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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 49//

TO BREMER/COVEY/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH52516

TOHAK 49

DECEMBER 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:
 FROM:
 SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT
 BRENT SCOWCROFT
 INFORMATION ITEM

AFRICAN LEADERS VIEWS ON ANGOLA: IN A RECENT MEETING WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR, PRESIDENT SENGHOR URGED CONTINUED U.S. HELP FOR THE ANTI-MPLA FORCES UNTIL THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS CAN BE FORCED OUT OF ANGOLA. HE SAID MOST OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS TALKED RECENTLY SEE THE SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE AS A GREATER DANGER THAN SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. SENGHOR EXPECTS AN OAU SUMMIT JANUARY 10-12 ON ANGOLA AND HOPES FOR A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ALL EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OAU COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN FINDING AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM UNLESS THE SUPER POWERS WITHDREW THEIR FORCES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR THAT THE ANGOLAN ADVENTURE WAS NOT A POPULAR ONE IN THE USSR AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT RULE OUT AN HONORABLE RETREAT IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED.

IN PRETORIA OUR AMBASSADOR HAS HAD A RECENT DISCUSSION ON ANGOLA WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WHO IS PRESENTLY OUT OF THE CAPITAL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA HAD REACHED A NEW PHASE IN THE AREA SOUTH OF LUANDA. IN RECENT DAYS THE UNITA/FLNA FORCES HAD INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES IN MEN AND EQUIPMENT ON THE CUBANS WHO ARE SPEAR-HEADING THE FIGHTING. THIS LEADS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOMENT IS OPPORTUNE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO GET THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO WITHDRAW.

State Dept. review completed

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PAGE 01

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A NUDGE AT THIS PSYCHOLOGICALLY PROPITIOUS JUNCTURE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, MIGHT BE ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO TIP THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES IN ANGOLA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE AMBASSADOR SEEKING CLARIFICATION, MULLER SAID HE WAS REFERRING TO DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC POSITION TAKEN BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR HOYNIHAN ON ANGOLA AND FOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN.

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PSN:052285 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:350/23:50Z DTG:170404Z DEC 75

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