



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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 Withdrawal of Cuban troops will not be undertaken until there is no hard line proposed...  
 Namibian independence and the U.S. wants 26/8 Namibian withdrawal  
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Dear Tim,

Namibia and Cuba/Angola

You will have seen the reports from Luanda on the meeting between our Charge d'Affaires and the Angolan President on 24 August, when President Dos Santos asked for a message to be transmitted to the Prime Minister in reply to Mrs Thatcher's letter of 23 July. You will also have seen President Machel's claim to have played a central part in helping along the US/Angolan negotiations on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. (I enclose copies of Luanda telnos 411 - 413 and Maputo telno 265.)

It is clear that the Angolans are at last addressing the issues seriously; the Americans think they have achieved a breakthrough, but this may be premature. It is not yet possible to say whether the final Angolan position will be sufficiently forthcoming to meet the minimum American criteria as to what the South Africans - and President Reagan - will accept. Mr Pym has accordingly concluded that a further message from the Prime Minister to President Dos Santos would not be appropriate at this stage; but we have instructed our Charge d'Affaires in Luanda to convey the Prime Minister's thanks for President Dos Santos's message and for his Government's helpful attitude in these negotiations. We are taking a similar line with President Machel, who appears to have used his influence with Dos Santos in a helpful way.

Yours ever

*John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

31 August 1982

Thank you for your letter of 26 August about Namibia and Angola.

The Prime Minister agrees that no further letter to President Dos Santos is now needed. She agrees with your assessment that the American belief in a breakthrough may be premature. It seems to the Prime Minister that the gap is still very wide. Angola does not appear to be considering a Cuban withdrawal until after Namibian independence (other than a token gesture before), and even afterwards there is no timescale. The United States on the other hand is seeking Cuban withdrawal in parallel with progress towards Namibian independence and completion at virtually the same time.

Timothy Flesher

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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