

GRS 460

UNCLASSIFIED

FM CAPETOWN EMBASSY 261520Z AUG 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 153 OF 26 AUGUST

AND TO MODUK (DI 4)

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK LUANDA

INFO ROUTINE PATIS BONN OTTAWA LAGOS

MY TELNO 151 (NOT TO LAGOS) : SOUTH AFRICA/ANGOLA

1. THE PRIME MINISTER, P W BOTHA, MADE A STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY THIS AFTERNOON (26 AUGUST) ON CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ACTIONS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA. HE BEGAN BY MAKING FOUR POINTS, AS FOLLOWS.

A) SOUTH AFRICA HAD CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO COOPERATE WITH HER NEIGHBOURS TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. AT THE SAME TIME, SOUTH AFRICA HAD WARNED THESE COUNTRIES NOT TO SHELTER COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED TERRORISTS ACTING AGAINST NAMIBIA AND THE REPUBLIC NOR TO LET THEM OPERATE FROM THEIR TERRITORY

B) THE STORM OF ACCUSATIONS COMING FROM ANGOLA ABOUT A LARGE SCALE INVASION WERE NOT ONLY EXAGGERATED BUT ALSO AN ABSURD MISREPRESENTATION OF THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS.

C) THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN TERRITORY FORCE, SUPPORTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE, WAS CONSISTENTLY ACTIVE IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND PROTECTING THE LOCAL POPULATION, PARTICULARLY IN OVAMBOLAND. IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT ABLE TO SIT ON HER SIDE OF THE BORDER WAITING FOR TERRORISTS TO INFILTRATE THE TERRITORY TO MURDER AND INTIMIDATE PEOPLE AND PLANT MINES. FURTHER, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT DESIST FROM FOLLOW-UP OPERATIONS IF THE ANARCHISTS FLED OVER THE BORDER.

D) THE SO-CALLED INVASION REFERED TO BY ANGOLA WAS JUST ONE OF THESE OPERATIONS AND WOULD HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT INCIDENT IF THE ANGOLANS HAD NOT INTERVENED. THE SECURITY FORCES WERE HOWEVER READY FOR SUCH INTERVENTION AND HAD DEFENDED THEMSELVES WITH GOOD RESULTS, AT THE SAME TIME SUCCEEDING IN WIPING OUT VARIOUS TERRORIST POSITIONS AND STORAGE BUILDINGS.

2. P W BOTHA CONTINUED THAT HE TRUSTED THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW PAY ATTENTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S REQUEST THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO INTERVENTION AS WELL AS TO SOUTH AFRICAN IDEALS OF LIVING IN PEACE WITH HER NEIGHBOURS, AND WOULD CEASE TO GET INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS WHICH WERE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEM, BUT AGAINST TERRORISM. SOUTH AFRICA HOPED THAT ANGOLA WOULD ALSO RESPOND TO HER REQUESTS TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

/PW BOTHA

P W BOTHA TRUSTED ALSO THAT THE ANGOLANS WOULD NOT USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO LAY BLAME FOR EVERYTHING DONE BY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS UNITA AT SOUTH AFRICA'S DOOR. SOUTH AFRICA WAS PERFECTLY AWARE THAT THE UN WAS HOLDING A SPECIAL SESSION ON 3 SEPTEMBER AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THAT DATE HAD A SERIOUS INFLUENCE ON THE INTENSITY OF REPORTING AND ACCUSATION FROM ANGOLA. THE PRESENT ANGOLAN OVER-REACTION WAS ALSO ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE FLOOD OF ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LAST FORTNIGHT. SOUTH AFRICA WAS CLEARLY STILL THE EASY SCAPE-GOAT FOR ANGOLA'S INABILITY TO PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER.  
REID

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