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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 612 OF 17 AUG

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS WASHINGTON ROUTINE OTTAWA LUANDA UKMIS NEW YORK CAPE TOWN

BONN TELNO 607 AND YOUR TELNO 1216 TO WASHINGTON: ANGOLA

1. WE HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN STRICT CONFIDENCE (PLEASE PROTECT) A COPY OF THE GERMAN TRANSLATION OF CHEYSSON'S MESSAGE TO HAIG (PARA 2 OF OUR TUR). THE LANGUAGE IS DIFFICULT AND IN SOME PLACES AMBIGUOUS AND, IN VIEW OF PARA 2(C) BELOW, IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT COULD BE READ AS RULING OUT A COMMON DIPLOMATIC LINE ON THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA. CHEYSSON SEEMS TO ACCEPT, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD BE PURSUED IN PARALLEL WITH THE NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS BUT WITHOUT A TEXT LAYING DOWN A COMMON APPROACH.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS OF CHEYSSON'S MESSAGE:

(A) HAIG'S (FIRST) MESSAGE HAD EXACTLY CONFIRMED THE LINE AGREED IN MONTEBELLO.

(B) CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION GIVEN AT THE PARIS MEETING OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS IT NOW SEEMED THAT URGENCY WAS NECESSARY IN APPROACHING AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO WERE INTERESTED IN CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA. FRANCE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THIS AND

HE (CHEYSSON) HAD ALREADY HAD SOME CONTACTS IN THIS SENSE WHICH HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING.

(C) HE (CHEYSSON) DID NOT CONSIDER AS OPPORTUNE A COMMON TEXT, WHICH LAID DOWN A COMMON APPROACH (TO THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN WITHDRAWAL) OR EVEN GAVE ONE OF THE FIVE THE TASK OF NEGOTIATING ON BEHALF OF THE REST. ANY MEASURES TAKEN SHOULD BE PARALLEL, WITH EACH OF THE FIVE TAKING ACTION IN AREAS IN WHICH THEIR EFFORTS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE.

(D) HE (CHEYSSON) CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF GUARANTEES OF NAMIBIAN NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT WAS IMPORTANT. SUCH GUARANTEES SHOULD BE OF INTEREST NOT ONLY TO SWAPO AND OTHER NAMIBIAN MOVEMENTS BUT ALSO TO THE ANGOLANS.

(E) IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO APPROACH THE RUSSIANS AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH HE (CHEYSSON) RECOGNISED THAT THE US MIGHT HAVE OTHER VIEWS, ESPECIALLY ON MATTERS AFFECTING CUBA. IT WAS NOTICEABLE THAT ANGOLA AND CUBA HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE THEME OF CUBAN WITHDRAWAL TO OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THIS WAS PRECIPITATE BUT REINFORCED HIS VIEW THAT NO FORMAL CONNECTION OR MUTUAL DEPENDANCE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE CONTACT GROUP AND THE COMMON DESIRE TO ENABLE THE CUBANS TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA, EVEN IF BOTH THESE TRACKS HAD TO BE PURSUED IN PARALLEL.

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3. THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT CHEYSSON'S MESSAGE HAS BEEN COPIED TO ALL HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FIVE. WE HAVE DONE NOTHING TO DISABUSE THEM OF THIS: AND IT IS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD NOT BECOME KNOWN THAT WE HAVE HAD A SIGHT OF THE TEXT.

4. HERR GENSCHER HAS NOT YET APPROVED A REPLY TO HAIG'S MESSAGES. PFEFFER TOLD ME ON 14 AUGUST THAT A DRAFT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM DESIGNED TO AVOID INFLAMING THE SITUATION. BUT THE FINAL DECISION ON THE TERMS OF THE REPLY WOULD BE GENSCHER'S ALONE AND THAT HE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY TAKE OFFICIALS' ADVICE.

TAYLOR

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