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8 September 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

South Africa-UNITA-Angola

A Marriage of Convenience

The South Africa-UNITA relationship is a marriage of convenience with each side sharing at present common regional goals. We do not believe that Savimbi would maintain the same cozy relationship with South Africa should his quest for power in Angola be successful.

- Pretoria is UNITA's single most important outside backer and provides a full range of military and logistic support.
- Moreover, the protection offered by Pretoria's ground and air strength in Namibia apparently has made Angola hesitant about launching ground or air strikes deep in UNITA's southeastern stronghold.
- Pretoria for its part publicly admitted its materiel support to UNITA last year and has praised Savimbi as a leader of world stature.

SO.A.F.
acknowledges
support

In public remarks, UNITA leader Savimbi has tried to balance the importance of South Africa's military support against the political disadvantage of ties to a regional pariah. Savimbi argues that he has no other alternative but to accept Pretoria's support while professing his opposition to apartheid as a system. He is publicly on record as supporting Pretoria's own internal reform program. [redacted]

UNITA
has
also
25X1

Working Relationship

In their working relationship, South Africa and UNITA coordinate closely on plans and objectives. Savimbi has traveled to South Africa on several occasions for high-level strategy sessions with State President P.W. Botha. [redacted] there is a regular series of annual conferences around the end of the year involving senior South African and UNITA military officials to lay out objectives, support requirements, and joint plans for the coming year.

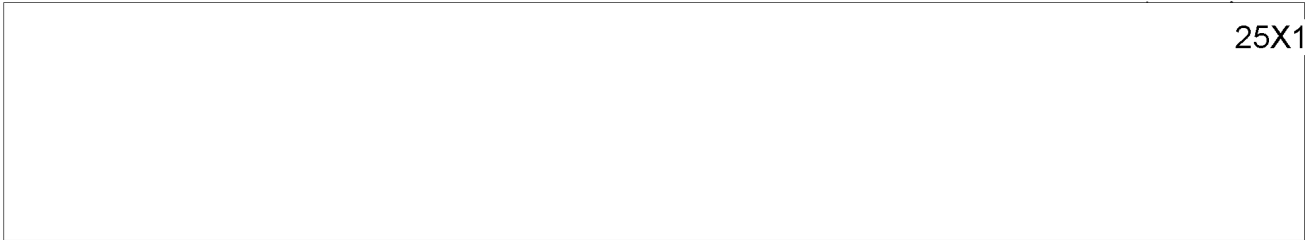
with
25X1
P.W.

- For day-to-day operations, Pretoria reportedly maintains liaison officers at UNITA's headquarters in Jamba in southeastern Angola.

liaison
Jamba
25X1



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Materiel Support and Training

UNITA receives most of its materiel support either from or through South African controlled Namibia. South African assistance reaches the insurgents in a variety of ways: the bulk probably is trucked to the border and turned over to the insurgents. Pretoria also airlifts vital supplies to UNITA bases and on occasion has flown its aircraft deep into Angolan territory to paradrop supplies to UNITA forces fighting in northern Angola.

* Support
truck
airlift +
air drop

-- The main insurgent supply line extends from the border to Jamba, then to the main logistics base at Likuwa, and from there north through Mavinga and on to Munhango. The materiel is transported throughout UNITA-controlled territory by UNITA trucks on rudimentary roads and bridges built and maintained by UNITA engineers. Outside this territory, UNITA relies on columns of bearers.

Jamba
to
Mavinga

-- [redacted] South African airdrops in northern Angolan have become increasingly risky due to expansion of the Angolan air defense system. After a near intercept of a South African aircraft earlier this year, Savimbi was told that these flights would be stopped, but Pretoria reportedly did not carry through because of Savimbi's strong objections. [redacted]

25X1

risky
airdrop

25X1



25X1

[redacted] South Africa provides both specialist and basic training for UNITA troops ranging from basic infantry tactics to specialized communications, intelligence, and demolitions training.

25X1

range
of

-- UNITA has two major training centers: one at its headquarters at Jamba and the other at Babwata.

* training

-- The Babwata base lies on the Angolan-Namibian border and the border bisects the camp. On one side is a South African camp and on the other a complex of UNITA training facilities. [redacted]

Jamba
25X1
Babwata
25X1



Direct Military Support

Intervention. Pretoria periodically intervenes in the fighting in support of UNITA. From the operations of its small special forces units to direct operations by South African regulars, Pretoria's involvement appears to have grown in the last few years.

range of
So. Afr.
involvement

- Last year, in the first confirmed major intervention on UNITA's behalf, South African air attacks were instrumental in stopping the major Angolan offensive into UNITA territory short of its objective at Mavinga.

1985
air
attacks

- Pretoria, [redacted] promised UNITA that it would intervene again this year if UNITA were hard pressed by another government offensive. We believe that Pretoria's commitment to UNITA is sufficiently strong that it is prepared to risk entanglement with the growing strength of the Soviet- and Cuban-supported Angolan airforce.

25X1
86
promises
25X1

Available forces. South Africa maintains about 20,000 troops in northern Namibia, including territorial forces, police, and a smaller number of regulars that can be reinforced by quickly-mobilized reservists. Most of these troops are committed to internal security operations in Namibia or anti-SWAPO raids into southwestern Angola. For direct operations in support of UNITA, Pretoria has primarily called on its elite commando or "Recce" troops and on the 1,200-man 32nd "Buffalo" Battalion--a "foreign legion" composed of black Angolan exiles.

20,000
So. Afr.
Recce
troops

- For the last few years, [redacted] Pretoria has had small 10-20 man commando teams operating in Angola almost continually against Angolan military facilities, transportation, or economic facilities. Some of the operations are conducted unilaterally--such as the seaborne raid on Namibe harbor earlier this year that sunk a Cuban ship and damaged two Soviet arms carriers--but most are conducted in coordination with UNITA units in southeastern Angola. For larger, but less frequent operations, Pretoria calls on the 32nd Battalion.

32nd
"Buffalo"
Battalion

- Pretoria does not permanently maintain a significant portion of its air strength in Namibia but deployment of its aircraft from South Africa to the main fighter base at Ondangwa take only a few hours. Last year, South African aircraft flew from the smaller, but closer, airbase at Rundu during operations in support of UNITA and, [redacted]

Continuous
Commandoes

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25X1

[Redacted]

25X1
25X1

*Cuito
Cuanavale
9 August*

Operations at Cuito Cuanavale

The most recent joint UNITA-South African operation of significance took place last month at Cuito Cuanavale. In the belief that the Angolan government was in the final stages of preparation for its major seasonal offensive in the southeast, UNITA planned a large multi-battalion attack intended to disrupt government preparations and postpone the offensive.

-- [Redacted] Pretoria agreed to support the UNITA effort and flew artillery, ammunition, and advisers to Mavinga in early August. The operation was approved by State President P.W. Botha and Pretoria's participation was to be directed by a senior South African general.

*So. Af
support*

-- [Redacted] elements of the 32nd Battalion participated in the attack. [Redacted]

*32nd
batt.*

The attack was launched on the evening of 9 August [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1
25X1

UNITA reportedly overran the airfield briefly but was driven back by counterattacking government defenders. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X1
25X1

[Redacted]

25X1
25X1