

Angola

Deputy Minister Says RSA Uses Chemical Weapons
MB242015 Dakar PANA in French 1930 GMT
24 Nov 87

[Text] United Nations, 24 Nov (NAN/PANA)—Last Monday Venancio de Moura, Angolan deputy external relations minister, stated that the racist South African troops were using chemical weapons in southern Angola. In a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York, Deputy Minister Moura said that racist South Africa had used these weapons in Cunene and Cuando Cubango Provinces, on the border with Namibia. This is the first time since it began its war of destabilization against Angola that the white minority regime has been accused of using chemical weapons. Asked whether there was evidence to substantiate this claim, the Angolan official produced photographs of weapons which, according to him, had been captured from South African soldiers in Angola. One of the photos showed a box with submachine guns. The box bore inscriptions stating that the merchandise hailed from Matadi, Zaire's only harbor.

Deputy Minister Moura did not specify either the type of chemical weapons used or the number of Angolans who had died as a result of the use of these weapons by racist South African troops. He also failed to indicate whether any victims had been hospitalized in Angola.

Turning to [words indistinct] by the press, according to which Nigeria and Kenya had offered to send their troops to Angola to help it repel the South Africans, Mr Moura stated: I am not aware that Kenya or Nigeria have decided to send troops to Angola. He said that Angola did not want other foreign forces. What we want, Venancio de Moura stressed, is to eliminate the causes for the deployment of foreign forces in our country. He is attending a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Angola.

Mr Moura also said that his country would accept material support from any country wishing to help Angola. He praised the Nigerian authorities for giving material support to Angola. He praised the Nigerian authorities for giving material support to Angola in an attempt to help end South African aggression. He also thanked the Nigerian Government and people for helping the Angolan Government in 1975. It should be recalled that the Nigerian Government under Murtala Muhammed and Olusegun Obasanjo granted \$20 million interest-free aid to the Angolan Government. [sentence as received]

The Angolan official rejected any possibility of talks or the start of negotiations between the Angolan Government and the South African-backed UNITA rebels. We have never considered negotiating with UNITA because we have never regarded that movement as a serious political entity, he stated.

With regard to talks with the U.S. administration on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, Mr Moura said that the U.S. would blatantly interfere with Angola's internal affairs. He refused to comment on this issue.

Dos Santos Receives Castro Solidarity Message
MB241916 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received a message from Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, chairman of the Cuban Council of State, in Luanda today. The message was delivered by Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Politburo. It refers to the solidarity of the Cuban Government and people with Angola in the face of racist South Africa's escalation of aggression.

Shortly after his audience with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Jorge Risquet told the media that Cuba condemns racist South Africa's aggression against Angola and supports mandatory sanctions, as demanded by the international community, to eliminate the apartheid system as a whole. Jorge Risquet also expressed Cuba's solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people for independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their revolutionary vanguard.

Botswana

BPP Seeks Self-Sufficiency in Food Production
MB240731 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
0510 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The Botswana People's Party, BPP, says once elected to power it will introduce state farms in an effort to reduce reliance on other countries.

Speaking at a political rally in Marapong over the weekend, the councillor for (Gulibale), Mr (Watsasa Kechala), said such farms would not only make the country self-sufficient on food production, but it will also create employment for Botswana. He charged that Botswana's political economy was still being controlled by foreigners. Mr (Kechala) also urged that the ruling party had failed to improve the lives of Botswana. He said he was in [word indistinct] resorting to what he called [word indistinct] policy. He also suggested that ethnic languages should be given priority in national curricula.

Mr (Kechala) also made a scathing attack on the Botswana National Front (BNF). He said the party's policies were aimed at deceiving Botswana. He said people should stop voting for it.