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**NIO/AF Thoughts on the Namibia Problem**

We have agreed with the South African government that by July 15 some arrangement will have been reached with the Angolans and Cubans for the departure of Cuban troops from Angola. The South African government has indicated that whether or not this agreement is reached, it will proceed with an election in Namibia in March 1983. If the Cubans have departed, the election would be held under UN auspices; otherwise there will be an internal settlement.

**This leaves out the whole problem of the role and place of UNITA and Savimbi. There are three alternative scenarios:**

(1) Savimbi reaches a reconciliation with MPLA -- very unlikely and in any case if Savimbi went to Luanda he might well be killed.

(2) Savimbi could be persuaded to depart Angola voluntarily under pressure from the international community. This is equally unlikely.

(3) Angola could be partitioned, de facto if not de jure. This would leave Savimbi as the "Duke of southern Angola" and would provide a buffer zone from the South African point of view against possible Soviet influence on a new Namibian government. Obviously, many problems would have to be resolved, but in my view this scenario should be examined closely. The domestic political cost in the US of applying pressure to Savimbi to desert the leadership of UNITA would be very high, and it is possible that partition, even for a limited period of time, may be the best solution. A fuller speculation on this possibility can be supplied if it would be of interest to you.

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