

December 2, 1987

Confidential Telegram from USINT Havana to Secretary of State George Shultz, 'Cuba Describes Geographic Position and Military Role of its Forces in Angola'

Citation:

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Summary:

Telegram from United States Interests Section in Havana to Secretary of State George Shultz describing the placement of Cuban forces in Angola and the justification that they are not taking part in active combat.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan
Transcript - English

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Original Scan 123

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 87HAVANA004469

ADP409
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 04469 022059Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSD-00	HA-09
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00
	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/045 W

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FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0720
INFO NAMIBIA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 04469

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, EGOV, CU, AG
SUBJECT: CUBA DESCRIBES GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND
MILITARY ROLE OF ITS FORCES IN ANGOLA

(C) ENVIKJ TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN A POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT, CUBA HAS SAID THAT ITS FORCES ARE NORTH OF THE 16TH PARALLEL FAR REMOVED FROM UNITA'S MAIN AREA, AND ACT AS A STRATEGIC DEFENSE AGAINST A SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION IN DEPTH
END SUMMARY

3. IN REPORTING RECENT EVENTS IN ANGOLA, THE CUBAN PRESS HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THAT CUBAN TROOPS HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN COMBAT. THE INSISTENCE ON THIS POINT BY THE RECENTLY DOWNED CUBAN PILOT, FOR EXAMPLE, RECEIVED SPECIAL ATTENTION HERE.

4. EVEN MORE INTERESTING WAS THE REPORT IN A PRENSA LATINA NOVEMBER-27 PIECE DA LINED LUANDA THAT REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT OF ANGOLAN VICE MINISTER VENANCIO DE MOURA IN NEW YORK WHICH AFFIRMED THE RIGHT OF ANGOLA UNDER
CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 04469 022059Z

THE UN CHARTER TO ASK MILITARY HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. PRENSA LATINA, HOWEVER, WENT ON TO SAY THAT REPORTS UNDERScoreD THAT:

- "...THE CUBAN INTERNATIONALIST FORCES IN ANGOLA HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHTING. THE SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE EXTREME SOUTH OF ANGOLA NEAR THE FRONTIER OF NAMIBIA AND

PROCESSED A/CDC/LEB

D. ZACHARY

DATE 2/6/89

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 87HAVANA004469

- IN THE SOUTHEAST, A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM
 - THE INTERNATIONALIST CUBAN LINE NAMIBE-MENONGUE,
 - DEPLOYED NORTH OF THE 16TH PARALLEL AS A STRATEGIC
 - FORCE THAT WOULD IMPEDE A MASSIVE RACIST INVASION
 - IN DEPTH.

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TAYLOR

BiAs

Summary: In a possibly significant statement, Cuba has said that its forces are North of the 16th parallel, far removed from UNITA's main area, and act as a strategic defense against a South African invasion in depth. End summary.

In reporting recent events in Angola, the Cuban press has been careful to emphasize that Cuban troops have not been involved in combat. The insistence on the point by the recently downed Cuban pilot, for example, received special attention here.

Even more interesting was the report in a Prensa Latina November 27 piece... Luanda that referred to the statement of Angolan Vice Minister Venancio de Moura in New York, which affirmed the right of Angola under the UN Charter to ask military help from other countries.

Prensa Latina, however, went on to say that reports underscored that "...the Cuban internationalist forces in Angola have not participated in the fighting. The South African incursions have taken place in the extreme South of Angola near the frontier of Namibia and in the Southeast, a considerable distance from the internationalist Cuban line Namibe-Menongue, deployed north of the 16th parallel as a strategic force that would impede a massive racist invasion in depth".