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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President dos Santos of Angola

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
The Vice President  
Lawrence Eagleburger, Acting Secretary of State  
John Sununu, Chief of Staff  
Herman J. Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs  
Thomas E. McNamara, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for African Affairs  
Walter Kansteiner, NSC Director for African Affairs, (notetaker)

Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President  
Colonel Jose Maria, Secretary for Defense and Security Affairs

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 16, 1991, 11:00 - 11:25 a.m. EST  
The Oval Office

The President: I want to welcome you and tell you of our interest in seeing a successful conclusion to the peace accords. (U)

The Vice President is just back from visiting with Dr. Savimbi, and he's committed to the peace arrangements. We hope both sides will move the peace process forward. (U)

President dos Santos: Thank you for your welcome. I also want to thank you for the important role you have played in the peace process. The various letters you sent were helpful in getting us to an agreement. We are determined to bring the process to completion. (c)

The President: Is the assembling of troops on schedule? (c)

President dos Santos: Things are now going well. There were a few delays initially; they were infrastructure problems like providing housing and water and food to the camps. This was not in our budget, but now we are making a real effort. We are now providing temporary structures for troops. (c)

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I would like to give you a copy of the schedule leading to elections. This is a proposal we have given UNITA at the JPMC, but unfortunately it was given to them the same day they withdrew from the JPMC. (C)

The President: Will this answer their questions about elections? Closer to September is the best. (U)

President dos Santos: This is just a proposal -- the details could be worked out later. The proposal includes consultations with the other political forces; we need to discuss with all the parties the election's schedule. (C)

We would like to have the election process finalized in December. And then start a census in January. The census will be six months or so. (C)

The President: The election date is to fall between September and November, right? (U)

President dos Santos: The date is September-November. The actual date must be determined by consultations with all the parties. (U)

I want to assure you we are intent on seeing the process through. Our three primary goals include: 1) implementing the peace accord., 2) democratization and formulate a multi-party structure and 3) economic reform -- move toward a free-market system. (C)

The President: Okay. We are delighted with free elections. We just want it to go forward on schedule, with no snags. Such elections are the basis of the U.S. system, and we want them to succeed. We can consult on how to help them be a success. (U)

Is the housing situation worked out for UNITA troops? (C)

President dos Santos: Yes, government forces are now in assembly points, despite the earlier difficulties that both UNITA and government faced -- logistical problems. These are areas that the U.S. and others could be very helpful. (C)

Another task is free distribution and circulation of goods throughout the country. When UNITA comes back to JPMC it will be easier to iron out these problems. (C)

Assistant Secretary Cohen: We now have the UN helping to move food in the country. Our Defense Department has given the O.K. to ship rations -- they will be arriving early October. (C)

The President: Is the man in the street in Luanda excited about democracy? (U)

President dos Santos: People are for it, and peace is bliss. We now have 30 political parties. (U)

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There's another subject I would like to raise: U.S.-Angolan relations. As you know, we have great deal of trade between our countries. Oil companies have offices there, and you have a "liaison office." We would like better means of contact with you in Washington. (C)

The President: Well we should discuss that. We will look into possibilities. What is important is to stay on the path to elections and after elections we'll have full diplomatic relations. (C)

Do you go straight back or are you going up to New York. (U)

President dos Santos: We will go straight back. (U)

The President: And thank you for bringing your lovely daughter. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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