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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



P.O. Box 199 Mbabane, Swaziland

> 3 February 1988 FBIS-5805-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--January 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. Fighting in southeastern Angola between government FAPLA troops and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA came to a head this month with a prolonged siege by UNITA against the FAPLA airbase at Cuito Cuanavale. The battle began with a 12 January attack by UNITA forces reportedly reinforced by 6,000 motorized South African infantry troops. FAPLA defended its position with MiG fighters flown by Cuban pilots and claimed to have halted the UNITA advance just one-half mile from the town. On 27 January, UNITA sources alleged that FAPLA had withdrawn from Cuito Cuanavale after seeing its airstrip destroyed. However, on 28 January Angolan President dos Santos asserted that the town was still under FAPLA control and reiterated his belief that Angolan forces would repel the UNITA attack.
- 2. On 28-29 January, Angolan and Cuban Government officials met in Luanda with a U.S. delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, for discussions on solutions to the civil war in Angola and the question of Namibian independence. In a Foreign Ministry statement following the talks, Angola noted that new elements presented during the sessions would be evaluated with a view to holding future meetings.
- 3. Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, protesting the U.S. Department of Special Services' holding of Terrence Karamba, the allegedly abused son of a Zimbabwean United Nations official, demanded the "immediate and unconditional release" of the child and, failing that, reserved the right to "retaliate or reciprocate" against the United States. Zimbabwean and U.S. officials eventually agreed on conditions for Terrence's release; in a 25 January interview, Shamuyarira said the boy, although still in New York, was eager to return home.

4. The prime minister of Bavaria, Franz Josef Strauss, visited South Africa, Mozambique, and Namibia from 20 to 29 January on behalf of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. In Mozambique, Strauss offered President Joaquim Chissano assistance in rehabilitating Maputo harbor and the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric station. While in South Africa, Strauss proposed an international conference on regional tensions to give South Africa "a chance to explain their position and also to listen to criticism from other countries."

II. ADMINISTRATION

- A. A new Toyota Land Cruiser, purchased with the assistance of London Bureau to replace the Bureau's station wagon, arrived at the Bureau on 27 January. It was immediately pressed into service for the visiting FBIS director's tour of the Milwane and Malolotja nature reserves.
- B. The family took their R&R in January, making a tour of the major cities of southern Africa. The also returned from their R&R trip to the United States.

III. VISITS

- A. On 4 January, the deputy general manager of the BBC Monitoring Service, visited the Bureau.
- B. The AFCA deputy director made a short stopover on 25 January to discuss the ICT installation with the bureau chief.
- C. FBIS Director Bob Manners paid a TDY visit to the Bureau from 28-31 January.

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	Chief.	Swaziland	Bureau

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I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

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Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in			
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Johannesburg DIE VADERLAND in Afrikaans			Ø
Johannesburg NEW NATION in			
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Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in			2600
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Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English			1190
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