

17 March 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

Angola: Military Situation and Prospects

The Angolan government--with Soviet and Cuban support--is completing preparations for another major offensive aimed at UNITA's stronghold in southeastern Angola. The fighting likely will increase in the next month or two as the weather becomes more favorable after the rains end in April. [redacted]

25X1

-- The government currently is building up supplies and equipment, deploying forces, and probing UNITA's defenses from forward positions [redacted]

25X1

25X1

-- Savimbi [redacted] in our view, [redacted] remains confident and realistic about his staying power as a major threat to the Luanda regime.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Elsewhere, UNITA guerrillas continue their intensified operations throughout the northern part of the country. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

-- In the northwest, the government holds the main towns but seems unable to dampen guerrilla actions in the smaller hamlets. [redacted]

25X1

-- Early this month, UNITA overran a diamond mine in the northeast, the latest in a devastating campaign against the diamond industry. Some 200 ex-patriate hostages captured during the attack were recently released in Zaire. [redacted]

25X1

There is a growing risk of a direct confrontation between South Africa and Angola's Soviet and Cuban supporters. For the first time, each side's principal backers appear to be preparing for the possibility that they will be drawn into the fighting.

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

-- We believe South Africa will intervene on Savimbi's behalf with direct military action if UNITA were to be seriously threatened. [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

In our judgment, the fighting this year probably will be the most intense of the civil war, but will yield no major gains for either side. [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

-- In the fighting this year, however, we believe that UNITA will have to give some ground, and possibly lose some positions, such as Mavinga, in order to avoid a costly conventional battle with the heavier armed government forces. [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

Page Denied