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**Addendum for Talking Points for ADDI
on Angola**

Attached is press on UNITA's latest
claims to have downed 6 helicopters
last Friday. [redacted]

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If true, the claim would underscore
the likelihood of continued heavy
fighting in the Munhongo area of
Central Angola.

[redacted] Chief
ALA/AF/C

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ANGOLAN REBELS SAY THEY DOWNED SIX HELICOPTERS

LISBON, Aug 4, Reuter - Angola's UNITA rebels said today they shot down six helicopters when government forces launched what UNITA said was an unprecedented air raid against guerrilla strongholds in central Angola.

A spokesman for UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) told Reuters by telephone that the attack took place last Friday near Munhango in Bie province.

"Fifteen MiG jets and helicopters took part in this unprecedented raid in support of ground forces. Six helicopters were shot down by our anti-aircraft batteries and the others were forced to flee," said the spokesman, quoting a brief UNITA communique.

The area around Munhango has been the scene of heavy fighting since Cuban-backed Angolan troops launched an offensive in May.

UNITA has seldom claimed to have downed as many as six helicopters in one action. The spokesman could give no details on casualties or the fate of the flight crews.

There was no independent confirmation of the battle and Angola's Marxist government rarely comments on rebel statements.

UNITA has fought the government since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.

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