



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
P.O. Box 199  
Mbabane, Swaziland

7 April 1987  
MMB - 7005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau -- March 1987

I. GENERAL

A. FBO regional representative Jim Derrick visited Mbabane 30-31 March and toured all Embassy-owned buildings, including the five houses turned over to FBO by FBIS. Both the bureau chief and deputy chief held discussions with Derrick, which enabled them to gain some insight into how FBO plans to handle the incorporation of the FBIS houses into the embassy housing scheme. The visit was also beneficial in that the Embassy GSO won Derrick's support for all planned repairs and improvements, including a major renovation of the house occupied by editor

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B. Some improvements and repairs already have been completed, including new concrete slab floors in the den and dining room of the bureau chief's house. The old wooden floors were damaged by a large termite colony directly beneath the house. It required over 700 gallons of liquid insecticide to destroy the colony before repairs could begin. The deputy chief's house now has a new security fence, and plans for remodeling the kitchen have been approved.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The campaign for the 6 May elections to the white House of Assembly dominated press coverage in South Africa during March. By "Nomination Day" at the end of the month, a record 480 candidates had been nominated to fill the 166 seats. Defections from the ruling National Party continued to make headlines. Prominent Afrikaner newspaper executives Willem de Klerk and Dawid de Villiers resigned over disagreements with National Party policy. Another blow was the petition by 301 professors at Stellenbosch University, the intellectual heart of Afrikanerdom, rejecting party reform policies as slow and inadequate. NP fortunes received a boost late in the month from the collapse of efforts by the two major right-wing opposition parties to form an alliance. Despite defections to the right and left of the political spectrum, a 25 March poll showed 58 percent of the voters planned to vote for the National Party. Footnote: President P.W. Botha received a "Gold Record" for his propaganda single "Why You Should Vote NP." The president did not sing the campaign message.

2. In Zimbabwe, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe again pledged to join with Zambia in imposing sanctions against South Africa, but refused to set a date for their implementation. The Zimbabwean parliament suspended MP Ian Smith, former Rhodesian prime minister, for 1 year for his remarks to a South African audience on how to deal with sanctions.

3. Angola reacted sharply in two ANGOP editorials carried on Luanda Domestic Service to reports that the United States was interested in upgrading and leasing an air base in southern Zaire, which Angola claims is already being used by the CIA to supply arms to the UNITA rebels.

4. Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, at the head of a large delegation, paid a 3-day official visit to Angola, which culminated in the signing of a number of economic and technical exchange agreements.

5. Mozambique and the USSR exchanged high-level delegations to mark the 10th anniversary of their bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation. In Moscow, the Mozambican delegation held talks with Andrey Gromyko and Petr Demichev, among others. In Maputo, President Chissano and People's Assembly Chairman Marcelino Dos Santos received CPSU Central Committee Politburo Candidate Member Nikolay Talyzin. In addition to the usual bilateral talks and dinner speeches, the CPSU and Frelimo signed a 2-year accord.

B. Coverage/Lateral Services

In an effort to make the RSA Press Review more representative of editorial comments, the bureau has discontinued coverage of the Afrikaans paper DIE VADERLAND and has added DIE BURGERS, which has a much larger circulation and is reputed to be the Afrikaans mouthpiece for the ruling National Party. The bureau also is examining the possibility of adding another black newspaper, THE NEW NATION, to the two already on coverage.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

English/Afrikaans monitor [redacted] underwent successful heart bypass surgery in Pretoria early in the month to alleviate chronic circulatory problems. [redacted] has returned to Mbabane, where he continues to convalesce. Hopefully, he will return to work by the end of April.

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IV. VISITS

On 26 March, the Embassy political/consular officer, Lee Brudwig, and the new public affairs officer, Brooks Spector, toured the bureau and had a discussion with the deputy chief on how to handle press inquiries about the bureau and FBIS. The bureau chief drafted written guidance, based on standing FBIS guidelines, for the new PAO.

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau