

GPS 409
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FM LUANDA 121506Z AUG 81
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 319 OF 12 AUGUST
AND TO PRIORITY CAPETOWN

Prime Minister

MP 13/11/81

mt

CAPETOWN TELNOS 110, 112 AND 115
ANGOLA/SADF

1. I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY HAVE ONLY NOW DISCOVERED EXISTENCE OF ANGOLAN SAMS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA OR IDENTIFIED RADAR INSTALLATIONS FOR FIRST TIME IN COURSE OF OPERATION CARNATION.

2. SOME WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATS IN LUANDA BELIEVE THAT ANGOLANS DECIDED AFTER RAID ON LUBANGO AREA IN 1979 TO DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM AND REQUESTED AND OBTAINED SAMS FROM THEIR RUSSIAN FRIENDS, THEY BELIEVE THAT WORK ON THE SAM SITES IN THE MOCAMEDES AREA STARTED EARLY IN 1980. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REPORTS IN THAT YEAR OF DELIVERY OF SAMS TO THE MOCAMEDES AREA (SEE LUANDA TELNOS 236 OF 6 JUNE AND 267 OF 1 JULY 1980).

3. SAAF CARRY OUT REGULAR OVERFLIGHTS OVER THE AREA IN QUESTION AND IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT SA INTELLIGENCE HAS PRECISE INFORMATION REGARDING SAM INSTALLATIONS AND RADAR STATIONS. I PRESUME THAT AMERICANS ARE ALSO WELL INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT.

4. BEFORE SPECULATING FURTHER ON REASONS FOR GENERAL LLOYD'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND ITS PROBABLE CONNECTION WITH THE DIPLOMATIC AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN WHICH THE ANGOLANS HAVE BEEN MOUNTING ON THE SUBJECT OF SOUTH AFRICA MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA IT WOULD BE VERY ~~HELPFUL~~ HELPFUL TO HAVE SOME GUIDANCE ON THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR AND SOUTH AFRICAN KNOWLEDGE OF ANGOLA'S SOUTHERN AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO ME IF YOU COULD REPEAT ANY SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON THE SUBJECT SENT TO THIS POST EARLIER THAN JUNE OF THIS YEAR.

FCO PASS

KENNEDY

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