

O/S as subject matter.

subject on Angola: internal situation of 79.

CONFIDENTIAL

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RR WASHINGTON

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FM FCO 021200Z MAR 84

TO IMMEDIATE LUANDA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 281 OF 02 MARCH 1984

INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN WASHINGTON LUSAKA KINSHASA

MIPT: (NOT TO ALL) RELEASE OF BRITISH PRISONERS

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS

1. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR YOUR HUMANITARIAN ACT IN RELEASING THE 7 BRITISH PRISONERS. THEIR RELEASE AT THIS TIME IS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

2. MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE OVER THE BRITISH AND OTHER HOSTAGES SEIZED BY THE REBELS IN THE NORTH OF ANGOLA. I VALUE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL TAKE NO ACTION WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF THE HOSTAGES. I AM, OF COURSE, MUCH CONCERNED FOR THEIR SAFETY.

3. I SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS OUR READINESS TO HELP IN ANY WE CAN IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. WE HAVE FOLLOWED, WITH GROWING SATISFACTION, THE MOVES IN WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE TO CONSOLIDATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA. WE HAVE LONG REGARDED THIS AS AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARDS WIDER STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE RECENTLY MET MR NUJOMA AND URGED RESTRAINT AT THIS CRITICAL TIME, POINTING OUT WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR SWAPO. I RECOGNISE THAT ALL THOSE INVOLVED STILL FACE DIFFICULT DECISIONS BUT I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD ON THE NEW OPPORTUNITY WHICH NOW SEEMS TO EXIST FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT.

HOWE

LIMITED

CAFD

NEWS D

CONS D

PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/PUS

SIR J LEAHY

MR SQUIRE

LORD N GORDON-LENNOX

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T36A/84

(136)

JCA 383/1
- 5 MAR 1984

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