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SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE DEPLOYMENT
OPERET AIRFIELD MILITARY INSTALLATION
AND TRAINING AREA, NAMIBIA



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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: A MAJOR INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IS OBSERVED IN THE OPERET AREA.

2. (SWN) REMARKS: A MAJOR INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IS OBSERVED AT OPERET AIRFIELD MILITARY INSTALLATION AND TRAINING AREA SINCE [REDACTED] AT LEAST AN ADDITIONAL 40 TENTS AND 190 VEHICLES, HAVE ARRIVED [REDACTED] TOTAL EQUIPMENT NOW PRESENT INCLUDES 40 RATEL ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, NINE 140MM FIELD GUNS WITH ARTILLERY PRIME MOVERS, AND 150 TRUCKS. AN INFANTRY BATTALION-SIZE UNIT HAS ALSO ARRIVED AND IS BIVOUACKED NEAR THE INSTALLATION. SIX TROOP FORMATIONS WITH A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 150 MEN ARE IN THE BIVOUAC AREA.

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(SWN) THE INCREASED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY NOTED AT OPERET MILITARY CAMP [REDACTED] CONTINUES. FOUR SQUADS OF INFANTRY ARE PREPARING TO BOARD BUFFEL LIGHT-ARMORED VEHICLES. ACTIVITY AT ONDANGWA AIRFIELD [REDACTED], A MAJOR FORWARD STAGING BASE FOR TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT, APPEARS TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL. AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED [REDACTED]

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(SWN) THE ARRIVAL OF THIS EQUIPMENT AT OPERET IS THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF A CONTINUED INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WHICH HAS BEEN OCCURRING IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN ANGOLA SINCE EARLY JANUARY. [REDACTED] A SOUTH AFRICAN MOTORIZED INFANTRY UNIT OF AT LEAST 55 BUFFEL LIGHT-ARMORED VEHICLES WAS AT NGIVA AIRFIELD [REDACTED] IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA. ALTHOUGH ACTIVITY OF THIS TYPE COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEMIANNUAL SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY SCHOOL EXERCISES WHICH TAKE PLACE IN THE OPERET/OSHAVELLO AREA DURING AUGUST AND FEBRUARY, THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ANGOLA CANNOT BE RULED OUT. THE SOUTH AFRICANS CONDUCTED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA DURING THIS PERIOD IN 1982; HOWEVER, THE OPERATIONS WERE PRECEDED BY AN INCREASE IN AIR ASSETS AT ONDANGWA.

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Intelligence Sources
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**(SWN) OPERET IS APPROXIMATELY 60 NM SOUTH OF THE
ANGOLA-NAMIBIA BORDER.**

3.  **COORDINATES 18-34-52S 017-09-51E**

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