

21 JULY 1986

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TALKING POINTS FOR THE DDI

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ANGOLA

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Recent Military Developments

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The continuing buildup of Angolan forces and the ongoing fighting between government and UNITA forces in central Angola suggest that Luanda will soon initiate large-scale military operations. [redacted]

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Current fighting is taking place in the vicinity of Munhango in central Angola, involving three government brigades and 3,000 UNITA troops. [redacted] this action is a precursor to the expected major offensive against UNITA's strongholds in southeastern Angola. [redacted]

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- [redacted] government forces continue to heavily fortify Munhango, retaken in mid-June after two weeks of fighting. Specifically, additional trenching has been observed north, west, and south of outlying FAPLA positions. The town lies astride a key logistical route to UNITA forces in the north and is on a potential government supply line to its forces in the east. [redacted]

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- Based on last year's experiences, UNITA probably allowed government forces to occupy the town in hopes of luring them into a series of planned ambushes in the area. [redacted]

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[redacted] mortar impact craters within the government's defensive perimeter suggests that UNITA is contesting Angolan presence in Munhango. [redacted]

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[redacted] Menongue and Luena -- main government bases for support of an offensive in the southeast -- shows apparent training of new conscripts and extensive air transport activity at the airfields, indicating reinforcements and supplies continue to reach forward positions. [redacted]

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- [redacted] 9 MiG-21 fighters at Luena, similar to levels at beginning of the 1985 offensive. [redacted]

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- Up to 10,000 government troops are [redacted] near Lucusse and Cuito Cuanavale, jumping-off points for attacking the southeast. UNITA continues to attack supply lines of these forces. [redacted]

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- A record surge in Soviet military deliveries over the last six months has more than replenished FAPLA losses sustained during the 1985 offensive, leaving Angolan ground and air forces with larger [redacted]

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than usual equipment inventories. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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- [redacted] more than 50 field artillery pieces were recently delivered by ship to Luanda from the USSR, 23 others and 30 anti-aircraft guns were delivered in the last three weeks.

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[redacted]

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