

30 September 1983

Situation in Angola

The political balance within Angola's ruling Popular Movement is delicate and tense. Ideological and ethnic factionalism has paralyzed decisionmaking, and over the past several years the Angolan Government has been increasingly unable to deal with deteriorating economic and social conditions.

-- President dos Santos has been attempting to strengthen his position, but lacks the support to implement new policy directives that would be favorable to the US and the West.



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Soviet and Cuban influence is growing as Angola's military situation deteriorates. Moscow is Angola's main arms supplier and the 25,000 to 30,000 Cuban troops are the government's only reliable force. Moscow and Havana are concerned that their considerable investment in the country is at risk.



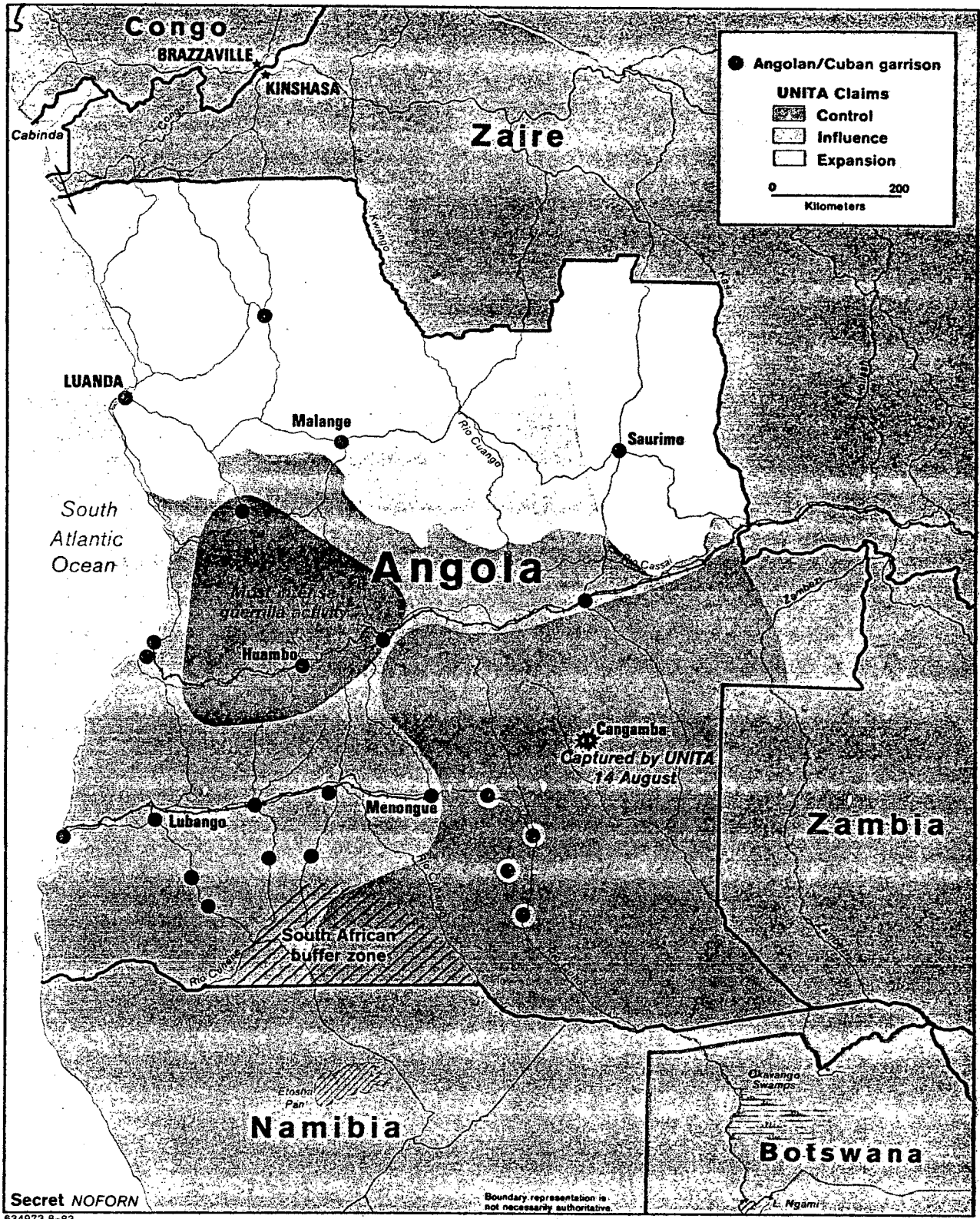
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Luanda has steadily lost ground to the UNITA insurgents over the past year and is bolstering its thinly stretched forces to meet new insurgent threats. South Africa continues to occupy a buffer zone in southern Angola and probably has stepped up its assistance to UNITA.



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