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Mr Squire

CONFIDENTIAL
FM LUANDA 130825Z DEC 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 832 OF 13 DECEMBER

No 10.

BRITISH MERCENARIES

1. I SAW VENANCIO DA MOURA YESTERDAY (12 DECEMBER). HE WAS DUE TO HAVE YET ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT LATER IN THE DAY (THIS CAUTIOUS WORRYING AT A PROBLEM IS TYPICAL OF THE WAY DOS SANTOS TAKES DECISIONS). DA MOURA AGAIN WENT OVER THE GROUND COVERED IN RECENT MEETINGS AND I MADE THE POINTS IN YOUR TELNO 565. I HAVE SINCE GIVEN HIM A PIECE OF PAPER SETTING OUT RECENT MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING 1983 AND OUR POSITION ON A POSSIBLE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

2. AFTER HE HAD SEEN THE PRESIDENT, DA MOURA TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD EXPECT TO BE SUMMONED BY DOS SANTOS, PROBABLY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE LUSOPHONE SUMMIT IN BISSAU. HE WANTED TO HEAR FROM ME AT FIRST HAND WHAT I HAD BEEN SAYING TO JORGE AND DA MOURA.

3. THE SUMMONS TO THE PRESIDENT IS LIKELY TO COME AT SHORT NOTICE. PLEASE THEREFORE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT IS IN DOS SANTOS' LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND WHETHER YOU WISH ME TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

GOULDING

ANGOLA: Int Sat Oct 79