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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #02557-85  
17 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Frederick L. Wettering *W*  
National Intelligence Officer for Africa

SUBJECT: Namibia/Angola: The MPLA Reply to the Latest  
US Initiative Sidesteps Substance

1. As we foresaw, the Angolan MPLA reply to our latest initiative--the somewhat controversial "nonpaper" on Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola--did not contain any substantive reply to the Cuban troop withdrawal issue.

2. Assistant Secretary of State Chet Crocker briefed me on 17 May. According to Chet, the MPLA reply was primarily a complaint about recent South African actions, including the formation of an internal party government in Namibia and the unilateral South African withdrawal from Angola, which the MPLA claimed represented indicators of bad faith by the South Africans. On the other hand, the MPLA noted their earlier offer on Cuban troop withdrawal as "proof" of their good faith. The MPLA reply concluded that until these issues were clarified further progress on the Cuban matter was "not possible at this time." The MPLA did invite another meeting with a State Department official to amplify its concerns and hear our interpretation of events. The MPLA also inquired obliquely as to how we were going to deal with the forthcoming UN Security Council debate (probably in June) on South Africa-Namibia.

3. Chet added that State just briefly had replied in turn to the MPLA agreeing to another meeting but disagreeing that South African actions were germane to the issue or represented impediments to a settlement.



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4. Chet opined that he suspected the MPLA was undergoing another power struggle within the Politburo and also planned a big offensive against UNITA and this might have precluded a substantive response. We have no evidence as yet of an MPLA power struggle but such is always possible. The real reason is, of course, that the MPLA has no intention of meeting our terms on the Cuban issue in my opinion.

  
Frederick L. Wetters

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