



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
P. O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

6 November 1985
MMB-5012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau -- October 1985

I. GENERAL

Ambassador Harvey Nelson arrived in Swaziland on the 7th. Country team members greeted the ambassador at the airport and then attended a dinner for him on the 8th, hosted by DCM Gerald Scott and his wife. On the 10th the ambassador visited the bureau for a general tour and briefing. He had previously served as a political officer in South Africa and expressed keen interest in the bureau's coverage. He asked to receive regularly the bureau's South African press review. On the 14th Ambassador Nelson and other Embassy officers attended dinner at the bureau chief's house to meet the visiting IG team.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. On 30 October, South Africa held by-elections in five constituencies located in various parts of the country and in both rural and urban areas. Both the government and observers regarded them as a referendum on State President P. W. Botha's reform policy. Headquarters analysts expressed interest in detailed coverage of the campaign, and the bureau filed considerable material both from the radio and SAPA; but even more from the South Africa press in the bureau's press review. On election night, 30-31 October, the bureau remained open all night to provide prompt coverage. The results trickled in all night, the last being received at 0615 local. Although the National Party won four out of five seats, it lost one seat it had previously held to the extreme right-wing Reformed National Party; and its margins of victory in the constituencies it won were cut in half. Both left and right interpreted the results as a victory for the right-wing, but Botha, in a post-election statement, said the results were good considering the unrest and pledged to continue reform.

2. During the month, the Commonwealth countries met and, with Prime Minister Thatcher staving off the worst sanctions, gave South Africa six months to reform or face more than the minimal sanctions imposed.

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In response, at a by-election meeting on the 21st, Botha warned the West that sanctions could hurt the U.S. and Europe, noting that a million Americans would lose their jobs if the RSA cut off its export of chrome. The bureau stayed open late to file this 'threat,' although Botha subsequently issued a statement claiming it was not really a threat.

3. Rioting broke out in Cape Town during the latter part of the month. Unlike much of the unrest which has been mostly confined to the black townships, much of this unrest touched white residential areas; and one incident, reported fully on SABC-TV, took place in front of a posh white shopping center in the center of the city. On the 25th, SAPA announced that Botha had extended the state of emergency to eight Cape districts, only days after he had ended it in six others. Stone throwing also took place in downtown Johannesburg on two successive Fridays, causing a considerable amount of damage. The first such disturbance came after a meeting to commemorate ANC member Benjamin Moloise, hanged on the 18th despite pleas for mercy from all over the world, including from prominent South Africans.

4. At the request of BBC, the bureau arranged with SAPA to receive an advanced text of the SABC comment normally carried by the radio at 0700 local each weekday morning. The commentary is considered to be a highly authoritative statement of government views. The advanced copy is sent priority only to BBC and the wire and bears the FOUO caveat per guidance from MOD. It is then usually sent to normal consumers the following day with a radio sourceline. BBC expressed appreciation for this service and said the commentaries were "extremely useful."

5. On the 2nd, Swazi Prime Minister Bhekimpi announced the ouster from the Liqoqo of Prince Mfanasibili and George Msibi and the firing of Commissioner of Police Majaji Simelane, which the bureau filed immediately from Mbabane radio. Although Mfanasibili and Msibi held no high government positions, they were regarded as being the de facto rulers of the country. Subsequently, it was announced that the Liqoqo had been downgraded from being the "supreme council of state" to merely the "council of state." At the end of the month, it was announced that the Crown Prince, now attending school in England, would be crowned next year. Mfanasibili was quoted as saying cryptically: "Sometimes it thunders in Swaziland and men are swept away." At an impromptu country team meeting on the 2nd, DCM Gerald Scott highly praised the bureau for its rapid processing of the statement, which was first announced in SiSwati. The statement was also provided to the British High Commission.

6. On the 24th, the bureau provided reaction to President Reagan's speech at the United Nations proposing Soviet-American cooperation in dealing with Third World disputes, one of which is in Angola. RSA President P. W. Botha and Foreign Minister Pik Botha both

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highly praised the speech and agreed with Reagan's assessment of Angola. Luanda Radio reported the speech, but failed to report the portions dealing with the conflict in the country except for noting Reagan's pledge to continue supporting "counterrevolutionary organizations" in Angola and elsewhere.

B. Lateral Services

1. The director of AID in Swaziland asked to receive the bureau's file on Mozambique. USAID Swaziland is handling much of the new AID program being put into Maputo and Embassy personnel regularly travel there.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Editor [redacted] departed 11 October for PCS to Headquarters.

2. Portuguese monitor [redacted] one of two monitors who came to the bureau from EAU, resigned 12 October to accept a fellowship in the States. The bureau has advertised locally for a replacement and is currently testing candidates.

IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1. Two IG Inspectors visited the bureau 13-17 October.

2. London Bureau teletypist [redacted] arrived on the 11th to provide support to the bureau's teletype section. [redacted] returned to London on the 13th.

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau

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SWAZILAND BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH	475,380		
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH	: 21,460		
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH	: 1,120		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	5,605	8,040	95
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)	190,980	219,800	64,600

ANGOLA

Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese	27,820		
Luanda ANGOP in English		1,270	
Luanda ANGOP in French		1,250	
Luanda ANGOP in Spanish		1,010	

BOTSWANA

Gaborone Domestic Service in English	4,090		
Gaborone BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS in English			

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe	1,890		
(Clandestine) Radio Truth in Ndebele to Zimbabwe			
(Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola		2,960	
(Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern & Central Africa		610	
(Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern & Central Africa			
(Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern & Central Africa			
(Clandestine) Voice of Truth in Portuguese to Angola			

LESOTHO

Maseru Domestic Service in English	4,380		
Maseru Domestic Service in seSotho			

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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LESOTHO

Maseru Domestic Service in
seSotho
Maseru THE NATION in
English
Maseru THE COMMET in
English & Maseru
MOCHOCHONOCHO in
seSotho

MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo Domestic Service in
French

MALAWI

Blantyre Domestic Service in
English
Blantyre DAILY TIMES in
English
Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in
English

290

MAURITIUS

Port Louis Domestic Service in
English
Port Louis Domestic Service in
French

MOCAMBIQUE

Maputo Domestic Service in
Portuguese
Maputo in
English to Southern Africa
Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in
Portuguese
Maputo NOTICIAS in
Portuguese
Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese

22,330

2,580

NAMIBIA

Windhoek Domestic Service in
Afrikaans
Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in
Afrikaans
Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in
English
Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in
English
Windhoek DIE SUIDWESTER in
Afrikaans

	CASTS	AGENCIES	CATIONS
SOUTH AFRICA			
Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans	1,130		
Johannesburg Domestic Service in English	25,190		
Johannesburg International Service in English	6,610		
Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans	13,660		
Johannesburg Television Service in English	23,180		
Umtata Capital Radio in English	13,980		
Johannesburg SAPA in English		212,700	
Durban ILANGA in Zulu			
Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans			
Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English			
Johannesburg O'SECULO in Portuguese			
Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans			
Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English			1,130
Johannesburg SOWETAN in English			
Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English			1,590
Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English			1,280
Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English			
Johannesburg THE STAR in English			450
Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English			
Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans			
RSA Press Review			56,130
SWAZILAND			
Mbabane Domestic Service in English	1,460		
Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati	800		
Mbabane Television Service in English	370		
Mbabane Television Service in Siswati			
Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English			430
Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English			360
Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English			350

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English 15,370

USSR

Moscow in Ndebele to Zimbabwe 6,620
 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa

ZAMBIA

Lusaka Domestic Service in English 7,450
 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 2,960
 Lusaka Voice of Freedom in English to Southern Africa
 Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 1,650
 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English
 Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English

ZIMBABWE

Harare Domestic Service in English 7,780
 Harare Domestic Service in Ndebele 1,040
 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1,230
 Harare THE HERALD in English
 Harare THE SUNDAY MAIL in English
 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English