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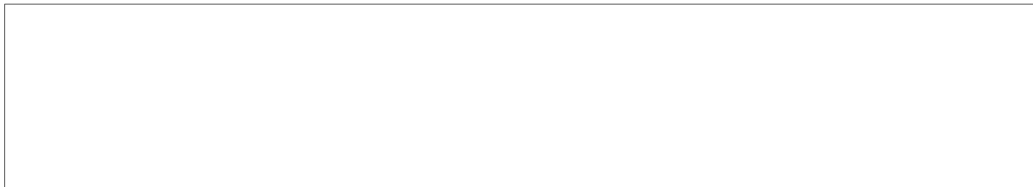
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FROM AF/P: INFORM CONSULS AND PAOS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XA
SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS, SEPTEMBER 15, 1988

BRUSSELS PLEASE PASS USEC
CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

THE WASHINGTON POST

-- THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTED 10 TO 9 ON
 A STRAIGHT PARTY LINE YESTERDAY TO APPROVE HARSH NEW
 ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THE LEGISLATION,
 BACKED BY 10 DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AND OPPOSED BY ALL NINE
 REPUBLICANS, WOULD VASTLY EXPAND SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY
 CONGRESS IN 1986 OVER PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VETO. IT WOULD
 CUT OFF VIRTUALLY ALL U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA TRADE AND FORCE
 AMERICAN FIRMS TO WITHDRAW ALMOST ALL INVESTMENTS FROM THE
 COUNTRY. BEFORE SENDING THE BILL TO THE SENATE FLOOR, THE
 COMMITTEE ACCEPTED A LAST-MINUTE AMENDMENT BY KEY SPONSOR
 SEN. ALAN CRANSTON (D-CALIF.) TO DELETE A PROVISION THAT
 WOULD PENALIZE FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS WITH
 SOUTH AFRICA WHEN THEY BID IN THE UNITED STATES FOR OIL

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AND GAS LEASES. THE PROVISION BROUGHT A STRONG PROTEST FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH THREATENED COUNTER-SANCTIONS AGAINST AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES IN BRITAIN. CRANSTON'S MOVE TO DELETE THE PROVISION DREW A STRONG PROTEST FROM SEN. JESSE HELMS WHO ASSAILED THE LAST-MINUTE AMENDMENT AS CONTRARY TO A UNANIMOUS, BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO ACT ON THE LEGISLATION WITHOUT CHANGING IT. ALTHOUGH CRANSTON SAID THE DEMOCRATS WOULD PRESS FOR FINAL PASSAGE INCLUDING A VETO OVERRIDE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED TO REPORTERS LATER THAT IF THE REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN A SOLID FRONT AGAINST THE MEASURE, IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FINAL ENACTMENT. MDU LEMBEDE REPORTS. P. A29; W.T. P. A3; C.S.M. P. 2; N.Y.T. P. A10.

-- JUST A HALF-HOUR AFTER POPE JOHN PAUL II'S MOTORCADE PASSED WITHIN SEVERAL BLOCKS, SOUTH AFRICAN COMMANDOS OPENED FIRE WEDNESDAY NIGHT ON GUERRILLAS HOLDING 69 PILGRIMS HOSTAGE ON A HIJACKED BUS IN LESOTHO'S CAPITAL, MASERU. THREE HIJACKERS AND A WOMAN HOSTAGE WERE KILLED AND 11 PERSONS WERE WOUNDED. THE FOURTH HIJACKER WAS CAPTURED. THE SHOOTOUT ENDED A 26-HOUR DRAMA HIGHLIGHTED BY THE GUNMEN'S DEMAND THAT THE POPE, ALONG WITH THE KING OF LESOTHO AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, MEET WITH THEM. A SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIREFIGHT ERUPTED WHEN THE HIJACKERS ATTEMPTED TO RAM THE BUS THROUGH THE CLOSED GATES OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY. AN ESCAPED HOSTAGE SAID THE HIJACKERS CLAIMED TO BE GUERRILLAS OF THE LESOTHO LIBERATION ARMY (LLA), WHICH IS SEEKING TO OUST THE MILITARY JUNTA THAT CONTROLS THE COUNTRY. THE LLA HAS DENIED RESPONSIBILITY. WHILE A LESOTHO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DENIED THAT ANY SOUTH AFRICANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE BUS SIEGE, OR THAT LESOTHO HAD REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM PRETORIA, THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTRY OF LAW AND ORDER CONFIRMED THAT ITS SECURITY FORCES TOOK PART. MEANWHILE, DURING THE POPE'S UNSCHEDULED STOP IN JOHANNESBURG, HE MET WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA IN THE AIRPORT'S VIP LOUNGE. WILLIAM CLAIBORNE REPORTS. P. 1; W.S.J. P. 1; N.Y.T. P. A11, A1 (PHOTO); W.T. A11; BALT. SUN P. 28A; C.S.M. P. 8.

-- SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA SAID ON WEDNESDAY THAT THE THREE ANTIAPARTHEID ACTIVISTS TAKING REFUGE IN THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN JOHANNESBURG AFTER ESCAPING DETENTION ARE FREE TO LEAVE AND WILL NOT BE REARRESTED. BUT THE LAWYER FOR THE THREE MEN SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL WORD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STANCE AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT HIS CLIENTS PLANNED TO DO. A LAW AND ORDER MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THE THREE "ARE FREE PEOPLE PROVIDED THEY DO NOT BREAK ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S LAWS." IN A STATEMENT THE THREE ACTIVISTS SAID: "WE SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE U.S. CONSULATE BECAUSE WE FAILED TO SEE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR CONTINUED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL. WE HAVE NOW RESORTED TO THE ONLY DIGNIFIED RESPONSE TO OUR CONTINUED INCARCERATION." THEIR STATEMENT ALSO CALLED FOR AN END TO THE 27-MONTH STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DEMANDED THAT THEY NOT FACE REDETENTION IF THEY LEFT THE CONSULATE. THE LAWYER FOR THE THREE MEN, KRISH NAIDOO, SAID HIS CLIENTS GAVE NO INDICATION THEY WANT TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA WHEN HE MET WITH THEM EARLIER ON WEDNESDAY. P. A29; BALT. SUN P. 28A; C.S.M. P. 8; W.S.J. P. 1;

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

-- BURUNDI HAS BARRED ENTRY TO ASSISTANT OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL BROWNSON DEDE. MR. DEDE SAID THE OAU'S POSITION WASN'T TO CONDEMN A MEMBER COUNTRY FOR ITS ACTIONS BUT TO TRY AND HELP IT FIND A SOLUTION TO A

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PROBLEM. THIS DECLARATION IS THE FIRST ON-THE-RECORD COMMENT BY A SENIOR OAU OFFICIAL SINCE THE MASSACRE ERUPTED IN BURUNDI. IN ADDITION TO DENYING MR. DEDE ENTRY, PRESIDENT BUYOYA ALSO REFUSED ENTRY TO EUROPEAN REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE MASSACRES. OFFICIALLY, THE BURUNDIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS 5,000 DIED IN THE MASSACRE WHILE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT SOURCE HAS STATES THE NUMBER COULD BE AS HIGH AS 24,000. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE REPORTS FROM KIGALI. P. A11;

-- AS NOTED IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT, THE IMF IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED OVER LATE PAYMENTS OF LOANS AND HAS BEEN SETTING ASIDE MONEY IN A CONTINGENCY FUND TO MAKE UP FOR THE CUT IN RECEIPTS. MONETARY SOURCES SAID THE ARRANGEMENT SUGGESTS FURTHER THAT THE IMF IS BECOMING MORE WORRIED ABOUT COUNTRIES EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO MAKE THEIR LOAN PAYMENTS. THE REPORT NOTED THAT EIGHT COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR NEW ASSISTANCE BY THE FUND BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN IN ARREARS ON LOAN PAYMENTS FOR OVER A YEAR. FIVE OF THE EIGHT COUNTRIES ARE AFRICAN -- PERU, SUDAN, LIBERIA, GUYANA, VIETNAM, ZAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE AND SOMALIA. HONDURAS, PANAMA AND HAITI ARE ATLEAST SIX MONTHS IN ARREARS AND OTHERS ARE BEING CLOSELY MONITORED. ALVER CARLSON REPORTED FROM REUTERS. P. C4;

-- IN A NEWS ANALYSIS, PETER YOUNGHUSBAND WRITES THAT THE RECENT BOTHA/CHISSANO WARMING TREND COULD PROVE TO BE AN HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN THE APPROACH OF PRETORIA TO THE FLS. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PRETORIA EMPHASIZED THAT BOTHA'S GUARANTEE OF STOPPING AID TO RENAMO WASN'T AN ISOLATED PHENOMENON. THIS MOVE IS PART OF A LARGER NEW POLICY PATTERN WHICH STARTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHEN THE SAG DECIDED TO PULL ITS TROOPS FROM ANGOLA AND TO EXTEND A PUBLIC PLEDGE TO BEGIN NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE PLANS WITH THE EXPECTATION OF A CTW FROM ANGOLA. SOURCES SAY PRETORIA APPEARS TO HAVE MADE A DELIBERATE, GENERAL POLICY SWITCH AWAY FROM GIVING AID TO REBEL MOVEMENTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND SEEMS EAGER TO EMPHASIZE TO THE WORLD ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO "CONSTRUCTIVE ARRANGEMENTS" WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IF CARRIED OUT, PRETORIA COULD UNDERCUT THE BASIC CHARGE BY ITS NEIGHBORS THAT THE SAG IN ENGAGED IN A DESTABILIZATION EFFORT. AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE MOZAMBICAN AND ANGOLAN SITUATIONS COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ZIMBABWE. A NUMBER OF VARIABLES COULD BE THE ROOT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TURNAROUND, I.E. THE CONDITION OF ITS ECONOMY, THE EXPENSE INVOLVED IN ITS AGRESSION EFFORTS TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBORS, THE REALIZATION THAT THE WEST WON'T COME TO ITS AID AS GUARDIAN AGAINST COMMUNISM, AND THE BELIEF THAT THE WORLD WON'T STOP PRESSURING SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL BLACK AFRICA ASKS THE WORLD. MOZAMBIQUE WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE RESURRECTION OF THE NKOMATI ACCORD. WITHOUT RENAMO, MOZAMBIQUE COULD OPEN UP INTERNAL COMMUNICAION IN THE COUNTRY. MOZAMBIQUE COULD POSSIBLY EXPERIENCE A REVIVAL OF ITS TOURISM INDUSTRY, RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SAG IN EXPANSION OF ITS HARBOR AND RAIL LINES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SEE A RESURGENCE OF THE LUCRATIVE TRADE THAT PREVIOUSLY EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. YOUNGHUSBAND THINKS SOUTH AFRICA'S GAINS IN MOZAMBIQUE, MAY "...BRING A FRING BENEFIT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CONTINENT - IN ANGOLA." GUS CONSTANTINE FROM WASHINGTON CONTRIBUTED TO THE ARTICLE. P. A1;

-- GEORGIE ANNE GEYER FROM BRIGHTON, ENGLAND WRITES THAT WHILE MANY ARE PRAISING AN AMERICAN-NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA, THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS ARE USING THE INTERIM PERIOD TO GO FOR THEIR FINAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST UNITA. INSTEAD OF TALKING RECONCILIATION WITHIN ANGOLA, THE MPLA BEGAN THIS PHASE BY TALKING ABOUT NEUTRALIZING AND

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ANNIHILATING UNITA. IN LATE AUGUST, PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS TOLD HIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT "NEUTRALIZATION-OF THE GUERRILLAS WOULD DEMAND AN ADDITIONAL AND FINAL SACRIFICE COMBINING POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTIONS." HE READ THE PEACE AGREEMENT WHEN HE REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL. ON SEPTEMBER 4, JONAS SAVIMBI GAVE A LITTLE-REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HE ASSAILED THAT CROCKER HAD "ENGINEERED THE DEAL, AND HE AVERRED UNFLINCHINGLY THAT UNITA WOULD KEEP ON FIGHTING." THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THIS ARE CLEAR: THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS ARE USING THE SETTLEMENT TO LAUNCH A FINAL VICTORY. WHILE GORBACHEV TOOTS REFORMS, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO REFLECT A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET MILITARY STRATEGY. GEYER WARNS THE U.S "WITH DIPLOMATS FAR TOO EAGER FOR AND PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN 'SETTLEMENTS'" NOT TO ABANDON UNITA. BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT "SAVIMBI AND UNITA WERE NOT ONLY WINNING, BUT WERE AND ARE THE NATURAL AND POPULAR LEADERS OF THAT BENIGHTED COUNTRY." P. F1;

THE NEW YORK TIMES

-- THE UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM BLAMED "DONOR FATIGUE" AMONG WESTERN NATIONS YESTERDAY FOR THE FACT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE FAILED TO KEEP UP WITH INCREASED NEEDS. AT A SYMPOSIUM IN VIENNA, UN/WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES INGRAM TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT JAPAN HAS SHARPLY INCREASED ITS AID IN RECENT YEARS. P. 28A;

-- JON PARELES REVIEWS MURAINA OYELAMI, A NIGERIAN YORUBA DRUM EMSEMBLE APPEARING IN NEW YORK. P. C16;

-- RESPONDING TO AN AUGUST LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON SUDAN, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF CALLS FOR THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO BRING PEACE TO NORTHEASTERN AFRICA. HE CALLS FOR DEVELOPED NATIONS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE NEEDS OF THESE CRISIS RIDDEN COUNTRIES. AS A FIRST STEP, HE SUGGESTS THAT THE US OFFER DEBT RELIEF TO THE POORER SUB-SAHARAN NATIONS. P. A34;

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

-- ROBERT ROTBERG WRITES ON THE THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE NAMIBIA PEACE TRAIN. AS THE PRESSURE MOUNTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, ALL PARTIES MAY WIN OUT IN THE END. IF THE CUBANS LEAVE ANGOLA IN A TWO-YEAR TIMETABLE AND IF THE CEASEFIRE HOLDS OUT WITHOUT CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA FIRING AT ONE ANOTHER, SOUTH AFRICA WILL HAVE TO LEAVE NAMIBIA. IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS WANT THE CUBANS OUT OF ANGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA WILL HAVE TO STOP SUPPORT OF UNITA. ANGOLA WANTS THE US TO DO LIKEWISE. GIVEN SOUTH AFRICA'S TROUBLES AT HOME AND ITS SHORTAGE OF CASH, IT SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY REALIZED THAT A SWAPO-RULES NAMIBIA WOULDN'T POSE ANY MORE OF A THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA THAN SOCIALIST-LEANING ZIMBABWE. IF SOUTH AFRICA SEES AN END OF THE CUBANS AND USHERS IN A FREE NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA COULD GENERATE SOME "WORLD GOODWILL, TRADE WITH ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, AND COULD STILL DOMINATE THE REGION AS THE ITS STRONGEST ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FORCE. "AS PEACE BREAKS OUT AROUND THE GULF AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, RATIONALITY MAY EVEN PREVAIL ALONG THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC SHORES OF AFRICA," WRITES ROTBERG. P. 12;

THE BALTIMORE SUN

-- AN EDITORIAL SUPPORTS THE US POSITION OF PROVIDING REFUGE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEES IN JOHANNESBURG. DESPITE OUR TENUOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA, IT

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COMMENDS THE US FOR ITS STAND OF PROVIDING REFUGE FOR THE
THREE DETAINEES AS WELL AS ITS OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM ON SUCH
ARRESTS. IT APPLAUDS THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEDIATORS IN
THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS IN THE ANGOLA/NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS.
IT WELCOMES PRESIDENT BOTHA'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CHISSANO AS AN IMPORTANT ADVANCEMENT. THE MOVE BY SOUTH
AFRICA "EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM BATTLE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS
AND TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY"
IS EXACTLY WHAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN
ENCOURAGING. P. 22A;

LOS ANGELES TIMES

--WASN'T RECEIVED TODAY.
SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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