRONICLES OF TIME

EVER since the start of the Angolan war, now in its 13th year, it has been clear that this is no ordinary civil war. It has been more like a chess game between superpowers, with regional powers and groupings used as pawns in the varied moves and countermoves.

The whole process turned Angola into a hotbed of intrigue accompanied by uncertainty and despair.

All along the losers have been the local population, the starving and fleeing masses, the country's grinding economy, and the thousands of soldiers killed, seriously wounded or maimed on the battlefield over the years.

There have been no winners. In countless meetings and talks to seek an end to the conflict, hopes have been raised only to be dashed before further rounds of negotiations were to begin. Each time some snag emerged to make peace ever more elusive.

Meanwhile estimates of the number of Cuban troops in Angola, backed by Soviet and other Eastern bloc advisers and experts, have grown alarmingly from 27 000 in 1986 to 43 000 at present. There has also been a further build-up of arms.

Dear

ence. Since then the destruction has continued in the form of fighter bomber strikes and fierce clashes between land forces using sophisticated weapons and heavy war vehicles...

South African intervention had begun in October 1975. By mid-November a South African task force was within striking distance of Luanda. Two months later the SADF, by then confronted with a massive Cuban expeditionary force, withdrew.

Three years ago Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, then brimming with confidence, spoke of an approaching battle that could be "decisive" in the war. This once more raised hopes that peace was near.

Since then there have been more battles and bigger ones, but none has been decisive. Still no sign of peace.

HUNDREDS of thousands of Angolans are reported to have been left hungry and destitute as a result of war and drought. United Nations officials have put the number of people suffering from malnutrition at more than 500 000 out of a population of 8.2-million. More than 30 percent of children in suburban areas and 20 percent in the countryside have suffered from severe malnutrition.

Devastation has been especially serious in southern Angola where some of the major battles of the war have been fought. Up to three years ago it was estimated that 143 000 people in that area had been uprooted following South African occupation. The figure will be much higher by now.

SOUTH Africa and the United States have insisted since 1982 that any withdrawal of South African troops from South-West Africa must be preceded, or at least accompanied, by the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

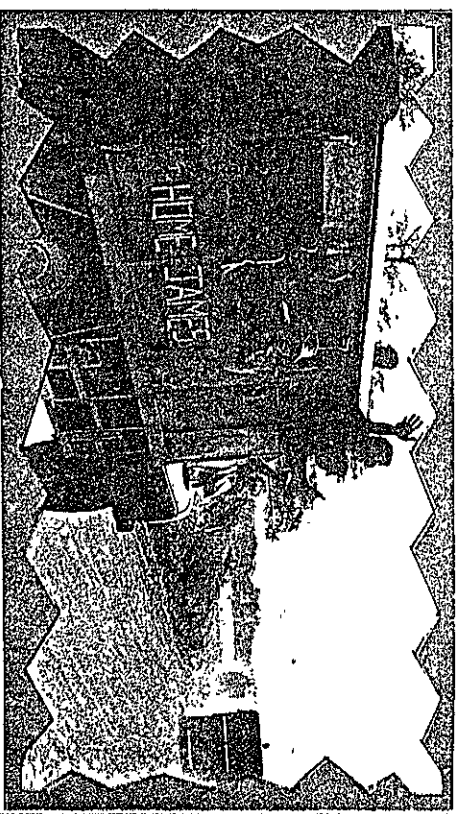
During 1982 and 1983, the Angolan government considered this stipulation unacceptable, and subsequently meetings between Angolan and South African government officials did not seem to make any progress towards a settlement of the SWA issue.

In December 1983, soon after launching an invasion of southern Angola, South Africa proposed a complete withdrawal of its forces from Angola — on condition that the Angolan government undertook to prevent Swapo and Cuban forces from entering the areas vacated by South African troops.

Angola eventually accepted this proposal and a ceasefire was established in the occupied area in early 1984.

As part of the settlement (which became known as the Lusaka agreement), Angola and South Africa established a joint monitoring commission (JMC) to supervise the progress of the South African disengagement. Although some SA forces remained about 40 km inside Angolan territory in early 1985, the ceasefire was maintained.

In September and October 1984, in talks held with US delegates, Angola's President dos Santos proposed a peace plan for SVA involving a phased withdrawal of most of the Cuban forces in Angola.



PULLOUT — South African Army vehicles move out of Angola.

UNDER the plan, the Cuban withdrawal would be conditional on withdrawal of the remaining SA forces from Angola and would begin only after implementation of SVA independence was under way and the number of SA troops in SVA had been reduced to 1 500.

The peace proposals were conveyed to SA by the USA in November that year, but differences between SA and Angola about a timetable and the extent of Cuban withdrawal prevented the conclusion of an agreement.

In April 1985 South Africa officially withdrew virtually all of its remaining troops from Angola, and in May the JMC was dissolved.

Subsequently, however, SA periodically deployed military forces in Angola and mounted "hot-pursuit" operations, ostensibly to curb continued activity by Swapo guerrillas and the ANC.

Progress towards a settlement of the SVA independence issue was further hampered by a concurrent deterioration in USA-Angolan relations, largely as a result of a reversal in US policy towards Unita.

In July 1985 the Clark Amendment, which had prohibited US military support for Unita since 1976, was repealed by the US Congress. Angola subsequently suspended all contacts with the US, although the Angolan proposals of 1984 about Cuban withdrawal remained valid.

Following a visit by Unita president Jonas Savimbi to the USA in January 1986, the Reagan administration announced its decision, endorsed by the US Congress in September that

year, to grant 15-million dollars in covert military aid to Unita.

In response, the Angolan government complained to the UN and requested that the UN should replace the US government as primary mediator in negotiations about SVA. Angola also implied that it no longer considered Cuban withdrawal necessarily relevant to SVA independence.

Angola's deteriorating relations with the US and with SA, exacerbated by Pretoria's installation of an "interim government" in SVA in June 1986, rendered prospects for a SVA agreement increasingly remote.

In August 1986 the Angolan government requested a meeting with the US government with a view to improving relations.

The US had hitherto made the withdrawal of Cuban forces a precondition for diplomatic recognition of the Angolan government, which had been withheld since independence. Meanwhile Angola had diplomatic links with most other countries, both Eastern and Western.

As long ago as 1982 a major co-operation agreement was signed with the USSR, under which Soviet assistance worth about 2 000-million US dollars was to be given for the construction of dams and a second petroleum refinery. Diplomatic relations were also established with the People's Republic of China which had supported the MPLA's opponents in the civil war.

ing over Bellville, Knif, River, St. ...



at the East London Show

SOVIETS KEEN ON solution for southern Africa

DIP. 21 / 5188 (5) 239

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union is prepared to act as a co-guarantor of any regional peace agreement which may emerge from the current negotiations between South Africa and Angola to end the conflicts between them, a senior Soviet official said.

A deal involving a withdrawal of both South African and Cuban forces from Angola, tied to the implementation of the United Nations-supervised plan for independence in neighbouring Namibia, is clearly regarded with enthusiasm in Moscow.

However, the head of the Southern Africa department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Mr Vladilen Vasev, spelt out several obvious stumbling blocks.

He said the Angolan Government would not accept any involvement of Unita in an international settlement. "They consider this as an internal affair," he said.

Another problem would be how to synchronise the timescale of the South African withdrawal from Namibia, and that of the Cuban forces from Angola.

"It cannot be synchronised as the South African

cans want."

He said whereas the UN plan for Namibia foresees a South African withdrawal from that country in seven to 12 months, Luanda says it needs Cuban troops to stay 48 months for its own security.

Mr Vasev made clear the Soviet enthusiasm for an agreement, in which he said Moscow had hitherto played a "consultative role".

"We are very keen on a solution in the whole of southern Africa."

Apart from the Angolan conflict, the other issues in the region he identified were the dismantling of apartheid, the decolonisation of Namibia and the security problems of the frontline states.

He said he did not think South Africa would insist on the withdrawal of the ANC bases from Angola, on the grounds that Namibia would be an adequate buffer against ANC incursions.

Similarly, he felt that Angola would not feel threatened by the presence of South African troops on the Orange River — the South African/Namibian border.

See also page 9

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US, Russia name date to launch Angola plan

SENIOR US and Soviet negotiators have reportedly made significant advances in the search for peace in marxist-ruled Angola, putting forward September 29 as a tentative date for the implementation of an overall settlement plan.

The latest round of complex bilateral and four-party negotiations begun in London earlier this month involving the Soviets, the US, South Africa, Angola and Cuba, appeared closer than ever to bearing fruit.

This comes after a succession of talks in Lisbon last week, between US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin.

Agenda

In separate Press briefings on Thursday, the two men were cautiously optimistic.

One outcome was that the regional issue has been moved high up on the agenda of the end-May Moscow summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

According to Portuguese and US officials, the following points were agreed upon as a framework for an overall settlement of the 13-year-old conflict in Angola which has pitted US and South African-backed Unita rebels against the Soviet and Cuban-

By KEN POTTINGER
Lisbon

supported Luanda government:

- Moscow and Washington have defined the phases and timing of the settlement. Mr Adamishin suggested September 29, tenth anniversary of UN Resolution 435 on Namibian independence, as the date for the start of the disengagement.

- The two sides discussed an "honourable withdrawal of all foreign forces from Angola" — meaning there will be no winners and no losers — as a way of de-internationalising the conflict.

Withdraw

- South Africa is to be recognised as a regional power and Cuban forces will leave Angola within 12 months from the date of the start of the settlement.

- Against unspecified guarantees, South African forces will withdraw south of the Cunene River once the settlement is signed.

- Havana has agreed to the plan in exchange for payment by Luanda of \$500-million (about R1 000-million) in "war compensation".

- SWA/Namibian independence is accepted by Pretoria with the guarantee of a series of agreements between South Africa, SWA/Namibia and Angola, assurances of "democratic evolution" in Angola, and free elections in SWA/Namibia involving Swapo.

One aspect, the question of Unita, has been left over to be dealt with later.

By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — If the Cubans are hoping to turn the capture of Private Johan Papenfus into a propaganda jamboree, there is little sign of it at their diplomatic missions in the United States or their Foreign Ministry in Havana.

Cuban officials claim to know nothing about it.

Word that the young South African soldier, earlier reported missing in action in Angola, had in fact been captured and flown to the Cuban capital for specialised medical care was first given to the South African Government last weekend by the Cuban mission at the United Nations headquarters.

But at the mission on Friday, a number of officials told South African reporters that they knew nothing about the incident at all.

One official said: "All we know is that we are getting calls from you people about this. Try our office in Washington. That's all we know — nothing else. Have a nice day."

At the Cuban Interests Sec-

Star 23/5/88
**Cubans are
not pushing
capture of
SA soldier** (5)

tion in Washington DC, an office that represents the Cuban government in the absence of diplomatic relations with the United States, an official suggested that reporters try the cultural officer.

Told that the matter hardly came under the cultural heading, the official said the Section knew nothing and suggested that a call be made to the Cuban mission.

In Havana, a press spokeswoman for the Cuban Foreign Ministry accepted a telephone call from The Star's Foreign News Service in Washington, but said she knew nothing at all about a South African soldier named Papenfus who was being treated by Cuban doctors.

Unita ^{▷ 10} 23/5/88
claims ^(S)
successes
in battle

LISBON — Pro-Western Unita forces said yesterday they had killed 96 government soldiers and destroyed two Soviet-built tanks in recent attacks throughout Angola.

A National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) statement released in Lisbon said 30 soldiers were killed last Wednesday in a raid on barracks near Caconda in the southern province of Huila.

The rebels also said they killed 23 soldiers and blew up two T-55 tanks on Thursday, when they ambushed a supply column outside the town of Bie.

Unita has fought Angola's marxist Government since the former Portuguese colony became independent 13 years ago. — Sapa-RNS

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Shelling turns Cuito Cuanavale into a ghos

From PASCAL FLETCHER

CUITO CUANAVALE, Angola. — In no more time than it takes to blink, a South African G-5 artillery shell tears a gaping hole in the swampy earth around the Cuito River in south-east Angola, hurling shock waves and shrapnel for dozens of metres.

As Angolan and Cuban soldiers scramble for cover, the young Angolan serviceman standing next to me tumbles over the hatch of our armoured personnel carrier, bright red blood cascading from a shrapnel wound in his side on to the black leather seats below.

In capitals around the world, diplomats and politicians are talking about a possible peace in Angola.

But in Cuito Cuanavale, the 13-year-old war goes on.

Once an administrative post in the isolated south-eastern region called the "lands of the end of the earth" by Angola's former Portuguese rulers, Cuito Cuanavale is now a ghost town.

It has been reduced to a shattered shell by uninterrupted shelling over four months by sophisticated South African long-range artillery.

An unreal, eerie calm hangs over its twin rows of abandoned bullet- and shrapnel-marked houses, still showing the attractive blue, yellow and white hues of their Portuguese colonial architecture.

The calm is disarmingly deceptive.

A slightest movement of vehicles near the broken log-and-wire bridge over the Cuito River east of the town alerts Angolan Unita rebels on nearby heights acting as artillery spotters for the South African gunners.

Within minutes, shells from South African mobile G-5 guns situated within 45km of Cuito Cuanavale and invisible in the dense, rolling scrubland are arching in a silent but deadly trajectory towards the town.

Sometimes they fall harmlessly wide, spewing up a plume of earth and smoke. Other times, they catch men and vehicles in the open, spraying a deadly hail of jagged shrapnel.

"Every day there is sporadic shelling... They have a programmed system of artillery fire," Lieutenant-Colonel Joao Cordeiro, the region's military commander, told reporters on Thursday.

Half-an-hour before, he and a group of foreign journalists, including this correspondent, narrowly escaped death and injury when a G-5 shell landed near their armoured personnel carrier.

Two Angolan soldiers, one Colonel Cordeiro's bodyguard, and an Angolan civilian official, were injured by flying shrapnel.

Despite the withering artillery fire, Cuito Cuanavale's Angolan and Cuban defenders have held their defensive lines east of the town against mechanized South African infantry battalions backed by artillery and aircraft.

PASCAL FLETCHER was wounded while visiting Cuito Cuanavale for this report.

He and another reporter were slightly wounded on Thursday, according to a report by the Angolan news agency, Shrapnel from a 155-mm shell exploded 60 metres from them.

But it didn't stop him from sending out the news.

The report mentions a shell exploding near the party of journalists. It tells of others who were wounded, but says nothing about the reporter's own wounds.

Fletcher, 29, is from Cheddar in England. He is based in Lusaka and has reported extensively on the Angolan war.

Four months after South Africa launched a major assault on the town in mid-January, many of its battle-hardened defenders are now proudly wearing Cuban medals bearing the citation in Spanish "to the heroic defenders of Cuito Cuanavale".

Colonel Cordeiro said his men had apparently broken the current South African advance in a big tank and artillery battle on March 23, waged

within sight of the town in the marshy lowlands around the river.

"It was a direct contact," said the commander, a slim, composed officer in his mid-thirties who sports a trim moustache and beard and carries a compass in his breast pocket.

He said his men had engaged units of the 62nd Mechanized Brigade of the South African army's Eighth Division.

Five South African Olifant tanks and an Eland armoured car were destroyed or captured, Colonel Cordeiro said.

One tank, intact and working, was shown to the journalists.

The commander, who was accompanied by a woman assistant dressed in camouflaged fatigues, said his men had found after the clash the bodies of 20 Unita rebels, allies to the South Africans in the Angolan war.

The bodies of South African troops killed were removed by their colleagues under a screen of artillery fire and smoke shells, he added.

Since then there had been no major battles, although the shelling and periodic contacts between the two sides had continued.

"There is still fighting going on," Colonel Cordeiro said, pointing to a thin wisp of black smoke some 15km away.

"They could still attack at any moment," he added.

Angolan officers say the failure of the South

t town

African forces to capture Cuito Cuanavale and growing South African losses in the battle for it may have helped to persuade Pretoria to take part in current peace talks.

Cordeiro said he was optimistic that the talks, bringing together South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States, could eventually lead to peace in Angola.

"We have not had a minute of peace since our independence in 1975," he said. "We want to live in peace. No one likes to make war. We make war to defend ourselves," Colonel Cordeiro added.

In Cuito Cuanavale, the daily climate of tension persists under the mouths of the South African guns and even in the relative safety of Menongue, 75km to the west, departing Soviet transport planes belch white flares at frequent intervals to ward off the threat of heat-seeking missiles.

● In a report yesterday, Angop said security forces killed four Unita guerillas and wounded several others on Saturday, foiling an attempt to sabotage installations of the Benguela railroad in the central city of Huambo.

● Regarding the claims about South African forces, an SADF spokesman in Pretoria said there was a civil war between Fapla and Unita in Angola.

"It is an old technique to blame South Africa for incidents like this," the spokesman said. — Sapa-Reuters

Soviets keen to help end Angolan conflict

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union is prepared to act as a co-guarantor of any regional peace agreement which may emerge from the current negotiations between SA and Angola, a senior Soviet official said last week.

A deal involving a withdrawal of both SA and Cuban forces from Angola, tied to the implementation of the UN-supervised plan for independence in neighbouring Namibia, is clearly regarded with enthusiasm in Moscow.

However, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Southern Africa Department head Vladilen Vasev spelt out several obvious stumbling blocks still lying in the path of a settlement in the Angolan and Namibian conflicts.

He said the Angolan government would not accept any Unita involvement in an international settlement.

Another problem would be how to synchronise the time-scale of the SA withdrawal from Namibia and that of the Cuban forces from Angola.

"It cannot be synchronised as the South Africans want. Linkage pure and simple, is not acceptable to the Angolans," he said.

He said that whereas the UN plan for

Own Correspondent

Namibia foresees a SA withdrawal from that country — and thereby out of range of Angola — in seven to 12 months, Luanda says it needs Cuban troops to stay for 48 months for its own security.

Vasev made clear, none the less, the Soviet enthusiasm for an agreement, in which he said Moscow had hitherto played a "consultative role".

"We are very keen on a solution in the whole of southern Africa," he said. Apart from the Angolan conflict, he identified the other issues in the region as the dismantling of apartheid, the decolonisation of Namibia and the security problems of the Frontline states neighbouring SA.

He did not think the SA government would necessarily insist on the withdrawal of the ANC bases from Angola, on the grounds that Namibia would be an adequate buffer against ANC guerrilla incursions.

Similarly, he felt that Angola would not feel threatened by the presence of SA troops on the Orange River, after a SA withdrawal from an independent Namibia. — Financial Times.

New Angola talks — 'it's up to SA'

By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — A top American negotiator says it is up to South Africa to suggest a time and place for the next meeting with the Cubans and the Angolans on ending the Angolan conflict.

But US officials are worried that the southward movement of Cuban and Angolan troops could lead to a clash with South African forces.

The Americans hope that the agreements reached by South Africa, Cuba and Angola in London three weeks ago have a momentum that will carry forward to next week's summit in Moscow.

One of those agreements was on the desirability of another meeting in the near future.

"Since the South Africans proposed it, the initiative to suggest a date and a venue for a meeting rests with them, and there has been no concrete proposal as yet," Mr Michael Armatost, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, told a news conference here yesterday.

The Americans appear to be increasingly optimistic about the chances of negotiating an agreement in Moscow next week, an agreement that will not automatically end the Angolan conflict but which will commit Moscow and Washington to using their influence and leverage to bring peace to the region.

SADF 'almost a law unto itself in operational area'

By Ken Vernon
The Star's Africa News Service

SA Defence Force actions in Namibia and Angola will further undermine social cohesion and retard nation-building in both countries, says Dr Andre du Pisani, director of research of the South African Institute of International Affairs.

In addition, he says, "the San (Bushmen) face the real risk of total social disintegration as a consequence of militarisation and Westernisation by the SADF".

These are Dr du Pisani's findings in an analysis of the SADF's actions in the area in which he describes the SADF as a "frontier army" that no longer recognises the "institutional limits imposed by the civilian order".

He implies that after the deployment of SADF units in northern Namibia in 1971/72, and especially after the massive adventure into Angola in 1975, when SADF units advanced close to Luanda, the traditional role of the SADF has been expanded to a point where it has now become

virtually a law unto itself in its self-defined "operational area".

In such a situation, the traditional boundaries between what is "military" and what is "civil" become blurred, suggests Dr du Pisani.

He says SADF operations in Angola are concerned primarily with the ultimate security of South Africa and with internal South African political considerations — in addition to ensuring a large measure of control over internal Namibian politics.

But far from furthering these considerations, the role of the SADF has "undermined diplomacy and hardened attitudes on all sides" and contributed to a "polarisation of society".

In Angola he foresees that the "surrogate" relationship the SADF has fostered with Unita is unlikely to produce a government friendly to Pretoria.

POLITICAL VACUUM

Originally, Dr du Pisani says, the SADF was drawn into the role of a "frontier army" because of the political vacuum in southern Angola following the civil war of 1975/6 and because of the failure of the South African Government to create a legitimate alternative to Swapo.

In 1980, he says, the South West African Territorial Force (SWATF) was established as a "coercive alternative" to the popularity of Swapo.

At one point in his survey he suggests that the SADF is intent on reconstituting the "buffer zone" around Namibia which was destroyed by the Portuguese evacuation of Angola.

But this theory does not explain the 1984 Lusaka Agreement between Angola and South Africa, under which the SADF gave up a large degree of military advantage for political reasons.

Cubans, Namibia remain central issues in any Angolan deal

As South African and Angolan negotiators prepare for another round of negotiations in Brazzaville next month, the timetable for a Cuban withdrawal and Namibia's independence remain the crucial issues in the negotiations.

Since 1984, when the Angolans first presented a detailed timetable for a Cuban withdrawal, there has been little progress although the Angolans now accept the principle of a total withdrawal.

In the 1984 plan, Angola still reserved the right to keep some Cuban troops in Angola.

According to published reports these were the proposals then put forward by Angola:

- All Cubans to be withdrawn to areas north of the 16th parallel as soon as there was an agreement on implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia.

- After two years all Cuban troops to be withdrawn to the north of the 13th parallel — a line that cuts Angola south of the Benguela railway line and the important central town of Huambo.

- After 36 months 5 000 Cubans to be restricted to Luanda and another 10 000 elsewhere in northern Angola.

South Africa's counter-proposals were based on a simultaneous South African and Cuban withdrawal from Namibia and Angola respectively. The UN plan for the independence of Namibia states that all but 1 500 South African troops should be withdrawn from Namibia within 12 weeks before the start of elections.

South Africa proposed:

- Withdrawal of all but

By Joao Santa Rita

12 000 Cuban troops from Angola within six weeks of the cessation of hostilities.

- After nine weeks only 8 000 Cubans to be present in Angola.

- After 12 weeks, as the South Africans completed their withdrawal, all Cubans would leave Angola.

At the time, South Africa rejected the idea of 10 000 Cubans staying in northern Angola but Foreign Minister Pik Botha has said a presence of 3 000 Cubans could be accepted.

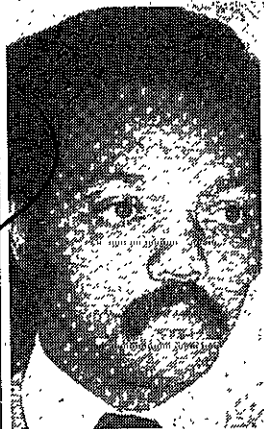
Since then Cuba and Angola have accepted the principle of a total Cuban withdrawal over a period of four years.

They have also indicated they are ready to accept a faster and bigger withdrawal of troops to the north of the 13th parallel than in the two years originally proposed.

Angola has said it is ready to participate in an international conference with Swapo and South Africa to discuss these issues but South Africa has now demanded the inclusion of Unita in any such conference.

Angola has also demanded an end to foreign aid to Unita as part of a regional settlement but, according to some reports, is ready to kick the ANC out of Angola in exchange for that. Swapo would also be told to accept any deals concluded.

INTERNATIONAL



The Rev. Jesse Jackson

Cut aid to Unita, support ANC — Jackson

By NEIL LURSEN
The Argus
Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson is asking the Democratic party to cut all American aid to Unita, support the African National Congress, impose a complete ban on trade with South Africa and provide military assistance to the frontline states.

He is also calling for a summit between South Africa's black neighbours, the United States and European countries to co-ordinate a policy of lessening the region's economic dependence on South Africa and defending itself against South African aggression.

"We can no longer afford to ignore the needs of 550 million Africans in favour of a few million Afrikaners," he said yesterday.

Powerful

The black leader, whose campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination has made him a powerful figure in the party, outlined his foreign policy programme in Los Angeles — symbolically near the South African consulate.

A key political question in the United States now is the extent of his political power and the influence it will have at the party's presidential convention in Georgia in July.

Mr. Jackson is likely to lose to Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts but, because of his grip on the loyalty of black voters, he could demand to be the candidate for vice president.

He could also demand that aspects of his programmes — such as his policy toward southern Africa — become party policy.

Calling for an end to American aid to the Angolan rebels, he said: "We have joined forces with South Africa and Unita in attempting to overthrow the government of Angola by military force."

But informed analysts note that Mr Jackson has misinterpreted American policy in Angola.

Claiming that his policy was in the national interest, Mr Jackson said Americans must support negotiations for a transition to democracy in South Africa.

"We support who the majority of South Africans choose as their principal negotiator for freedom — the ANC.

Cut access

"We recognise that the only way to bring South Africa to the bargaining table is to cut off its access to long-term trade, investment and capital. Current sanctions have been too easily circumvented."

Mr Jackson did not make it clear whether he also wanted a ban on South Africa's strategic minerals — which the United States depends on, especially in the car and defence industries.

Many of Mr Jackson's proposals are already contained in new legislation that is likely to be approved by the House of Representatives next month. The legislation has also been introduced in the Senate but its fate there is less predictable.

Reagan administration officials have warned that a new round of sanctions would cause South Africa to walk out of the current peace moves in the Angola-Namibia conflict.

Please don't quote me

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

Movement of Cubans puzzling

CNE Time 25/5/88

5

IS SOUTH AFRICA going to attack all those Cuban forces said to be moving down into southern Angola? This might be the million-rand question, but I certainly do not know the answer to it.

My guess would be "no" — unless the said forces (the composition and intentions of which are anything but clear at this stage) act in such a provocative way, from Pretoria's viewpoint, that there is no alternative.

The southward movement remains puzzling in view of the fact that it started while the Brazzaville "peace talks" were actually in progress. However, is it really so puzzling?

A lot of people are disappointed that nothing came of the talks. But the point could be made that they were exploratory in nature, otherwise Unita would have been represented as well as the Cubans.

It is true that many insurgency situations end with a political solution, but usually this only happens after the intervening military stage is over — to put it bluntly, when the two sides are hurting enough to be willing to make the compromises on which peace treaties (as distinct from surrenders) are founded.

At the moment, however, neither of the opponents have achieved enough, militarily speaking, to bring them into a smoke-filled room; and the Cubans, no doubt, are reluctant to even talk of pulling out without a victory or two. The influence exerted by the superpowers on the various participants might be the decisive factor. But how far are the big boys willing to go?

62 who?

A COUPLE of readers have called to inquire about the identity of the "Sixty-Second Mechanized Brigade of the South African Army's Eighth Division", named in journalist Pascal Fletcher's report on Monday from Cuito Cuanavale.

Well, the SADF has a division of that number, but to my knowledge neither the SADF nor the South-West Africa Territory Force has a brigade numbered 62. All South African brigade numbers start with either "7" or "8".

It might be a temporary grouping, or perhaps the Angolans are thinking of 61 Mechanized Battalion — a possibility, as 61 Mech is based in Namibia.

The report also confirms that Cuito Cuanavale cannot be used by aircraft, in spite of Angolan claims to the contrary, and that the South African/Unita forces have observers in the heights around the town, meaning they can "snipe" accurately with their artillery.

Fletcher is unclear on the base's eastern defences. Last month the SADF claimed that Angolan screening forces had been driven out of their positions and had withdrawn to the Tumpo logistics base south of Cuito Cuanavale. This means that either they have been able to return or that Fletcher is referring to the actual eastern perimeter of Cuito Cuanavale's defences.

● Question: Are the South African/Unita forces planning to attack and capture the base? The answer, I think, is "no" — certainly at this stage.

ments are called for by, and submitted to the State Tender Board which falls under the Department of Finance.

(a) and (b): As regards State departments, preference is given in respect of local content, calculated at a sliding scale according to the percentage local content of a product, as well as in respect of locally designed electronic systems. In both cases it is the function of the State Tender Board to see that the preferences are applied. Research on contract is aimed at technology transfer only.

In the case of statutory or parastatal bodies falling under the Department of Trade and Industry, both the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the South African Bureau of Standards seldom or ever make use of the tender method as such. Purchases by them are normally made on the basis of obtaining three quotations.

The CSIR and SABS in all cases give preference to locally manufactured products and many of their requirements are made in their own workshops.

As far as bodies falling under the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs are concerned, the relevant details are as follows:

CEF (PTY) LTD

In respect of the Mossel Bay Project both local content and technology transfer are considered in the adjudication of tenders. Each contract is considered on its merits. In respect of major fabrication contracts for the off-shore part, collaboration with overseas partners to provide the necessary technology is made a condition of tender. The same applies to the project management and engineering contracts in respect of both on- and off-shore, while emphasis is placed all round on local content. The overall aim is to strive for the maximum transfer of expertise, engineering design and fabrication capability of the country.

Factors taken into account in regard to local content are the following:

- The degree of local content and the additional cost, if any, that needs to be paid to achieve this;
- whether payment of a local content premium will likely create a situation where, in

AEC, it is implicit that the technology is maximally developed and established locally, and where possible, transferred to the SA industry.

NATIONAL ENERGY COUNCIL (NEC)

The NEC is still in its initial stage and no items falling in this category, have thus far been ordered.

However, emphasis will be placed on local content and the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

Aliens Act: newspapers furnishing returns

1042. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether any newspapers furnished his Department with returns in 1986 in terms of section 54 of the Aliens Act, No 1 of 1937; if so, (a) which newspapers and (b) how many non-South Africans were being employed as (i) journalists and (ii) photographers by each of these newspapers?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Yes. The hon member is also referred to my reply in this House to oral question No 18 on 23 February 1988.

(a)	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)
The Natal Witness	8	2
Sunday Star	4	Nil
Die Volksblad	1	Nil
Eastern Province Herald	5	1
Weekly Mail	2	Nil
South Coast Herald	3	1
Newcastle Advertiser	2	Nil
Sunday Tribune	2	Nil
Kokstad Advertiser	2	Nil
Daily Despatch	6	2

Business Day	13	Nil
Midlands News	Nil	1
Cape Times	8	3
Citizen	8	1
Evening Post	2	Nil
The Star	35	3
Beeld	Nil	Nil
Vaderland	Nil	Nil
South Coast Sun	Nil	Nil
The Sowetan	Nil	Nil
The Representative	Nil	Nil
Total	101	14

Angola: Losses by Fapla/Defence Force/Unita/South West African Territorial Force

1081. Mr J B de R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether the South African Defence Force furnished members of Parliament on 26 April 1988 with information on Angola in regard to troop and military equipment losses by Fapla and the Defence Force; if so, subject to what conditions;

(2) whether he will furnish similar information in regard to Unita and the South West Africa Territorial Force; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2) The SA Defence Force supplies information on operational aspects on a regular and confidential basis to Members of Parliament. Information of this nature can be abused by the enemy and—therefore not divulged.



Private Johan Papenfus in a Havana hospital, as published in The Argus

yesterday

11/6/65 25/1/88 (S) (1/8)

Thought they would kill me, says SA PoW

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — South African prisoner of war Private Johan Papenfus has spoken from his Havana hospital bed of the moment he was captured by Cuban forces as he lay seriously injured during recent fighting in southern Angola.

He thought the Cubans were going to kill him, but instead they gave him first aid.

In an interview that appeared yesterday in Bastion, official organ of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, Mr Papenfus said he was feeling well and was grateful for the medical attention.

He could not remember very well what happened.

"There was a very large bush and I was in a combat vehicle when I was wounded, then I slipped out of the vehicle and when I reached the ground I began to crawl.

"I WAS AFRAID"

"Two Cubans carried me to a vehicle. I thought they were going to kill me. I was afraid. They put me on a table and then cleaned my wounds," he said.

Mr Papenfus, 25, who lives in Pretoria, said he had spoken by telephone to his brother's wife and his family. It meant a great deal to him to be able to talk to them and let them know he was all right, he said.

He said his job in the army was to repair equipment and vehicles for Battalion 101 at the Angola-Namibia border.

He said he hoped to complete his military service in the SADF soon and return to civilian life.

Bastion said Mr Papenfus would fully recover from the serious wounds he suffered to his upper left thigh and his left leg, but would need special treatment and reconstructive surgery.

Crocker will attend Moscow summit

Reagan to push for Angola deal

Star 26/8/84

By Neil Lurssen,
The Star Bureau

Washington

President Ronald Reagan has flown to Moscow with the hope that a superpower agreement on ending the war in Angola will be one of the fruits of his summit meeting next week with Soviet Secretary General Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

"We will be looking for Soviet actions to help advance negotiations on the Angola and Namibia problem," the President said in a departure speech yesterday on the White House lawn.

Indications that the Soviets may share the view that Southern Africa could be an area of agreement at the summit came yesterday afternoon when the US State Department disclosed that Dr Chester Crocker will attend the Moscow meetings at the special invitation of the Soviet government.

The invitation came from Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Anatoly Adamishin, who had extensive talks on Angola-Namibia with Dr Crocker in Lisbon last week.

Dr Crocker's requested presence in Moscow may be a signal from the Soviets that they are ready to deal with the United States in substantive terms on southern Africa and not just in the broad terms that have marked the three previous superpower summits.

However, any agreement hammered out next week will not necessarily stop the conflict in Angola or lead automatically to independence for Namibia.

Instead it will put both Washington and Moscow in a position where their ability to influence events will be put to the test.

The American plan is to persuade the Soviets to help bring about a timetable for Cuban troop withdrawal that will be acceptable to South Africa, and to encourage a process of national reconciliation in Angola that will include Unita.

Problems

Both objectives pose problems for the Soviets. The Cubans have their own national priorities in staying in Angola, and the Angolan regime has consistently refused to have any truck with Unita.

There is a question mark over American influence, too. US officials, aware that existing sanctions have already reduced American leverage in South Africa, are afraid that new sanctions looming in Congress will erode their influence even further.

It is understood that Reagan officials have told US Senators that support for the tough new sanctions will undermine the delicate negotiations taking place over the Angola-Namibia problem.

It is clear that the Americans have high hopes for the Southern Africa talks in Moscow. In briefing sessions with newsmen here, a series of US officials have consistently put the conflict at the top of their list of problems where there is hope for a breakthrough.

The Soviets and the Americans could have a direct and immediate impact on the conflict by agreeing to end all weapons supplies to their clients in Angola, but nobody expects such an agreement in Moscow next week.

In his departure speech, President Reagan said: "We will be looking to the future where there remains much to be done."

Angola's oil output steadily increasing

Star 26/7/88
5

The Star's Foreign News Service

LUSAKA — Angola's oil output is expected to continue rising steadily in the next few years, reaching even higher levels than those predicted a year ago.

This is the view of oil industry executives in Luanda, who point out that Angola is now the second largest producer in sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria is the largest producer in the area.

Output in Angola has now risen to about 450 000 barrels a day, from 350 000 barrels a day last year and 134 000

barrels a day at the start of the decade. Next year the figure could rise to 500 000 barrels a day. Reserves stand at more than 2 million barrels.

The oil business, protected by Cuban and Angolan troops from rebel attacks, is concentrated in Northern Angola and has been largely untouched by the civil war and the country's economic situation.

Total investment between 1986 and 1990 is put at about \$3 billion. Oil earns about 95 percent of Angola's foreign exchange, and brought in about \$2 billion last year.

Howard

Howard

Chairman, allow me to refer the hon member to part of the reply I have just given:

†After consultation with officials of the Department of Education and Culture, Administration: House of Representatives and the acknowledged teachers' association, the Divisional Commissioner prohibited the gathering.

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 24 May 1988:

Officer dismissed from SADD

*1. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether a certain officer, whose name has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was recently dismissed from the Defence Force; if so, (a) why and (b) when;
- (2) whether this officer appeared before a court martial; if so, (a) on what charges and (b) what were the findings of the court martial?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) By virtue of a sentence of cashiering imposed by a General Court Martial.
- (b) 26 April 1988.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) Main charges of contravening Sections 32, 20(a), 16, 27(b) and 17 of the Military Discipline Code (MDC). Alternative charges of contravening Sections 45(a), 46, 27(b), 48 of the MDC, Crimen Injuria, common law theft and common assault.
- (b) Guilty of contravening Sections 32, 20(a), 16, 46, 45(a), 48 of the MDC and a charge of Crimen Injuria.

Financial rand: transactions

*2. Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Finance:†

- (1) What total amount was (i) spent in the Republic and (ii) handled by a certain bank, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, by means of the

financial rand during the latest specified period of five years for which figures are available and (b) what is the name of the bank concerned;

- (2) whether consideration is being given to replacing the financial rand by the commercial rand; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on this matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) (i) This information is not available as the majority of transactions in Financial Rand (both purchases and sales of securities) are undertaken by non-residents on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange which transactions do not require specific Exchange Control authority issued by the South African Reserve Bank.
- (ii) Financial Rand transactions in excess of R300 million.
- (b) The African Bank Limited.
- (2) No. (a) and (b) fall away.
- (3) No.

Privatisation of oil supplies

*3. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) Whether it is the intention to privatise South Africa's strategic oil supplies; if so,
- (2) whether consideration has been given to effecting privatisation in this regard by transferring control for a financial consideration; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- (1) No, presently it is not being planned.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) Should the Government take such a decision, it would be announced.

Helderberg: cargo

*4. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether he will furnish information on the cargo carried by the Helderberg at the time of its crashing into the sea near Mauritius on 28 November 1987; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether the captain of this aircraft expressed concern to the South African Airways in regard to the nature of the cargo to be carried on its last flight from Taipei; if so, who was the consignee of the relevant cargo;
- (3) whether any telex messages were exchanged between this captain and the Airways in regard to the nature of the cargo prior to the take-off of the Helderberg from Taipei;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1), (2), (3) and (4)
- No. The Commission of Inquiry surrounding the Helderberg air disaster has not as yet completed its investigation and the matter is therefore regarded as sub judice.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he is not aware that when I put supplementary questions to the hon Minister on the previous occasion, he suggested that I place my questions on the question paper?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, all I want to say to the hon member is that we have no record of any relaxes between the captain of the Helderberg and the authorities beforehand. If, however, the hon member has any information which we do not have, I would like to invite him to submit that evidence to the Margo Commission.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is he aware of a report which appeared in the Press stating that hazardous illegal cargo in a disguised form may have caused the fire aboard the Helderberg and, in view of that, does he not think it would be better for a statement to be issued on the subject to clear up any possible doubt in the minds of the public as to whether or not hazardous illegal cargo was carried on the Helderberg?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I have nothing more to add to what I have already told the House.

Cash gratuities: equality of private/public sectors of Finance:

*5. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Finance:

- Whether he intends to equate the private and public sector position as regards cash gratuities paid to retiring staff being exempt from tax; if so, when; if not, why not?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:

The achieving of neutrality in the tax treatment of gratuities and lump sum payments received by private and public sector employees is dealt with in paragraph 8.5.4 of the White Paper on the Report of the Margo Commission.

As indicated therein the Government has accepted the Commission's recommendation that these benefits be taxed on an equal basis, but subject to the condition that the rights of existing members of pension and similar funds be adequately protected. I also dealt with this matter in my statement of 27 January 1988.

The means by which vested rights should be protected is to be investigated by the Commissioner for Inland Revenue who will hold discussions with interested parties. Owing to the immediate heavy burden on the Commissioner and his staff in preparing legislation for submission to Parliament during the current session and the large number of other Margo recommendations that have been accepted, notably the introduction of the VAT system, and which still have to be researched and implemented, such investigation and discussions have not yet taken place. The matter will, however, receive attention during the recess.

Angola: cost of military action

*6. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) What was the total cost of the military action of the South African Defence Force in Angola during the period 1 July 1987 to 31 March 1988;
- (2) whether this cost is being financed from the appropriation for the current financial year; if not, in what way will the cost be financed; if so.

[Signature]

- (3) whether any steps are being taken in respect of rebudgeting to finance the requirements initially budgeted for; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1), (2) and (3) These questions were fully replied to in the Standing Committee on Finance and were also dealt with during the debate on the Defence Vote in Parliament last week.

SADF: food wastage

*7. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:†

(A) Whether the South African Defence Force has received any complaints about alleged waste of food handled by its catering division; if so, what is the nature of these complaints;

(2) whether these allegations have been or are being investigated; if so (a) when and (b) with what result;

(3) whether the Defence Force has instituted or will institute an investigation in order to effect a saving in this connection, if not, why not; if so (a) what amount can possibly be saved and (b) what control measures for combating waste are there at present?

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1), (2) and (3) The question cannot be replied too meaningfully, as it has been put too vaguely and also states no specific time period. If the hon member could provide the SA Defence Force with more details, this matter will be investigated.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, he is aware that it is being said at the moment — and I have seen the documents about an investigation — that an amount of up to R30 000 million per annum is being squandered and that that could be avoided

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, if the hon member will make that information available to us, we shall investigate it, but it is not included in his question

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: It seems to me

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Howard

that I know more about your department than you do. [Interjections.]

†THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

Mooi River: toll road/plaza/upgrading of alternative road

*8. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

When is it anticipated that the (a) toll road plaza at Mooi River will become operative and (b) upgrading of the alternative road between Nottingham Road and Escourt will be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(a) During December 1988.

(b) There are no plans at present to upgrade this road. Should traffic volumes increase the road will be suitably improved and/or maintained.

Mr R W HARDINGHAM: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is he aware of the condition of that alternate road and how important it is that the toll road at Mooi River should not be opened until the upgrading of the alternative road has been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I would like to tell the hon member that the submission which he has just made should be made to the authorities concerned because it also affects the provincial administration in Natal, and we will certainly look into that particular issue.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, is he aware that the provincial authorities in Natal have requested funds for the upgrading of this road?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, if they have done so, we certainly shall take the necessary steps.

Learning Technologies: Mathematics courseware

*9. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 29 on 26 April 1988, the (a) IVIS interactive video system and (b) completed courseware in Mathematics for

Standards 8, 9 and 10 were delivered in March 1986; if not, (i) why not and (ii) when were they delivered;

(2) when was payment made in respect of the (a) system and (b) courseware;

(3) whether it was possible to use the courseware in the form in which it was delivered; if not, (a) why not and (b) when was it possible to use the courseware; if so, (i) when, (ii) where, (iii) by whom and (iv) under whose supervision was it first used;

(4) whether there was any (a) discussion and/or (b) collaboration with Learning Technologies (Pty) Ltd in respect of the courseware for any other subjects; if not, why not; if so, (i) what discussion or collaboration, (ii) when, (iii) with whom, (iv) what was the result of such discussion or collaboration and (v) what payments were made in this regard?

†THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) (a) Yes, 27 and 28 March 1986 — delivery of hardware 28 March 1986 — Std 8, 9 and 10 Mathematics computer program

(b) Yes, 29 March 1986 — One set Std 8, 9 and 10 Mathematics video discs 2 April 1986 — 29 sets Std 8, 9 and 10 Mathematics video discs plus accompanying operation manuals.

NOTE: Due to holidays on Friday 28 March 1986 and Monday 31 March 1986 the final clearance of 29 sets of video discs and accompanying operation manuals from the State Warehouse of Customs and Excise at Jan Smuts Airport could only take place on 2 April 1986.

(2) (a) and (b) A cheque dated 27 March 1986 was handed over on 2 April 1986 after completion of installation on 1 April 1986 and certification on 2 April 1986 that full delivery, according to the specifications of the contract, had taken place.

(3) Yes.

(i) 7 April 1986.
(ii) College for Continuing Education, Soshanguve.

(iii) Mathematics lecturers of the college.
(iv) Department Head Mathematics at the College for Continuing Education.

(4) (a) and (b) No. The HSRC evaluation of the prototype courseware must first be completed.

Interactive video system/courseware: copyright

*10. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether his Department holds any copyright in respect of the (a) IVIS interactive video system and (b) any courseware developed for or used with this system; if not, (i) why not and (ii) who holds the copyright; if so, (aa) what copyright, (bb) since when, (cc) for how long and (dd) how much was paid for such copyright;

(2) whether his Department has allowed (a) Learning Technologies (Pty) Ltd, (b) a certain body, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, and (c) any other specified person or organisation to supply or use any interactive video system or courseware for which it holds the copyright; if so, (i) on what conditions, (ii) who made this decision, (iii) how much is his Department being paid and (iv) what is the name of the body in question;

(3) whether his Department has had any direct or indirect dealings with the body referred to in paragraph (2) of this question; if so, (a) with whom, (b) when and (c) what was the nature of these dealings;

(4) whether his Department has information on whether the above-mentioned body has any connection with a certain organisation, the name of which has also been furnished to his Department; if so, (a) what is the (i) nature of this connection and (ii) name of this organisation and (b) what are the names of the United States companies or individuals by whom this body was established?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) (a) No.

(i) The acquisition of copyright on

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Howard

Howard

Cvt. J. van Gend 26/5/88
Malan refuses to disclose Angola war losses

Political Staff
THE Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, yesterday refused to disclose information about troop and equipment losses by the Angolan and South African forces in Angola on grounds that this information could be abused by the enemy.
He said in reply to a question

from Mr Jan van Gend (PFP, Grootte Schuur) that the Defence Force supplied "information on operational aspects on a regular and confidential basis to Members of Parliament."
"Information of this nature can be abused by the enemy and is therefore not divulged."
General Malan gave this reply

when Mr Van Gend asked him whether MPs were supplied with information on April 26 this year with regard to troop and military equipment losses by Fapla and the Defence Force, and whether he would furnish similar information on Angola in regard to Unita and the South West Africa Territorial Force.

'Afghanistan solution' ^(S) in Angola ^{Star} — Soviets ^{27/5/88}

After US-Soviet talks on Namibia, Angola and Ethiopia last week, a Soviet Minister spoke for the first time of an Afghanistan-type of solution for Angola where the Americans are trying to engineer the withdrawal of about 35 000 Cuban troops in exchange for Namibian independence.

The Angolans and their Russian backers do not accept this linkage concept, but are willing to send the Cubans home if the South Africans withdraw from Angolan soil as well as Namibia and stop backing Unita.

Officially, it is a question of bringing the two withdrawal timetables closer together, but there are a lot of issues under the negotiating table, such as the future of African National Congress training camps in Angola, an agreement that an independent Namibia should not harbour troops or guerillas hostile to South Africa and continued American support for Unita rebels in Angola.

Last week, Mr Michael Armacost, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said the US "would be urging the Soviets to play a helpful role in encouraging a realistic timetable for Cuban troop withdrawal ... and a process of national reconciliation within Angola itself".

This is shorthand for telling the Angolan government to settle with Unita.

The Russians appear to be looking for ways of maintaining influence in Africa without funding an expensive conflict in Angola and being involved in an unwinnable conventional war against the South Africans.

Hence they have encouraged the recent efforts by Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, to bring the South Africans, Cubans and Angolans together.

Moscow has recently made indirect contact with Pretoria and the Americans will be asking just how committed the Soviets are to a policy of confronting apartheid. They certainly do not seem to believe that apartheid will be brought down in the near future by a guerilla war launched from the Frontline states. — The Independent News Service.

Cubans' ^{stev} advance ^{27/5/84} a 'serious threat' (5)

Pretoria Correspondent

Cuban forces pushing southwards towards the Angolan-Namibia border posed a "serious" military threat to that territory, the Chief of the SA Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Jannie Geldenhuys, said yesterday.

General Geldenhuys revealed at a press briefing attended by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, that Cuban combat aircraft, including a sophisticated MIG 23, violated Namibian airspace three times in the past two months.

INTEGRATED

The most recent incident — a low-level penetration near Ruacana — occurred less than two weeks ago.

General Geldenhuys said a worrying aspect of the build-up was that Cuban and Swapo forces were integrated for the first time.

Mr van Heerden said the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, had warned the United States and Angola during talks recently that the build-up of a large body of Cuban troops could create the danger of a flashpoint.

General Geldenhuys said the influx of Cubans and their integration with Swapo was unconnected with recent fighting in the Cuando Cubango region.

"A disturbing dimension has been the formation of three new integrated Swapo-Cuban battalions," he said.

"The deployment of the integrated battalions, coupled with the substantial back-up provided by the recently deployed Cuban forces in the region, has considerably enhanced Swapo's terrorist capabilities."

Angola: the hope has yet to become optimism

The exploratory talks in London that were the start of the current Angolan negotiations were a tea-and-crumbs affair compared with what will come if the negotiations continue.

There was some blood on the floor (still speaking metaphorically, of course) after the subsequent meeting in Brazzaville, Congo, between the Angolans and South Africans.

If anything, the negotiating floor will get even bloodier before it produces a lasting solution to the Angolan and Namibian conflicts.

At Brazzaville positions were set out with greater clarity than in London and in addition the South Africans strongly objected to the advance of a Cuban-Angolan-Swapo force towards the Namibian border just when the delicate negotiations were getting started.

SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

Whether the next meeting, scheduled for Brazzaville next month, takes place at all will depend largely on what the combined force does in the meantime.

At the next meeting, when the Cubans and Americans will apparently again take part as they did at London, specific proposals aimed at getting agreement on settlements in Angola and Namibia will be put forward for the first time.

The proposals will come from the South Africans. What these will be is not known but they will obviously deal with the two main issues that are believed to have been raised by the South Africans

Gerald L'Ange, editor of The Star's Africa News Service, examines the prospects for the peace talks which resume in Brazzaville next month.

at Brazzaville: the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola and reconciliation between the MPLA government and the Unita rebels.

The South Africans may also make proposals for preventing Swapo and the ANC from using Angola as a base for insurgent attacks into Namibia and South Africa respectively.

The Angolans will take the proposals away to study and will come back at a subsequent meeting with their response, which would presumably include proposals of their own.

In what looks a bit like a tit-for-tat response to South Africa's suggestion of reconciliation with Unita, the Angolans are understood to have said at Brazzaville that Pretoria should give more serious thought to negotiating a reconciliation with the ANC.

This seems to be about the level at which the negotiations have been conducted so far but it was not unexpected and has not soured the positive attitude being adopted by all parties concerned. The very fact that Angola and South Africa are now negotiating openly and apparently seriously is in itself a major advance.

Little has emerged, however, to suggest that any of the parties have made significant changes in the conflicting positions that have kept Angola and Namibia locked

in war for more than a decade.

Yet the hope — it is not yet as strong as optimism — emanating from the negotiations is stronger than has been seen for a long time. It appears to be based on a perception that there is at last a real political will to negotiate a solution to the Angolan conflict and maybe even the Namibian one too.

Political situations have changed since the diplomatic windows were closed about three years ago," said one diplomat, referring to the collapse of the 1984 Lusaka agreement between South Africa and Angola.

"One has the impression that this time around there is greater seriousness, particularly among the Angolans," he said. "This seems not to be one of those endless tunnels that developed around the efforts to implement Security Council resolution 435 on Namibia. "Ten years have elapsed since the adoption of 435 and all the actors now have clearly to adjust their basic positions if they want a settlement."

In some diplomatic circles there is a feeling that there is now a considerably stronger possibility of finding a solution that would satisfy what are seen as the three principal needs:

● The anxieties of the Angolan government about the challenge from Unita.

● Cuba's need for a face-saving formula for withdrawing its troops.

● South Africa's security concerns in respect of Namibia and the ANC.

That there can be no military solution in Angola has now been accepted by the MPLA government in Luanda, the Soviet Union and South Africa and this in itself is seen by Western diplomats as a huge step towards fruitful negotiation.

For their part the South Africans are looking for a solution that will, in the words of Mr Neil van Heerden, director-general of Foreign Affairs, give "peace with honour to all parties concerned".

In other words, nobody must be seen to be losing and everybody must be seen to be winning.

HOLLOW RING

For the Cubans this requirement would be met if they could say they had accomplished their purpose of saving the MPLA from being defeated by Unita or the South Africans. It might have a hollow ring, though, if it appeared that the MPLA had been forced to do a deal with Unita despite the efforts of the Cubans.

For the present, the MPLA government is still rejecting any accommodation with Unita and refusing even to talk to the rebels. Yet some sort of MPLA deal with Unita would seem to be unavoidable if there is to be a settlement.

How this could be engineered without looking like a defeat for the MPLA is hard to see — al-



Neil van Heerden... "peace with honour" sought.

though even greater miracles than this have been wrought by the right kind of propaganda.

The alternative to reaching an accommodation with Unita would be to emasculate the rebels by persuading South Africa and the United States to stop arming and supplying them. To agree to this South Africa would have to be given a hefty inducement — nothing less, probably, than the MPLA abandoning its support for Swapo and the ANC.

A trade-off of Unita for Swapo and the ANC would meet Pretoria's security concerns, but probably not as well as suggested in reports in the British press that getting the ANC kicked out of Angola would be the ultimate prize for the South African Government. Being barred from Angola would not, in fact, cripple the

ANC. As a training base and infiltration route Angola is not nearly as well placed as Tanzania.

Swapo, on the other hand, would be reduced from military weakness to military impotency if it lost its Angolan bases. While this would remove one of South Africa's main reasons for sending its troops into Angola it is doubtful that it could be arranged without strong objections in the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and elsewhere where Swapo has built up a committed constituency.

Swapo, in fact, turns out to be the fly in any ointment that may be prescribed to heal the conflicts in Angola and Namibia (setting aside for the moment, the internal view that the only problem is South African intransigence).

NOT EXPECTED

It is conceivable that South Africa, Cuba and the Soviet Union might all for various reasons be persuaded to pull out of Angola, leaving the MPLA and Unita to make a rapprochement work. But what could be done about Swapo?

It seems to be universally accepted that there can be no solution without a South African guarantee to implement the independence process for Namibia that is required by resolution 435. But there is little real expectation that Pretoria would agree to 435 being implemented in the near future because it would almost certainly lead to Swapo winning power in Namibia, where it is believed to have majority popular support.

SA aid to Unita 'will cost many lives'

The Star Bureau *Star 27/5/88*

LONDON — Growing casualties on the battlefields of southern Angola will be the cost South Africa will have to pay to maintain its commitment to Unita, says the authoritative International Institute for Strategic Studies in its survey for 1987/88.

Angola's new sophisticated radar and missile systems, its acquisition of advanced Soviet fighter planes and the growing skill of the pilots "means that South Africa's former total control of the air over Angola has ended", says the survey.

The IISS also casts doubt on the willingness of the SADF's ethnic Namibian units, which, it says, make up about two-thirds of its forces in Namibia, to fight in Angola.

In an overall assessment, the survey finds the conflicts of southern Africa have shown few signs of winding down or of producing a clear military victor.

The IISS believes that while South Africa's commitment to Unita is clear, the commitments of the Soviet Union and Cuba to an Angolan military victory over the insurgents is not clear.

The report says that in Mozambique the government has been reversing many of its socialist economic measures and encouraging private enterprise and foreign investment.

But economic reconstruction is virtually in abeyance until the war has been brought to an end.

Politically impoverished, the MNR has, nevertheless, "shown itself capable of carrying out highly organised and destructive guerilla attacks".

The survey says: "In spite of political failures and serious military reverses last year, the MNR has so far shown little interest in the government's offer of amnesty.

Nor has the Chissano regime, whose political, military and economic fortunes improved somewhat in 1987, shown any inclination to negotiate."

It says the most striking element in Mozambique is the steadily increasing growth of Western influence and aid.

ANGOLAN jet fighters — including at least one MiG-23 — crossed into Namibia three times in the past eight weeks, the Chief of the Air Force-designate, Lieutenant-General J P B van Loggerenberg, revealed yesterday.

And the Chief of the Defence Force, General Jan Geldenhuys, said SA would "consider all military options" to counter the "serious" situation created by the southward movement of Cuban and Swapo forces — some of which were within 60km of the Namibian border.

The two generals were speaking to journalists in Pretoria.

Lt-Gen Van Loggerenberg said despite "occasional" violations of Namibian airspace over the last 10 years, "this is the first time there have been so many in such a short time".

Previous violations were at high altitudes, but at least one of the recent cases involved a MiG fighter flying at low level "in the vicinity of Ruacana".

'Act sensibly'

"It was actually seen by a light aircraft pilot, who got the fright of his life. The nature of the violation was different," he said.

One of the violations involved a Cuban pilot and another a sophisticated MiG-23.

While SA would "like to act sensibly and responsibly" for fear of torpedoing the Angolan peace talks, there were limits, and a "keen eye" would be kept on developments "because if it reaches the point where they threaten (us) too seriously, we shall have to consider other options".

The Cuban force consisted of six infantry regiments, three special infantry battalions, an anti-aircraft unit equipped with missile systems and guns, a "sophisticated array" of radar systems, an artillery regiment with guns and multiple rocket-launchers and a tank regiment with 105 T-55 and T-62 tanks.

A "disturbing new dimension" was posed by three battalions each of about 200 Cubans and 250 Swapo insurgents — the first time Cuban and Swapo elements had combined.

The southernmost battalion — which was supported by tanks and artillery — was based up at Xangongo, about 60km from the border.

Swapo was now able to conduct its raids into Namibia while operating under the protective wing of a large force situated near the border.

It appeared the southward move had been independently undertaken by the Cubans as a "taunting manoeuvre".

There was a serious water shortage in central Ovamboland, and if the Calueque pumping station near Ruacana was threatened or occupied, "it will definitely be a serious threat to Ovamboland".

To page 3

Angolan jets cross border

CPPL 7/15/88
5

P.T.O.

Stark cost of Angolan war

CA 6 Times 27/5/88

Political Staff

THE rapidly spiralling intensity of South Africa's increased involvement in the Namibian/Angolan war-situation has been starkly spelled out in Parliament by Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan.

Replying to questions by Mr Clive Derby-Lewis, a nominated Conservative Party MP and high-ranking officer in the Citizen Force, General Malan revealed that the cost of ammunition used in "actual combat" had increased by more than four times in three years and that for the first time it was higher than the cost of ammunition used in training and demonstrations.

Figures he released showed that the cost of ammunition in "actual combat" had increased from R72,5 million in 1985/86 to R136,8m the following year and then jumped to R328,7m in 1987/88.

The fact that the cost of "combat" ammunition more than doubled in the last year appears to reflect the cost of the massive bombardment South Africa laid down at the end of last year and early this year in its aid to Unita in driving back the MPLA and Cuban forces.

The cost of ammunition used for training and demonstration purposes over the same period were: 1985/86 — R163,2m; 1986/87 — R298,9m and 1987/88 — R228 389.

'Serious' build-up threatens talks

5
B. 1/10/88
27/5/88

Cuban and Swapo force pushes south

PRETORIA — Strongly armed Cuban and Swapo forces, integrated for the first time, had moved south to within 60km of the Namibian border and their continued presence there was casting doubts on the sincerity behind recent SA-Angolan peace talks, military correspondents were told yesterday.

At a briefing by SADF Chief General Jannie Geldenhuys and Foreign Affairs Director-General Neil van Heerden, the SADF head said he regarded the continuing build-up as serious.

Van Heerden warned of the danger of flashpoints arising from the developments and the possibility these could jeopardise the peace talks.

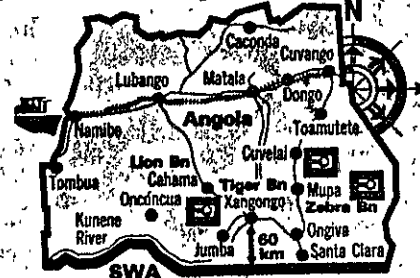
They said there was a direct parallel between the progress of the peace talks and the southward movement of the Cuban and Cuban/Swapo forces.

The deployment was in the western Kunene province and there was no indication it was linked to SA troop presence in eastern Angola.

The only acceptable reason for the development was that Angola wanted to pre-position its forces as far south as possible before any agreement with SA on a synchronised withdrawal of both sides' troops.

Also, seeing that the peace talks involved the possible implementation of the UN Resolution 435 independence plan for Namibia, Swapo cadres, backed by Cubans, wanted to be in a strong

Fifth military region, south western Angola



Integrated Cuban-Swapo force at Xangongo, 60km from border

Graphic: JOHN MCCANN

position on the border if it materialised. Geldenhuys said there had been a substantial change in the Cubans' deployment in Kunene province since November last year.

Then there had been only two units south of the Benguela railway line.

Confirmed intelligence reports since then had revealed the landing of substantial numbers of Cuban infantry reinforcements, and weaponry at Namibe, which were further supplemented by contingents transported overland.

"This situation has been aggravated by evidence indicating these forces are being supported by small specialist Cuban secret service units as opposed to the usual military intelligence officers."

The new Cuban deployments south of

● To Page 2 →

Cuban and Swapo forces push south

the railway line consisted of:

- Six infantry regiments each consisting of 1 500 to 2 500 men;
- Three special infantry battalions;
- An anti-aircraft regiment equipped with sophisticated missile systems;
- A sophisticated array of radar support systems;
- One artillery regiment; and
- A tank regiment comprising 105 Soviet tanks of the T55 and T62 types.

Geldenhuys said meanwhile the airstrip at Xangongo, about 60km from the Namibian border, had been upgraded.

"The distribution of these elements and their proximity to the SWA/Namibia border constitutes a shift in the military balance.

"These developments have not only led to a heightening of regional tensions,

but have also amplified the possibility of a conventional threat to SWA/Namibia," Geldenhuys said.

An equally disturbing new dimension had been the formation of three integrated Swapo/Cuban battalions, named Zebra, Tiger and Lion.

"One of these, which consist of about 200 Cuban troops and 250 Swapo terrorists each, is based at Xangongo."

It was also disclosed Angolan MiG jet fighter aircraft, at least one of them piloted by a Cuban, had violated Namibian airspace in the last eight weeks.

Van Heerden said the build-up raised the question of the Angolans' good faith and put a question mark over the sincerity of the present round of talks. — Sapa.

← ● From Page 1

LONDON — The authoritative International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said it is extremely cautious about the prospects of a peace settlement emerging from the latest round of talks to end the Angolan war.

Speaking at a Press conference to mark the launch of its 1987/88 Strategic Survey, IISS director Francois Heisbourg said although the Soviet Union appeared to be backing-off from costly involvements in the Third World and the growing cost of the Angolan war, he was "extremely cautious about the prospects which the talks could lead to."

He reasoned that Angolan oil sales offset the cost to Moscow of military aid, and the presence of 40,000 Cuban troops in the country had not drawn wide criticism from black Africa.

In the survey the IISS said: "Whether the USSR is, in fact, urging the Angolan government to seek accommodation with Unita, and whether the USSR and Cuba share a common view of the Angolan situation cannot be judged with any degree of confidence."

"Neither Soviet nor Cuban moves since the collapse of Angola's autumn offensive indicate any softening of support — indeed, the immediate military responses suggested a hardening of attitudes."

"In November Western diplomats were reporting that Castro and Angolan president Dos Santos had decided to replace new Cuban recruits in Angola with more experienced troops, some of whom arrived in mid-December. Dos Santos sig-

Study group wary on Angolan talks

MIKE ROBERTSON

called a reversal of previous policy by announcing that, in response to the continued presence of SA forces in southern Angola, he was authorising Cuban troops to begin patrolling the border with Namibia and to engage the SADF in direct combat.

"By mid-December new deliveries of Soviet tanks and armoured personnel carriers were arriving in Angola's ports."

Of the abortive Angolan offensive under the command of Soviet general Shaganovitch, the IISS said SA's

intervention with two mechanised infantry battalions and supporting artillery was decisive.

However, Unita, equipped with Stinger surface-to-air missiles and Row anti-tank weapons, had provided a more effective defence than previously.

The survey warns that to carry out its commitment not to allow the destruction of Unita, SA leaders "must be prepared to face casualties heavier than in the early 1980s."

The IISS said the SADF cannot be confident that its ethnic Namibian units will engage effectively in conventional warfare after the 101 and 202 battalions rebelled last year.

ARGUS 27/5/88

Cubans ^(S) moving ~~are~~ south are 'serious threat'

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Cuban forces pushing southwards towards the Angolan-SWA/Namibia border posed a "serious" military threat to that territory, the Chief of the South African Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Jannie Geldenhuys, said today.

At a Press briefing also attended by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Niel van Heerden, General Geldenhuys disclosed that Cuban combat aircraft, including a sophisticated MiG-23, violated SWA/Namibian air space three times in the past two months.

The most recent incident — a low-level penetration near Ruacana — happened less than two weeks ago.

General Geldenhuys said a worrying aspect of the build-up was that Cuban and Swapo forces were integrated for the first time.

PROVOCATION

He said the Cuban build-up could be seen as provocation. "The danger is that the provoked party could react and this could lead to war."

In addition, "sophisticated and high-technology" weapons, especially mobile Sam-8, Sam-9 and Sam-13 missile systems, were deployed in the "Fifth Military Region" (or Kunene Province), the briefing was told.

Mr van Heerden said the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, had warned the United States and Angola during talks in London and Congo Brazzaville recently that a large body of Cuban troops could create a danger of an unexpected flashpoint.

"The thing we need least now (while the talks continue) is a heightening of the risk of clashes," Mr van Heerden said.

DISTURBING

General Geldenhuys said the influx of Cubans and their integration with Swapo was unconnected with recent fighting in the Cuando Cubango region along the Lomba river near Cuito Cuanavale.

A "disturbing dimension" had been the formation of three new integrated Swapo/Cuban battalions. One of these, comprising about 200 Cuban troops and 250 Swapo terrorists, was based about 60km from the SWA/Namibian border.

PK645 27/5/88

War almost certain to escalate, warns Swapo

Argus Africa News Service
WINDHOEK. — The confrontation in southern Angola will "almost certainly escalate in the near future" unless there are moves to implement UN Resolution 435, says Swapo's information secretary, Mr Hideo Hamutenya.

Referring to the latest joint Fapla-Cuban-Swapo advance into southern Angola, Mr Hamutenya said: "No number of threats from Pretoria will change the new balance of forces now actively confronting each other in that south-western part of Africa."

Mr Hamutenya was quoted by the Namibian newspaper here as warning: "South Africa will pay dearly for any deci-

sion not to continue with the negotiations."

He told the newspaper that the troop movement into southern Angola was meant to "flush the invading South African troops out of Angola".

He remarked that the Angola-Namibian conflict now presented Pretoria with a choice of either resolving matters on the battlefield or through negotiations. The military solution was, for South Africa, "a difficult proposition now".

De Cuellar anxious about SA in Angola

ADDIS ABABA. — The secretary-general of the United Nations, Dr Perez de Cuellar, today told the Organization of African Unity (OAU) heads of state and government that he was greatly concerned about South Africa's military operations in southern Angola.

"Moreover, (South Africa) has not provided me with a timetable for the withdrawal of its troops or with other details which are relevant to the monitoring functions entrusted to me by the Security Council Resolution 602," he said.

Dr Cuellar pointed out that last November the UN Security Council had, in resolution 602, demanded once again that South Africa cease its acts of aggression against Angola and unconditionally withdraw all its forces from Angolan territory.

In respect of Namibia, he said he had been authorized by the Security Council last October to arrange a cease-fire between South Africa and Swapo. Swapo had conveyed to him its readiness to sign and observe a cease-fire with South Africa in accordance with the UN plan for Namibia.

"South Africa has not so far provided me with a definitive response." The sole obstacle to Namibian independence was South African insistence on making implementation of the UN plan conditional on "resolving a wholly extraneous issue", namely the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

Help SA become non-racial

● In a message to the OAU summit, the United States Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said the US abhorred "the ugly system of apartheid" and was committed to helping South Africa become a non-racial, democratic society.

● The president of Swapo, Mr Sam Nujoma, said the southern African liberation movements believed South Africa was not willing to give up Namibia nor end apartheid or its aggression against frontline states.

● Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam today called on African countries to lead the way in imposing sanctions on South Africa, the Zimbabwe national news agency Ziana reports.

● The heads of state of 29 African countries met in the Ethiopian capital on Thursday for an Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit overshadowed by the latest developments in the border dispute between Chad and Libya.

An OAU attempt to settle Libya and Chad's long-standing claims over the Aouzou border strip collapsed on Wednesday when the chief mediator, President Omar Bongo of Gabon, decided that only a face-to-face meeting between Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and Chadian President Hissene Habre could resolve the issue. — Sapa

Star 28/8/88

SA warned of greater conflict in Angola

BRENDAN SEERY
Saturday Star Africa
News Service

WINDHOEK — Swapo information secretary Mr Hidipo Hamutenya has warned that the confrontation in southern Angola will "almost certainly escalate in the near future" unless there are moves to implement the UN Resolution 435 settlement plan for Namibia.

Referring to the latest joint Fapla-Cuban-Swapo advance into southern Angola, Mr Hamutenya said "no amount of threats from Pretoria will change the new balance of forces now actively confronting each other in that southwestern part of Africa."

Invading troops

Mr Hamutenya was quoted by *The Namibian* newspaper as warning Pretoria: "South Africa will pay dearly for any decision not to continue with the negotiations".

The Swapo information secretary told the newspaper that the troop movement into southern Angola was meant to "flush the invading South African troops out of Angola".

He remarked that the Angola-Namibia conflict now presented Pretoria with a choice of either resolving matters on the battlefield or through negotiations.

However, he added that the military solution was now "a difficult proposition" for South Africa.

Unita rebels trained in Zaire: US silent over claim

WASHINGTON — American officials are refusing to confirm or deny a report here that the US is using six bases in southern Zaire to train and supply Unita rebel forces for attacks in Angola.

The report, in Thursday's *New York Times*, said Angolan government military commanders had defined the US goal as an attempt to create a second guerilla front free of South African control over Unita.

Reporter James Brooke, writing from Luanda, quoted General Antonio dos Santos Franca, chief of staff of the Angolan armed forces, as saying: "The Ameri-

Stev 28/5/88
cans want to take away from Unita their negative image as puppets of apartheid."

NEIL LURSEN

(5)

The report identified the six alleged training sites in Zaire as Kitona, Kincuso, Kimpese, Kahemba, Dilolo and Kamina. The Angolans, it said, had based their information on the interrogation of Unita prisoners and on intelligence from informants in Zaire.

In Washington, a State Department official said it was policy not to discuss reports about US covert aid whether the reports were accurate or not.

All US officials would say about their aid to Unita was that it was designed to be effective and appropriate to the circumstances in Angola.

The *New York Times* report said an Angolan intelligence officer named "Ita" had charged that American troops had left arms and equipment for Unita forces after joint American-Zairean military manoeuvres that ended on May 12 near the Angolan border.

It is thought in Washington that the Angolan claims about the alleged Unita training bases might be timed to influence current diplomatic negotiations.

Border battle could be bloodiest yet as sophisticated weaponry, troops face South Africa

BATTLE LINE

ANGOLA

W/E ARGUS
28/5/88

5

by GERALD L'ANGE
Argus Africa News
Service

JOHANNESBURG.—Cuba's threatening military advance towards the Namibian border may be nothing more than one of the biggest face-saving operations in modern history.

But if it isn't, and if the Cubans are seeking a confrontation, the stage is set for a battle on the border that could be one of the bloodiest yet seen in Angola.

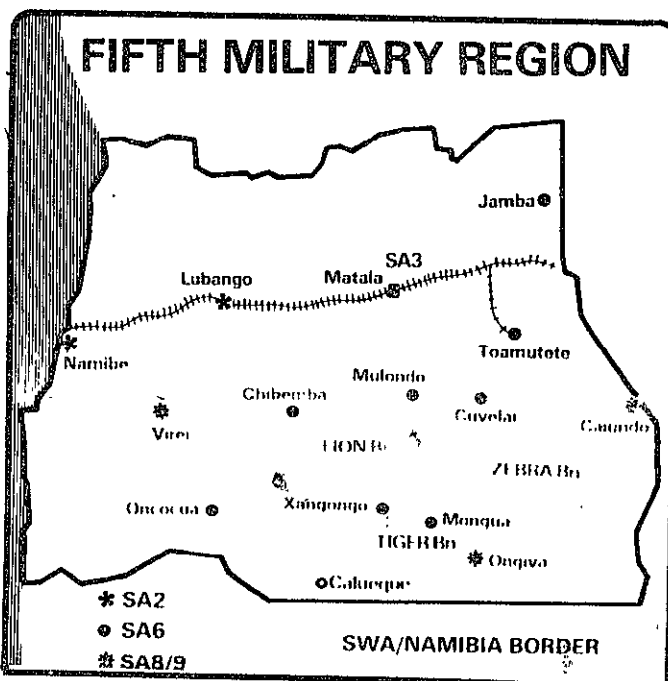
The Cuban tanks, planes, artillery and missiles massed opposite Owamboland may have no purpose other than to enable Cuba to pull its troops out of Angola without seeming to have been defeated.

South Africa's military and diplomatic chiefs are considering the possibility that the southward advance by the Cuban forces and the Swapo and Angolan army elements accompanying them is an essentially political ploy to strengthen Luanda's or Havana's bargaining position in the current Angolan peace negotiations.

This possibility is supported by the timing of the deployment, which reached its peak between the negotiations in London and those in Brazzaville.

Serious view

But the SADF has made it clear it takes a serious view of the operation and that it will not allow its own security interests to be threatened by it. Whether it would go so far as to stage a pre-emptive strike across the border is not known but the defence minister, General Magnus Malan, has warned that it could



THE dense deployment of anti-aircraft missiles that now confronts any South African aircraft entering the area is shown on this map. The missiles range from fixed SA2s to mobile SA6s. Also shown is the location of the three new Cuban/Swapo battalions, codenamed Lion, Tiger and Zebra.

spark "a terrible battle."

The forces mustered in the area in question, the fifth military region of Angola, are formidable and some are as close as 60km from the border.

They include six infantry regiments manned mainly by Cubans and totalling some 15 500 men, three special infantry battalions, an anti-aircraft regiment equipped with sophisticated, radar-backed anti-aircraft missiles, an artillery regiment armed with field guns and multiple rocket launchers and a tank regiment with 105 tanks, including the first of the modern T62 tanks to be deployed so close to Namibian border.

The SADF says the deployment of these forces "constitutes a shift in the military balance" and has "amplified the possibility of a conventional threat to SWA/Namibia."

In addition three newly-formed integrated battalions, each comprising about 200 Cuban and 250 Swapo troops, are stationed in the fifth military region. One of them, code-named Tiger, is based at Xangongo, only 60km from the Namibian border, where the airstrip has been upgraded and extended by half a kilometre. The others, code-named Lion and Zebra, are based further north at Cahama and Mupa respectively.

The formation of these battalions is seen by the SADF as "a deliberate Cuban strategy to directly involve itself with a terrorist organisation whose sworn intention is the seizure by violence of SWAS/Namibia."

With these battalions and the other buildup in the region, says the SADF, "Swapo is now able to conduct its raids into SWA/Namibia while operating under the protective wing of a substantial conventional force situated a short distance from the border."

Cuban forces

This poses the risk of SADF and SWATF forces running into strong Cuban forces if they cross into Namibia in hot pursuit of retreating Swapo insurgents.

South African military leaders do not discount the possibility that the Cubans may be acting largely on their own initiative and without the full backing of the Luanda government.

The suspicion that the Cuban buildup may be a face-saving rather than a belligerent operation is strongly held in diplomatic circles and is based on the belief that the Soviet Union is putting pressure on Cuba to agree to withdraw its troops from Angola because Moscow wants a political settlement of the conflict there.

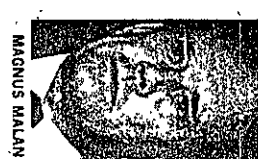
At the same time, however, there is evidence of a growing readiness on Luanda's part to confront South Africa militarily, despite the decisive intervention of the SADF in the Lomba River battle last year that prevented the Angolan and Cuban forces from defeating the Unita rebels.

Malan warns advancing Cubans: Angola push southwards could scupper peace talks

SO FAR AND NO FURTHER?

28/1/88

Small



MAGNUS MALAN

By DE WET POTGIETER, MER POTTINGER and PATRICIA CHENEY

A DRAMATIC Cuban thrust towards the SWA/Namibian border on the eve of today's US-Soviet summit has drawn a blunt warning from the South African Government — lay off.

Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan said yesterday the Cubans appeared to be acting according to a secret agenda against peace and even independently of their Angolan hosts.

While he had praise for Russian realism, his warning to Cubans was clear.

Observers believe the timing of the Cuban advance to within 60km of the border may merely be gamesmanship as a prelude to the talks between President Ronald Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, which begin in Moscow today.

Angola and SWA/Namibia are high on the summit agenda and the decisions of the superpowers are crucial.

The observers believe General Malan's warning is also aimed at the Soviet Union. He said the Cubans will strike back in force if the present peace initiative breaks down.

Peace

The aim would be to roll back the Cubans from positions in south-central Angola which they last held in 1976. As it is, they are virtually within artillery distance of the SWA/Namibian border.

Yesterday, General Malan warned that the southward movement of the Cubans threatened peace moves — although he was careful to compliment



Janine takes crown as the new Miss SA!

By DOREEN LEVIN

STATUESQUE Janine Boby, 22, is Miss South Africa 1988.

Watched by an excited audience of 3 000 at the Standard Bank Arena, and an estimated three-million TV4 viewers, the Johannesburg public relations girl was crowned last night by outgoing Miss SA, Wilma van der Bill.

Janine, who stands 1.6m tall and has big blue eyes, glowed with joy as Wilma placed the crown on her honey-brown hair.

The crowning of Janine was the climax of a nation-wide contest organised by the Sunday Times and Rapport — and it was also the grand finale to the most spectacular Miss South Africa extravaganza ever staged.

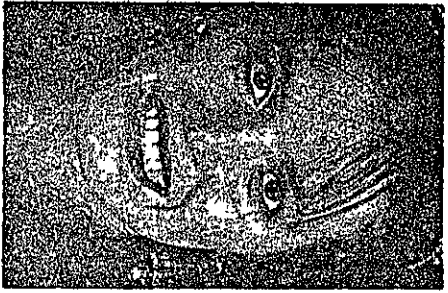
Her first and second princesses are Roberta Alessandri, and Macabé Booyen. Cheryl Combe-Davis and Leslee Ann Kitching also made the first five.

Sponge-tongue (Bong) Sobhuza, the former Miss Black South Africa, came sixth.

The judges who made Janine Boby's dreams come true were South Africa's best dressed women of 1988: Glona Arendz, former Miss World, Penny Coelen-Rey, Alan Crivayaga, SABC-TV personality, Michael Gr-bobelaar, actor and



RUNNER-UP ... Roberta Alessandri from Durban is Janine's first princess



THIRD PLACE ... Dark-haired Macabé Booyen, a model from Cape Town

The MP
at 40
Opinion,
Page 22

MISS SA
audition

PW/S girl
passes TV
audition

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Page 9
SULETTE'S
SECRET

Page 25

150 000
CAN BE WON
BUSINESS TIMES

PICK
DESPISE the postponement
of yesterday's big race at

The observers believe General Malan's warning is a sign Havana and Luanda that South Africa will strike back in force if the present peace initiative breaks down.

Peace

The aim would be to roll back the Cubans from positions in south-central Angola which they last held in 1978. As it is, they are virtually within artillery distance of the SWA/Namibian border.

Yesterday, General Malan warned that the southward movement of the Cubans threatened peace moves — although he was careful to compliment the Soviet Union for its role in the latest flurry of peace talks.

"The problem is that, at the same time as negotiations are underway between the MPLA and South Africa, the Cuban troops have started acting aggressively and defiantly. It seems they act without any regard for the MPLA government," he said.

"The contradiction of peace talks on the one side and the defiant military manoeuvres on the other simply doesn't make sense. This doesn't happen without being noticed."

He warned that South Africa's interests as a regional superpower would be to ensure the safety and stability of the area.

As background to the current situation, it is reliably understood, lies a dangerous game of brinkmanship.

Cuban forces are attempting to secure as much lost ground as possible to place themselves in a better bargaining position if Russia makes concessions at the summit and peace talks begin in earnest.

Fighting

But in so doing, they are in danger of provoking a South African response. SADF sources claim Swapo elements are among the Cuban forces moving towards the border in south-central Angola.

If so, it would mean the bitter fighting in the region in the last 10 years to clear a *cordon sanitaire* along the border would have been in vain and Swapo guerrillas would be back on the border.

The latest flashpoint comes, ironically, amid promising moves elsewhere:

● Soviet steps to pressurise the Angolan MPLA Government to open reconciliation talks with their sworn enemy — the Unita movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

European sources report that the Soviet Union no longer views Unita as a rebel band acting on Pretoria's account but one having real popularity and influence in the south.

Moscow's revised position has angered Luanda, where the ruling MPLA party is badly divided over the issue of negotiating

□ To Page 2



That
is far
enough,
says SA

□ From Page 1

with the rebels.

Moscow has reportedly caused further consternation in Luanda by suggesting a federal state — giving Unita-controlled zones south of the Benguela railway line real administrative authority as a possible solution to the conflict.

General Malan yesterday welcomed indications that the Soviet Union was urging reconciliation in the war-torn country.

"This is a very realistic approach, welcomed by South Africa," he said.

● President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev meet in Moscow today for wide-ranging talks about arms control and regional conflicts — continuation of issues raised at the last summit.

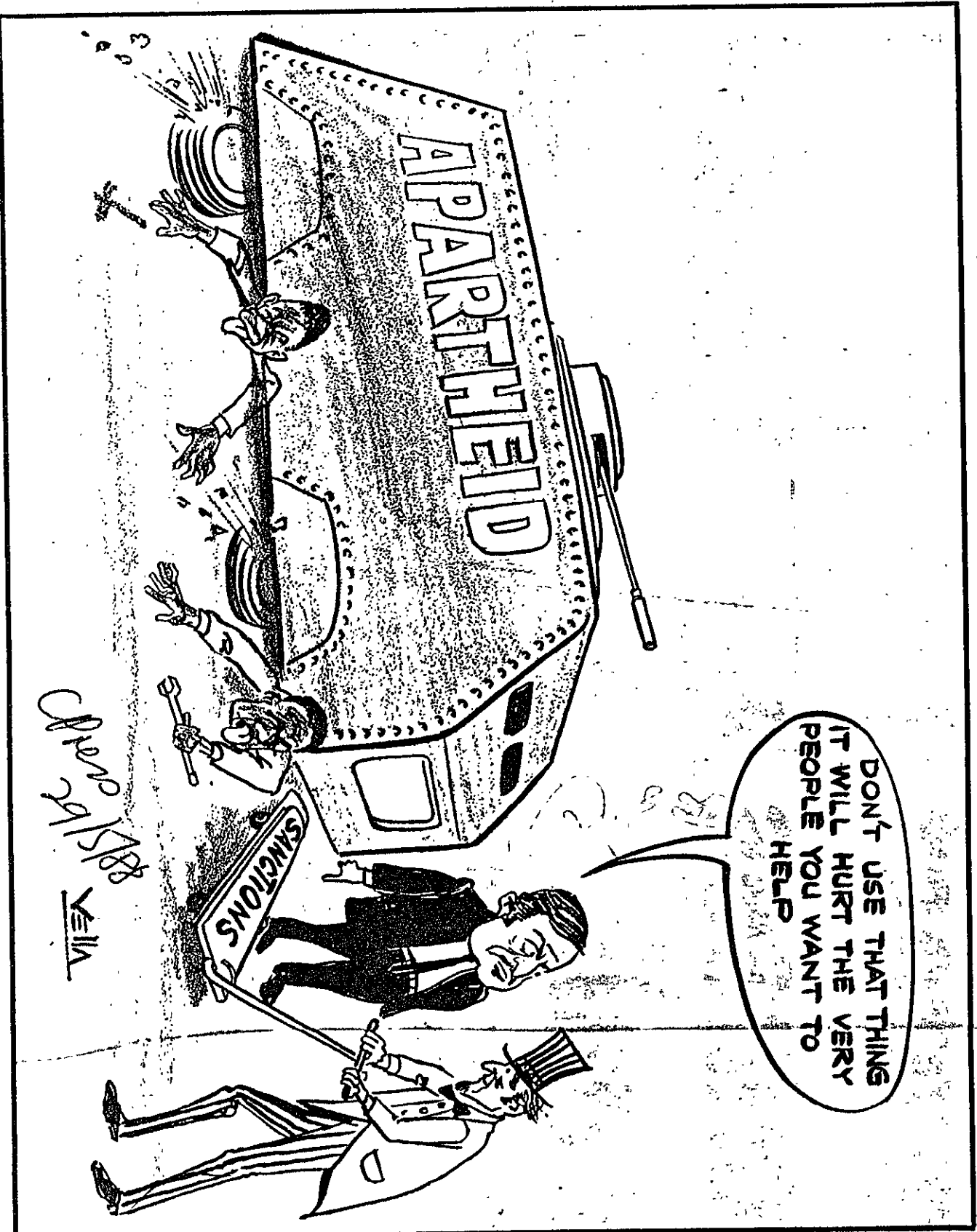
US State Department officials have been cautiously optimistic about the Soviet Union's preparedness to exert influence on the Angolan Government to seek a resolution to the conflict.

Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, is part of the 600-man delegation accompanying Mr Reagan, and State Department sources say he might be called in if the two superpower leaders address the issue in one of their five meetings.

But clouding the more promising diplomatic initiatives is the military problem.

The new dimension in the Angolan conflict has emerged over three new integrated Swapo/Cuban battalions closer to the SWA/Namibian border.

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Sanctions on the armed

Angola may see an 'Afghan solution'

AKCS
30/5/88

(5)

By KEN VERNON of the Argus Africa News Service

THE most likely outcome of the negotiations on the future of the Angolan conflict will be an "Afghanisation" of the problem whereby Angolans of various political persuasions will be allowed to continue killing one another without overt interference from outside powers.

The Russians are anxious to remove the albatross of Angola from around their necks so that they can continue with the twin policies of glasnost and perestroika and at the same time win some concessions from the Americans in other areas — in return for pressure on the Angolans to accept whatever deal is eventually struck.

All indications point to the big winners of the negotiations being the South Africans, while it seems the big losers will be Swapo and the African National Congress.

South Africa at the moment has the strongest hand. It has proved on the battlefield that it can maintain its hegemony over both SWA/Namibia and (with Unita's help) southern Angola indefinitely.

At the same time, both South Africa and the United States will retain the right to supply Unita with arms while Russia will continue to supply the MPLA regime — much the same kind of solution that the superpowers reached in Afghanistan.

At the same time it continues to be able to point out to conservative whites a Swapo-free SWA/Namibia and lots of Cuban bodies as proof that it is still actively fighting communist aggression in the region and supporting "civilised standards" in SWA/Namibia.

The reasoning behind this is the "Afghan solution", it is thought that South Africa will promise to withdraw its forces from Angola as the Cubans begin to be withdrawn.

At the same time, both South Africa and the United States will retain the right to supply Unita with arms while Russia will continue to supply the MPLA regime — much the same kind of solution that the superpowers reached in Afghanistan.

This is the scenario suggested by knowledgeable analysts who have been closely monitoring the discussions being held both in London and Brazzaville.

The outgoing American administration desperately wants to be able to point to a Soviet Union.

The present large-scale thrust into south-western Angola by a combined Cuban-/Fapla/Swapo force is against the rebels.

If this expectation materialises, Swapo will find itself stranded in central and northern Angola, separated by hundreds of kilometres of hostile Unita-held territory from its infiltration routes into SWA/Namibia.

Almost incidentally South Africa will insist on the expulsion of ANC bases from Angola.

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launched the Kremlin summit yesterday with immediate sparring on human rights issues, putting a contentious dispute right at the centre of their unprecedented fourth meeting.

Both sides called the opening exchange of the summit between the Kremlin leader and the US president cordial but also straightforward.

Mr Reagan was paying his first visit to the land he once called "an evil empire" and Mr Gorbachev welcomed him amid trappings of 19th century tsarist splendour.

Mr Gorbachev used the opening address to tell Mr Reagan to restrain his "Star Wars" space defence programme as the price for any new major agreement on limiting long-range nuclear weapons.

In his reply Mr Reagan agreed the "next major step" in arms control after the accord in December to eliminate medium- and shorter-range ground-based missiles — the recently ratified INF treaty — must be reducing strategic arsenals. But significantly, Mr Reagan made no reference to "Star Wars".

Mr Gorbachev set a conciliatory tone, but gently tweaked Mr Reagan about the president's many speeches and jokes about life in the Soviet Union.

Down to business

"Mr President, you and Mrs Reagan are here on your first visit to the Soviet Union, a country which you have so often mentioned in your public statements... Let me add another to your collection, it is better to see once than to hear a hundred times".

Mr Reagan had his own proverb for Mr Gorbachev. Speaking of the gradual progress in superpower relations over recent years, and noting that differences remain, Mr Reagan, speaking first in Russian, told Gorbachev: "It was born. It wasn't rushed."

The two leaders then got down to business in a 71-minute private talk, the first of four scheduled during a five-day summit. Aides said Mr Reagan used the first session to accent his concerns over alleged Soviet human rights abuses and said Mr Gorbachev stood his ground.

"We know about our shortcomings... but we don't like it much when somebody from outside tells us how we should live," Kremlin summit spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, said in a post-summit briefing. White House spokesman Mr Marlin Fitzwater said Mr Reagan had insisted on pressing the rights issue despite Soviet sensitivities "because of its importance to the American people".

Mr Reagan plans to match his words with symbolic action today by meeting political dissidents and Jews who have been denied permission to emigrate.

Thanks to last-minute approvals voted last week by the US Senate and the Soviet parliament, the two leaders have one major diplomatic achievement to record here — the ratified INF treaty.

Mr Gorbachev has even expressed confidence they might meet for a fifth summit to sign such a treaty before Reagan concludes his second and last four-year White House term next January 20. — Sapa-Reuter-AP and UPI

SOVIETS SEND a signal on Angola

From KEN POTTINGER

LISBON. — As the superpower summit opened in Moscow, the Soviet Union signalled some major changes in its relationship with the Angolan government.

The Angolan conflict is scheduled to feature high on the summit agenda.

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, told a Portuguese newspaper correspondent that Moscow sought "to unblock the Angolan situation" while an aide described the huge Soviet military investment in Angola as "useless expenditure".

Soviet officials also suggested that they could deliver a peace deal between the ruling MPLA government and Unita rebels if the United States could bring about the removal of Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Diplomatic sources suggested the latter point is likely to be among those discussed when President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev get down to serious talking about solutions to the conflict in southern Angola and the related issues.

Defence correspondent Willem Steenkamp writes: Defence circles were last night puzzled by persistent reports since Saturday morning of a large-scale battle — presumably in southern Angola — which does not seem to have taken place.

An SADF spokesman last night would only say that the Defence Force was not prepared to comment on "unsubstantiated reports", pointing out that inquirers could not identify their sources and did not know when or where the alleged battle had taken place, whether it was still in progress or which units were involved.

Sparring at the Summit

Captured SA soldier Johan Papenfus seen in US on TV

From NEIL LURSEN

May 30/88
The Argus Foreign Service
WASHINGTON. — Captured South African Sergeant Johan Papenfus, apparently well cared for and comfortable in his Havana hospital bed, appeared on television in the United States early today.

TRANSLATED

Asked if he had anything to say to the Cuban people, Sergeant Papenfus replied: "Ek wil net vir hulle se dankie dat hulle my lewe gespaar het." (I want to say thank to them for saving my life).

He said he had feared he would be killed, but that the Cubans were good people.

The brief interview was conducted throughout in Spanish and Afrikaans. A Cuban televi-

sion reporter asked questions in Spanish which were translated into Afrikaans by an unseen man who appeared to speak with a black South African accent.

The prisoner's replies were translated into Spanish by the same interpreter. For the benefit of American viewers, the Afrikaans was translated into English sub-titles.

The interview came during a survey of international television news broadcast regularly early on Monday mornings in the US by the nationwide Cable News Network (CNN).

The item was introduced by a woman who said he was captured on May 4 when "a Cuban commando team fought the second company, named Bravo, belonging to the 101 Battalion of the so-called Namibia Terri-

torial Force under the command of white South African officers."

LEFT BEHIND

She added: "That company was virtually annihilated and, during its retreat, left behind Sergeant Johan Papenfus."

The short interview that followed threw no light on the engagement in which he was injured or on the extent of his injuries.

Sergeant Papenfus said he had had good medical treatment, and in response to a question about his length of service, that he had been in the army since February last year.

He spoke clearly and firmly, although it was hard to hear clearly what he was saying because of the instantaneous translating.

Angolans may not know of Cuban moves

Defence Correspondent

THE Cuban troop movements into southern Angola may have taken place without the knowledge or approval of the Angolan government, according to the chief of the SADF, General Jan Geldenhuys.

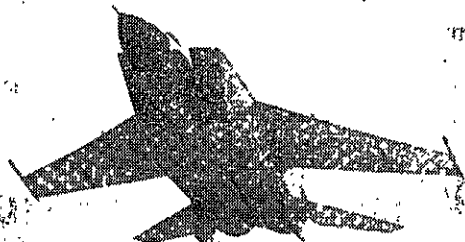
However, it had not stopped the withdrawal of SA troops from the battle zone in the Cuando-Cubango province, far to the east.

Although unwilling to commit himself at Thursday's press conference, Gen Geldenhuys said: "In the past we have often seen military decisions taken independently by Fapla and the Cubans."

The southward advance appeared to be a "purely Cuban move".

"It is also possible the Angolan government knew about it but did not approve."

The Cuban force's purpose, apart from backing up a Swapo infiltration wave into Namibia, had been enigmatic from the start.



A MiG-23 in flight

Gen Geldenhuys said he could find "no other explanation" for the Cuban troop movements than that they were trying to obtain the best pre-negotiations position with a view to the implementation of Resolution 435 in Namibia.

A secondary consideration could be a "show of force on the part of the Cubans to provide a stronger platform for the (Angolan) and Cuban delegation".

Asked if the Cunene province Cubans could interfere with the withdrawal of SA troops from the Cuando-Cubango province, Gen Geldenhuys said that this was possible "if they had decided ahead of time", but they were not "ideally sited" to do so.

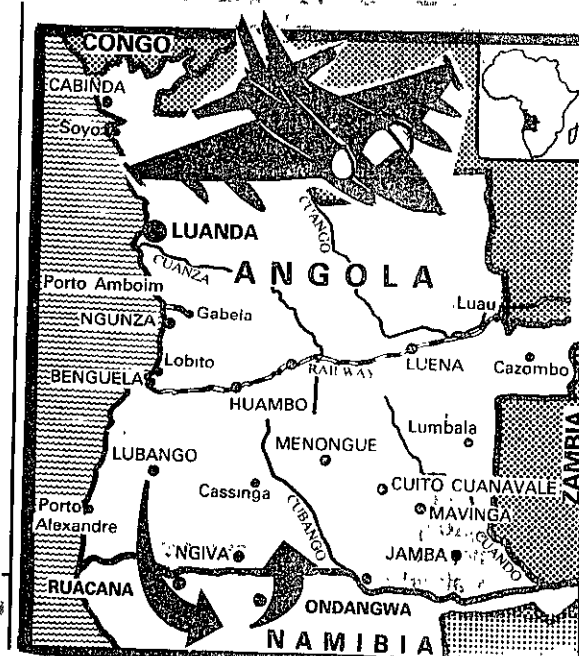
As a result, a "significant amount of withdrawal" of SA troops had already taken place "and we could start a further thinning-out, which is already taking place... one wonders if there should not once more be a withdrawal of Cubans before we can think of renewing negotiations".

Conceding that the Cuban move might be a "taunting manoeuvre", he said that when such an action was taken "the possibility always exists that you can succeed and then you have a war — and this is not the time to start a war".

He agreed that the move might be for psychological reasons as well — "it is not the type of force for which one can see a military purpose in Cunene province, so it would seem there are other aims, such as intimidation".

However the SADF would not take aggressive action unless "national security" was perceived as being under threat.

Cape Times, Monday, May 30, 1988



Actus 30/5/88 (5)

Unita attack on MPLA convoy leaves 64 dead

LISBON. — Angola's Unita rebels claim to have killed 56 MPLA government soldiers and destroyed two tanks in a six-hour battle following an attack on a supply convoy near the central town of Cuamba.

Unita said in a statement in Lisbon yesterday they carried out the attack on Friday.

It said the government forces were using Cuamba in central Bie province as a base for an offensive aimed at recapturing the rebel-held town of Munhango on the strategic Benguela railroad.

Unita said it lost eight men killed and 18 wounded.

The rebels said that an army battalion that came to the aid of the convoy fell into a Unita ambush and another three hours of fighting ensued. — Sapa-AP.

Unita claims 56 die in convoy ambush

CAN TIMES 3/5/88 (5)

LISBON — Unita rebels said yesterday they won a six-hour battle last week in central Angola, killing 56 government soldiers and eight guerillas.

A statement said Unita destroyed a government convoy travelling to Cuemba with supplies for an assault on Munhango, which is held by rebels.

"After six hours of combat the convoy was destroyed. The 37th Brigade, which came to the aid of the convoy, fell into an ambush by our forces," the statement claimed.

"With this operation, the MPLA (government) and Cuban offensive on the town of Munhango was once more aborted," the statement said. It added that two T-54 tanks and 33 cargo vehicles with food, fuel tanks and war material were destroyed in the battle on May 27.

Munhango lies on the Benguela railway, which links Zaire to the Angolan port of Benguela.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: Local military observers yesterday speculated that weekend reports of a large-scale battle might have been sparked by the Cuemba fighting.

An SADF spokesman yesterday denied that South African or Namibian soldiers had been involved in fighting in either 5 Military Region, which lies north of Ovamboland, or 6 Military Region, which covers most of the area between 5 Military Region and the Benguela line, in the past few days. — Sapa-Reuter

Summit 'ready' to offer deal on Angola

Own Correspondent
LONDON. — The United States and the Soviet Union are said to be ready to offer guarantees to accompany an Angolan peace settlement involving South African and Cuban troop withdrawals.

Reporting from Moscow Hella Pick, the Guardian's diplomatic correspondent, said the superpowers were moving towards an agreed settlement that even South Africa would find hard to resist.

During the summit the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Anatoly Adamyshin, are holding intensive discussions.

- Unita in ambush — Page 2
- Call for freedom — Page 3

Dr Crocker was said to have been brought to Moscow because his talks with Mr Adamyshin earlier this month proved encouraging. The report said the Americans were confident the Soviet Union was finally prepared to concede that Unita could no longer be dismissed as stooges of the CIA and South Africa and could not be excluded from a government of national reconciliation in Angola.

"The two superpowers are ready to offer joint guarantees to accompany a settlement involving Cuban and South African troop withdrawals from Angola, linked to the formation of a government of national reconciliation in Angola, and South Africa can implement resolution 435 giving independence to Namibia," the report said.

Earlier yesterday SABC reported that Dr Crocker was ready to chair another round of talks aimed at ending the war in Angola. The talks would involve South Africa, Cuba and Angola, the same countries that attended the talks chaired by Dr Crocker in London at the beginning of the month.

Superpowers reported ready to offer joint guarantees

Summit's Angola peace plan

Sps 31/5/78

(5)

London

The United States and the Soviet Union are moving closer towards imposing a peace settlement in Angola and Namibia which even South Africa may find hard to resist, the London *Guardian* reported yesterday.

Guardian correspondent Hella Pick, reporting from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow, said that in an important new development the two superpowers were ready to offer joint guarantees to accompany a settlement involving Cuban and South African troop withdrawals from Angola, linked to the formation of a government of national reconciliation in Angola, and South African implementation of United Nations resolution 435 giving independence to Namibia.

And American Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Affairs Dr Chester Crocker said he was ready to chair another round of talks aimed at ending the war in Angola.

Dr Crocker, who is accompanying President Ronald Reagan to the Moscow summit meeting, said he was preparing to visit Africa in the first half of June.

During the Moscow summit, Dr Crocker and his Soviet counterpart, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Anatoly Adamyshin, have been holding intensive discussions which are expected to increase the pressure on the Luanda government, as well as on Cuba and Pretoria, to move swiftly and decisively towards a settlement.

The *Guardian's* Pick reported: "The Americans are confident that the Soviet Union is finally prepared to concede that Unita can no longer be dismissed as a stooge of the CIA and of South Africa and cannot be excluded from a government of national reconciliation in Angola."

"Also at stake is the future of the ANC training camp in Angola which South Africa wants closed as a condition of its withdrawal from Angola and Namibia.

"At the prompting of some of its African neighbours, Angola has already hinted willingness to withhold support from the ANC in return for withdrawal of South African support from Unita."

Pick said Dr Crocker, not normally a participant in summit talks, had been brought to Moscow because his talks with Mr Adamyshin earlier this month in Lisbon were encouraging.

"A further meeting in Africa, probably in Brazzaville, is being planned, and is expected to convene within the next two or three weeks.

Ministerial level

"This time, Cuba, South Africa, and Angola are likely to participate at ministerial level."

"Secret contacts, which Luanda denies, are also expected to continue between it and Unita."

Pick said that, while the Afghanistan settlement offered certain precedents, both superpowers recognised that the situation in southern Africa had a different complexion.

"There are no Soviet troops in Angola.

"South Africa, a key player, remains an unknown quantity and is not susceptible to the same kind of pressures that made it possible to ensure that Pakistan accepted the terms of the Afghanistan settlement."

"But the Americans believe that there are now persuasive incentives for Pretoria to accept a peace settlement in southern Africa and that this is an opportunity unlikely to recur after President Reagan leaves office." — Sapa.

● See Pages 2 and 9.

New integrated Swapo/Cuban battalions disturbing, says Geldenhuis

SA 3/15/84

(5)

Pretoria Correspondent
The Angolan government was demanding more commitment from Cuban troops in fighting against Unita and South African forces, University of Pretoria strategic expert Professor Michael Hough said on Saturday.

"The Angolan Government is paying for the presence of Cuban troops on its soil and it wants the Cubans to perform," he said.

'BID TO SAVE FACE'

"The Cuban build-up in southern Angola must be seen as an effort to put Swapo in a favourable position should United Nations resolution 435 be implemented," Professor Hough said.

He said the Cuban deployment could also be an effort to save face after the heavy losses inflicted by SADF/Unita forces during recent fighting

around the Lomba River. It could also be interpreted as a warning to the withdrawing SADF not to cross the border again.

He said it was "highly unlikely" that Cuban forces would ever attempt to cross the Namibian border.

American "Stinger" portable anti-aircraft missiles supplied to Unita did much to reduce MPLA air superiority during the recent offensive against Savimbi's Mavinga base area.

The director-general of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Niel van Heerden, said at a press briefing that the Cuban push was an attempt to gain an unfair advantage during the present peace talks.

"It is contrary to the principle of good faith to manoeuvre militarily while negotiations are under way.

"Certainly, they prove the essence of our objec-

tions of the Cuban presence in Angola — foreign troops who have no place here," he said.

The build-up made it difficult to believe that the Angolans were sincere at the negotiating table, he added.

The chief of the SADF, General Jannie Geldenhuis, said that there were six Cuban infantry regiments in the area numbering between 1 500 and 2 500 men. In addition, there were three special infantry battalions, an anti-aircraft regiment equipped with SAM-2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 13 missiles, a "sophisticated array" of radar systems, artillery and a tank regiment comprising 105 T55 and T62 tanks.

"A disturbing dimension has been the formation of three new integrated Swapo/Cuban battalions. One of these, which comprise about 200 Cuban troops and 250 Swapo terrorists each, is

based at Xangongo, about 60 km from the Namibian border.

"The formation of these battalions should be seen as a deliberate Cuban strategy to involve itself directly with a terrorist organisation whose sworn intention is the seizure by violence of Namibia.

ENHANCED CAPABILITY

"The deployment of the integrated battalions, coupled with the substantial back-up provided by the recently-deployed Cuban forces in the region, has considerable enhanced Swapo's terrorist capabilities.

"Swapo is now able to conduct its raids into Namibia while operating under the protective wing, and with the sophisticated logistical support, of a substantial conventional force situated a short distance across the border."

US, Soviets set to agree on Angola?

31/5/88

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B/day

LONDON — The US and Soviet Union are said to be ready to offer superpower guarantees to accompany an Angolan peace settlement involving SA and Cuban troop withdrawals.

The Guardian's diplomatic correspondent said from Moscow yesterday the superpowers were moving towards an agreed settlement that even SA would find hard to resist.

US Under Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker and his Soviet counterpart, Anatoly Adamyshin, who recently met in Lisbon, are holding more intensive talks in Moscow.

Crocker, not usually a participant in superpower summits, was said to have been brought to Moscow because the Lisbon talks proved sufficiently encouraging.

The Guardian report said the Americans were confident the Soviet Union was finally prepared to concede that



● CROCKER

Own Correspondent

Unita could no longer be dismissed as stooges of the CIA and SA, and could not be expected to be excluded from a government of national reconciliation.

It said: "In an important new development, the two superpowers are ready to offer joint guarantees to accompany a settlement involving Cuban and SA troop withdrawals from Angola, linked to the formation of a government of national reconciliation in Angola and SA implementation of resolution 435 giving independence to Namibia."

Comparing the possible agreement to that reached on Afghanistan, the report said: "While it suited the two superpowers to agree on troop withdrawals without reaching an internal settlement, the two superpowers appear agreed that an end to the civil war in Angola and the formation of a government of national reconciliation must be directly linked to Cuban and SA disengagement."

While SA remained an unknown quantity, the Americans believed there were now persuasive incentives for Pretoria to accept a settlement which was unlikely to recur after President Ronald Reagan left office.

SA, US officials meet on Angola settlement

Cape Town 11/4/88 (S)
PRETORIA. — South African and United States officials met in Washington this week to continue discussions on a settlement in Angola, a Foreign Affairs spokesman confirmed in Cape Town yesterday.

He said South Africa's ambassador to the US, Dr Piet Koornhof, and the director general of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, met US assistant secretary of state Dr Chester Crocker.

"Negotiations will continue," the spokesman said. "The idea is to formulate more concrete proposals."

Meanwhile in Jamba, southern Angola, the vice-president of Unita, Mr Jeremias Chitunda, says more than half of the heads of state of African countries had contacted Unita in an attempt to find a negotiated settlement.

In a communique, Mr Chitunda said contacts between Unita and many black African countries had multiplied since the beginning of the year. — Sapa