

Southern Africa Briefing for PFIAB

- I. In southern Africa, there is increased political maneuvering over the Namibia issue. All the parties to the negotiations will begin gathering in New York next week to discuss the modalities of a ceasefire and elections, but the question of a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola has emerged as an overriding issue.
- South Africa has shown flexibility on many outstanding issues, but demands a Cuban withdrawal from Angola as a condition for a settlement.
 - We believe that Angola wants a settlement to end South African military pressure, but the government there may be too weak and divided to carry through on President dos Santos' apparent willingness to trade withdrawal of at least some Cubans for a settlement.
 - The Soviets see important geopolitical benefits from their continued involvement in Angola, and various clandestine and diplomatic sources have reported consistent Soviet efforts to obstruct settlement efforts.
- II. Meanwhile, in Mozambique President Machel's Marxist regime is shaky, largely because of its inability to contain a South African-backed insurgent group.

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-- Although Machel continues to maintain close ties with his traditional military suppliers, the Soviet Union and its allies, he recently has made overtures to the West, including the US, in the hope that these countries might rein in Pretoria.

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