

Prime Minister

(2)



Both Hugh Thomas & I am

now have had contacts with Foreign and Commonwealth Officere Savimbi in the recent past. However London SW1A 2AH

I am not aware of any suggestion that

you should meet him later this month. 2 January 1981

You will wish to be aware of how Cameron's views: that Namibian
Seminar is particularly important just now.

Dear Michael,

Angola: Visit of Savimbi

Ph: 6/1

We have heard unofficially that Jonas Savimbi, leader of the UNITA guerilla movement in Angola, is planning to pass through London in the second half of January on his way to Washington, and that he may ask to be received by the Prime Minister.

Our consistent policy has been that no official recognition or contact should be made with Savimbi, and that he should not be seen by British Ministers or officials. Any gesture by HMG towards Savimbi at the present time would:

- a. be viewed by the Angolans as a change of policy, damage our bilateral relations with them and add a further complication to the negotiations for a settlement of Namibia
- b. encourage the Angolans to seek further military assistance from Communist countries;
- c. endanger the important Western stake in Angolan oil and diamonds and adversely affect the prospects for increased British trade; and
- d. lessen the chances of clemency for the British mercenaries held in prison since 1976.

The Angolan Government are highly sensitive to any suggestion that Savimbi is winning support from Western countries. You will recall that President dos Santos sent a personal message to the Prime Minister last May - and when Sir Michael Palliser was visiting Luanda in December, an Angolan Minister complained specifically about the activities of UNITA representatives in London.

UNITA's supporters claim that the Reagan Administration will reverse present US policy and support UNITA. Whatever may have been said by members of the Reagan team during the Presidential Election, there is no indication that the new Administration will in fact alter course or that they have focussed on the details of this issue.

/Savimbi



Savimbi has of course some vocal supporters in this country, and he paid two private visits to London last year. But he was not seen by Ministers or officials on those occasions, and it is essential that we maintain this line. We therefore strongly advise that if Savimbi does ask to see the Prime Minister, the answer should be firmly negative.

For ever
ggh

(G G H Walden)

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Angola

9 January 1981

Angola: Visit of Savimbi

The Prime Minister has seen and taken note of your letter to me of 2 January about a possible visit to this country by Mr. Jonas Savimbi.

MODBA

G.G.H. Walden, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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