

Top Secret

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PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA (S)

[Redacted]

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SEPTEMBER 1977
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Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
REL . . . -	This Information has been Authorized for Release to . . .



MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA (S)

1. (TSR) This report summarizes military construction at airfields in the northern portion of Namibia (South-West Africa) along the Angola border, including the Caprivi Strip and the Zambia border region. Construction includes the upgrading of support and logistics facilities for air and ground forces at five airfields. Each airfield was constructed during the 1960s; improvements were observed at each location from October 1975 to July 1977. Figure 1 shows the locations of these airfields and has an inset table giving runway data.

2. (TSR) The most extensive expansion of facilities has taken place at Grootfontein Airfield, approximately 130 nautical miles (nm) south of the Angola border. Figures 2 and 3 show the Grootfontein Airfield and the adjacent Grootfontein Army Camp [redacted] as they appeared in August 1971 and as they appeared in April 1977. An approximately 4,040-meter runway was being built parallel to the existing 2,700-meter east-northeast/west-southwest blacktop runway in April 1977. While still operational, this existing runway was being lengthened. A large maintenance hangar, maintenance and shop buildings, and additional parking aprons were added to the airfield, which expanded its support capability. These support facilities resemble those seen at major air force installations within South Africa such as Waterkloof Airfield [redacted] and Pietersburg Airfield [redacted]. A simultaneous upgrading of facilities has taken place at the adjacent Grootfontein Army Camp. A multiwing headquarters/administration complex and 32 barracks (all of which are connected by covered passageways), a large vehicle maintenance and storage area, a rail-served POL storage area, and recreational facilities all appear to be complete. The POL storage area is on a spur of the Namibian rail network which is connected to the South African rail system.

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3. (TSR) Much less extensive improvements have taken place at the other four airfields. At Ruacana Airfield, just south of the Angola border and 7 nm east of Ruacana Falls, a hangar has been constructed adjacent to the parking apron. Fifty tents were observed at the adjacent military camp [redacted]

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4. (TSR) New support facilities and increased air activity were observed at Ondangua Airfield [redacted]. Two revetted aircraft alert aprons and four other revetted areas were seen in April along the parallel taxiway. A large bivouac area was adjacent to the airfield and included at least 250 tents, two revetted probable ammunition storage areas, four other revetted storage areas, and approximately 150 vehicles, most of which were cargo trucks. All of these facilities have been added since February 1976. Prior to the sighting of three Puma and three Alouette helicopters at the airfield [redacted] only transport and small straight-winged aircraft had been observed.

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5. (TSR) [redacted] three large administration/support buildings and 32 small buildings were under construction in one of the revetted areas along the taxiway. Also, grading was underway for an additional revetment. One additional Puma helicopter and five small straight-wing liaison aircraft were observed in July. An air warning radar facility consisting of three unidentified radars on mounds was seen in April and July.

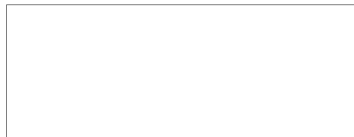
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6. (TSR) At Runtu Airfield permanent support facilities that have been constructed include an administration/barracks complex that is interconnected by covered passageways and six storage/maintenance buildings (Figure 4). Approximately 200 personnel tents and 19 larger tents were seen at this facility [redacted]

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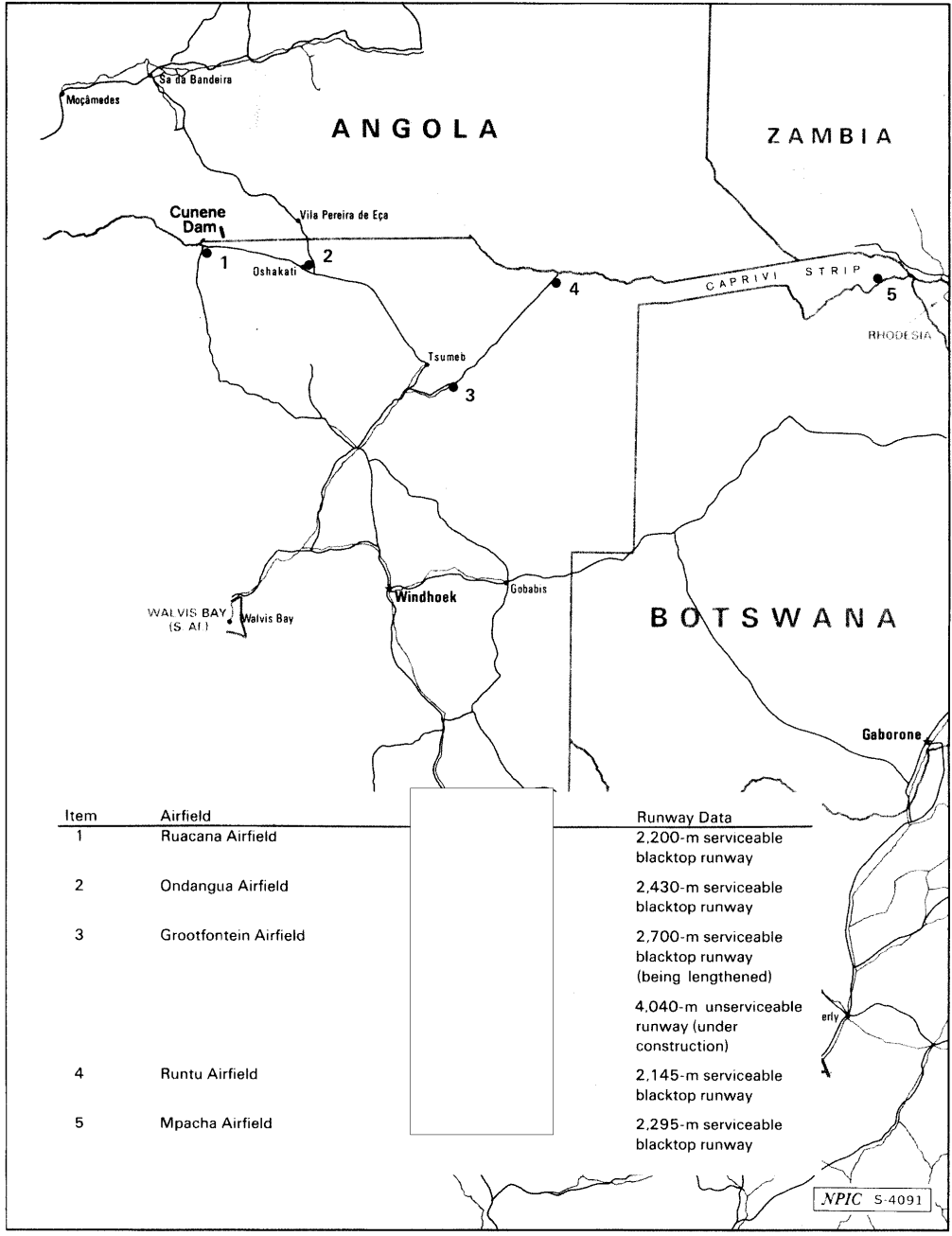
7. (TSR) Construction of similar permanent buildings has been seen at Mpacha Airfield in the eastern Caprivi Strip, approximately 10 nm south of the Zambia border (Figure 5). At least 30 administration, barracks, and support buildings have been added. The foundations for these buildings were first observed in October 1975 [redacted] shows that a maintenance program was being carried out at the flight facilities at the airfield, including the parallel taxiway, parking aprons, and crossover links.

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South-West Africa (Namibia)



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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF AIRFIELDS IN NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA) WHERE MILITARY-RELATED CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED

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REFERENCES



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MAPS OR CHARTS

Operational Navigation Chart, Sheets P3 and -4, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

REQUIREMENT

Project 143480NC



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List of Conversion Factors by Classification

UNITS OF LENGTH

<i>IF YOU HAVE</i>	<i>MULTIPLY BY</i>	<i>TO OBTAIN</i>
MILLIMETERS	0.0394	INCHES
CENTIMETERS	0.3937	INCHES
INCHES	25.4000	MILLIMETERS
INCHES	2.5400	CENTIMETERS
FEET	0.3048	METERS
FEET	0.0003	KILOMETERS
YARDS	0.9144	METERS
METERS	3.2808	FEET
METERS	0.0005	MILES(NAUTICAL)
METERS	1.0936	YARDS
KILOMETERS	3280.8400	FEET
KILOMETERS	0.6214	MILES(STATUTE)
KILOMETERS	0.5400	MILES(NAUTICAL)
MILES(STATUTE)	1.6093	KILOMETERS
MILES(NAUTICAL)	6076.1154	FEET
MILES(NAUTICAL)	1.8520	KILOMETERS
MILES(NAUTICAL)	1852.0000	METERS

UNITS OF AREA

<i>IF YOU HAVE</i>	<i>MULTIPLY BY</i>	<i>TO OBTAIN</i>
SQUARE CENTIMETERS	0.1550	SQUARE INCHES
SQUARE INCHES	6.4516	SQUARE CENTIMETERS
SQUARE FEET	0.0929	SQUARE METERS
SQUARE YARDS	0.8361	SQUARE METERS
SQUARE METERS	10.7639	SQUARE FEET
SQUARE METERS	1.1960	SQUARE YARDS
SQUARE METERS	1.0000	CENTARES
SQUARE METERS	0.0002	ACRES
SQUARE METERS	0.0001	HECTARES
ACRES	4046.8564	SQUARE METERS
ACRES	0.4047	HECTARES
HECTARES	10000.0000	SQUARE METERS
HECTARES	2.4711	ACRES

UNITS OF MASS

<i>IF YOU HAVE</i>	<i>MULTIPLY BY</i>	<i>TO OBTAIN</i>
KILOGRAMS	2.2046	POUNDS(AVOIR.)
POUNDS(AVOIR.)	0.4536	KILOGRAMS
SHORT TONS	0.9072	METRIC TONS
METRIC TONS	1.1023	SHORT TONS
METRIC TONS	0.9842	LONG TONS
LONG TONS	1.0160	METRIC TONS

UNITS OF VOLUME

<i>IF YOU HAVE</i>	<i>MULTIPLY BY</i>	<i>TO OBTAIN</i>
LITERS	0.2642	GALLONS
LITERS	0.0063	BARRELS(POL)
LITERS	0.0010	CUBIC METERS
GALLONS	3.7854	LITERS
GALLONS	0.1337	CUBIC FEET
GALLONS	0.0238	BARRELS(POL)
GALLONS	0.0038	CUBIC METERS
BUSHELS	0.0352	CUBIC METERS
CUBIC FEET	7.4805	GALLONS
CUBIC FEET	0.1781	BARRELS(POL)
CUBIC FEET	0.0283	CUBIC METERS
CUBIC YARDS	0.7646	CUBIC METERS
BARRELS(POL)	158.9873	LITERS
BARRELS(POL)	42.0000	GALLONS
BARRELS(POL)	5.6146	CUBIC FEET
BARRELS(POL)	0.1590	CUBIC METERS
CUBIC METERS	1000.0000	LITERS
CUBIC METERS	264.1721	GALLONS
CUBIC METERS	35.3147	CUBIC FEET
CUBIC METERS	28.3776	BUSHELS
CUBIC METERS	6.2898	BARRELS(POL)
CUBIC METERS	1.3080	CUBIC YARDS

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