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28. Memcon	Re: Meeting with Jonas Savimbi, Leader of UNITA of Angola (4 pp.)	10/2/90	(b)(1)	S

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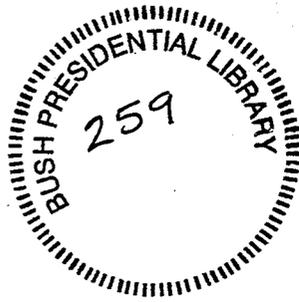
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7848

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jonas Savimbi, Leader of UNITA
of Angola

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The Vice President
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President
and Deputy for National Security Affairs
Herman J. Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State
for African Affairs
Robert C. Frasure, Director for African
Affairs, NSC (Notetaker)

Jonas Savimbi, Leader of UNITA
Jeremias Chitunda, Vice President of UNITA
General Tony Da Costa Fernandes, Foreign
Secretary of UNITA

Date, Time & Place: October 2, 1990

The President: I'm delighted to be able to hear from you directly. I had the Prime Minister of Portugal here last week and he expressed some optimism about the peace talks. This is a good chance to hear from you. (U)

Dr. Savimbi: Thank you. We know you are very busy and appreciate that you are seeing us. We wish you Godspeed on all of your problems on the Gulf and elsewhere. (U)

We are making progress with the MPLA. We have direct talks now. Before they wanted only intermediaries. (U)

The President: What level are they? (U)

Dr. Savimbi: At about the deputy minister. It's not the level we would want. But it is good we are talking. (U)

It's a problem for the MPLA to recognize UNITA. They are not prepared to do it. They want to change their constitution first. (U)

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The President: Can they agree in principle to do it? Are they stalling? (S)

Dr. Savimbi: I didn't know. I give them the credit of the doubt. We shall see at their Congress in December. (S)

It is important to see this. They want one army. We must be able to enter the political game. It is of vital importance to us. (S)

We have divided the issues in Lisbon into political and ceasefire. On the ceasefire we made progress. The MPLA agreed to international monitoring of it. We defined the ceasefire. The MPLA as a conventional army will remain in towns. UNITA as a guerilla movement will stay in zones. We agreed on how to monitor the ceasefire. The MPLA wants neutral countries to monitor the ceasefire. (S)

We want an international body to neutralize the army. Experts can form one united army, not under party control, until after the elections. (S)

The President: How do you read the internal situation in the Angolan government? (b)(1)

(b)(1)

The President: The Soviets are less difficult on this. If they say they want change, it should be a sign to Dos Santos. The Soviets want the solution you want, don't they Hank? (S)

Assistant Secretary Cohen: The Soviets say they want a democratic elective process. (S)

Dr. Savimbi: We have just been up to the Hill. Some Democrats want amendments to cut the support you give to us. It is critical to the MPLA. Any signs like that would encourage the MPLA. (S)

The President: I agree. We don't favor that. Is there anything now we can do on this? (S)

Dr. Savimbi: Some Congressmen are talking about next week. We need your help. (S)

The President: We will do that. This visit should help. Who is leading the charge up there. (S)

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Assistant Secretary Cohen: Wolpe and Solarz. (U)

Dr. Savimbi: I met with them this morning. They want the triple zero option. No arms to either side, no arms bought. We said it won't work. The MPLA will buy arms in the market place. (S)

It would send a bad signal to the MPLA. (S)

The President: That won't prevail. Wolpe and Solarz want to run foreign affairs. (S)

What is Mobutu's role? (S)

Dr. Savimbi: He is not involved. The MPLA doesn't want him. I visit him regularly in Kinshasa. We have good relations. He needs something for his internal problems. (S)

The President: Are other African leaders upset by him? (S)

(b)(1)

The President: You have amazing staying power. I really admire that. It was looking pretty bad once. (S)

Dr. Savimbi: It was pretty tough from December 1989 to May 1990. The MPLA called it their "last assault." (S)

The President: How did you stop them? (C)

Dr. Savimbi: We cut their logistics. We destroyed their soft vehicles. They couldn't support their people down the road. (S)

The President: How is Cuban troop withdrawal going? (S)

Assistant Secretary Cohen: Perfect. (U)

The President: Did they intervene? (S)

Dr. Savimbi: No, they want to go home. They are leaving only some bodies in Angola. (S)

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(b) (1)

Assistant Secretary Cohen:

(b) (1) (S)

The President: There is a lot of courage out there. (U)

We wish you well. We hope we can keep U.S. support going to you. I can see why they are wary of you. (S)

There is new tide around the world to democracy. (U)

We wish you well. (U)

Dr. Savimbi: Your strong statement of support helps us. (U)

The President: Let's have Marlin do a statement after this meeting. Bob, can you handle that? (U)

Dr. Savimbi: Thank you. We are not going to get inflexible in the talks. (U)

The President: The radicals in the MPLA will have a problem if the Soviets pull back. (S)

-- End of Conversation --

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