

Nº866 - FEBRUARY 23-27, 1998

NOTE: THE DAILY HIGHLIGHTS WERE NOT PUBLISHED LAST WEEK DUE TO A STAFFING SHORTAGE. THIS NUMBER IS A SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S ARTICLES.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 27 FEBRUARY JOINT COMMISSION SESSION (Source: MONUA/PIO, February 27)

The Joint Commission (J.C.) met on 27 February at 1630 to discuss the remaining tasks of the Lusaka Protocol, namely the normalization of State administration and demobilization "in situ". The J.C. also analyzed the report of the Lumbala N'Guimbo and Cazombo incidents.

With regard to demobilization "in situ", as of 27 February, 5,857 have been demobilized out of the total of 7,714 registered (the previous figure was 7,877 but 163 had been registered twice). The 266 remaining will be demobilized through the Open File Mechanism.

According to the J.C. UNITA is in a position to provide a statement regarding its demilitarization. UNITA agreed to issue this statement.

The J.C. also requested that the Government expedite the normalization of State administration in the previously agreed upon localities. In this connection the Government delegation requested the Mediation and the Troika to prepare a calendar for the normalization of the remaining localities, to be considered by the

two delegations.

With regard to the incidents in Moxico province, at Lumbala N'Guimbo and Cazombo, respectively on 14 and 23 February, the J.C. traveled to the area on 26 February to assess and resolve the situation arising from the disarming of the National Police by UNITA militants. In light of the report the J.C. strongly condemned these acts perpetrated against the National Police and the administrator of Lumbala N'Guimbo.

The J.C. urged UNITA leaders to ensure that their sympathizers refrain from similar activities in the future, and show respect and cooperation with newly installed government authorities.

The J.C., in order to undertake an overall assessment of the pending tasks under the Lusaka Protocol, will meet on Tuesday, 3 March, with these items as the principal agenda.

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT PROGRESS IN PEACE PROCESS

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 24)

Mr. Higino Carneiro, the government representative to the Joint Commission, announced to the press that the government

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considers the military and political situation in Angola worrying. "The situation that prevails around the country is reminiscent of the situation that existed before the 1992 post electoral war", Mr. Carneiro said. "Remining and ambushes in the Lundas and on the main road Benguela-Kwanza-Sul aren't sporadic acts but planned, and which might drag the process into an adverse situation."

Carneiro urged the government to take adequate measures and recommended that MONUA reinforce its presence in Cazombo.

"If by 28 February, the deadline to conclude the demobilization process, nothing has changed, the government will not accept the consequences", Mr Carneiro warned.

UNITA REPRESENTATIVE REACTS TO CARNEIRO'S ACCUSATIONS Source: PIO/MONUA, February 25)

During an interview with the Monua press regarding the accusations pronounced Mr. Carneiro, by the government representative to the Joint Commission, Mr. Samakuva, the UNITA representative to the Joint Commission, said that the government had dramatized the situation.

"What worries us is having to verifying whether Carneiro's declaration is part of a plan to influence public opinion, or if it is only a mistake. Though groups of unknown bandits exist throughout the country, the police is to a great extend responsible for their initiatives," Mr. Samakuva said.

With regard to the Cazombo incident, UNITA cadres are demanding that the Angolan National Police surrender their weapons to MONUA as they reportedly have information that the police intends to attack them. The situation in the area became tense and efforts by the MONUA Team Site

members and the UNITA leadership to control the situation proved unsuccessful. A Joint Commission delegation is to be dispatched to Cazombo to assess and resolve the situation. "We cannot hold UNITA responsible for this action which is not a threat to the peace process."

Regarding the delays in the process of demobilization, Samakuva accused the government of not having provided the necessary funds in time and doubted that the demobilization could be concluded by the end of February.

MORE THAN 300 LAND MINES CLEARED IN UIGE

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 26)

According to INAROE's annual report, 347 mines of different models were cleared in Uige province during 1997. Ignace Nielson, INAROE's representative in the region confirmed that about 2,000 are still buried.

In a related development, the Ministry of Social Reinsertion in Kimbele (Uige) launched a land mine sensibilization campaign one week ago to train the local population on the risks of the weapons and how to avoid being affected by them.

300,000 DISPLACED PEOPLE REINTEGRATED IN 1997 (Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, February 26)

According to Albino Malungo, the Angolan minister of Social Reintegration, over 300,000 displaced people were reintegrated in 1997. Of these displaced people, 37,000 were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo-Brazzaville and Zambia.

Mr. Malungo confirmed that a total of 1.2 million displaced still need to be reintegrated. However, the funds allocated

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by the government to the Ministry are insufficient to start this reintegration programme. Additionally, the progress in the peace process has been insufficient to convince international donors to contribute funds.

UN PUBLISHES NAMES OF UNITA OFFICIALS PROHIBITED FROM TRAVELING

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 26)

The United Nations published a list of UNITA party officials that are prohibited from traveling. This list concerns over 80 officials and members of their immediate families, in accordance with the sanctions adopted by the Security Council in October 1997. The names of Dr. Savimbi and his vice president, Antonio Dembo, were among the names published. Other officials being prevented form traveling are Paul Lukamba "Gato", the UNITA Secretary General; Altino Sapalalo "Bock", Alcides Sakala, and Marcial Dachala.

This measure is in addition to other sanctions imposed by the Security Council, including the closure of all foreign based UNITA offices.

The sanctions do not affect UNITA officials working with the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation.

NORWAY STRENGTHENS ITS COOPERATION WITH ANGOLA IN DEMINING OPERATIONS

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 24)

Hilda Johnson, the Norwegian Minister for Development and Human Rights said that her country has allocated 200 million USD to support demining programmes in various countries including Angola. Ms. Johnson visited Uige province and Maquela Do Zombo where the Ngo

Norwegian People's Aid had organized professional training for internally displaced people.

From 1987 to 1997, Norway has invested 124,5 million USD to assist the Angolan population.

GERMANY TO FINANCE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR THE DEMOBILIZED

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 24)

During 1998-99, 60 different social projects will be financed by the German Government.

More than 14,000 ex-military and vulnerable groups will share the benefits of these projects in Gabela, Waku-kungo, Kibala, Viana, Cubal and Ganda.

UNITED NATIONS FINANCES A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEMOBILIZED

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 25)

In 1997, the UN allocated 45,000 USD to train 60 demobilized ex-soldiers in construction, mechanics, electricity, in the professional center of Lubango. This sixmonth project will be coordinated by SECOR and OIT.

In a related effort, the Italian Ngo Cetras has also invested 700,000 ECUS in Lubango during the last 3 years to develop similar projects benefitting the demobilized. 600 people have already been trained.

HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR CONDUCTED AT CAIEMBO, BENGUELA PROVINCE

(Source: Angop, February 23)

Last Saturday, the MONUA human rights representative in Lobito organized a seminar in Caiembo, Benguela province. Mr. Mahamane Cisse, in charge of the Human Rights Unit in this region, said that

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the purpose was to train additional local human rights promoters. 350 promoters have already been recruited and trained in Benguela since 1996.

NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID RETURNS CLEARED MINEFIELDS (Source: Jornal de Angola, February 23)

Yesterday, the non governmental organization "Norwegian People's Aid" (NPA) returned 254 sq. km. of demined fields in the region of Essongo, to the municipality of Balombo (Benguela province) in accordance with the modalities of the peace process.

Essongo, a fertile agricultural area is situated 9 kms. east of the municipal headquarters of Balombo. Justin Baily, leader of the NPA activities in the region, explained that the demining operations were carried out by two demining brigades since last July and ended with the clearance of 197 mines and 432 other unexploded ordinances. Currently, the NPA is operating in the area of Calungo, near Lobito, where 40 mines have already been cleared.

The defense vice-minister for this municipality, Valdemar da Silva Cardoso, said he appreciated the work of the Ngo which will allow the resumption of agriculture and development activities to take root in the region.

NPA has been active searching and demining in Angola since 1994.

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR CHECKS PROGRESS OF BENGUELA RAILWAY REHABILITATION

(Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, February 23)

The Italian ambassador in Angola, Paulo Sanela, traveled today to Benguela province to review the rehabilitation of the railway (CFB), now under the responsibility of his country. Demining activities of areas near the railway are to begin today, depending on the availability of the necessary materials.

The Italian ambassador is expected to meet the director general of the CFB and of the port as well as the governor of the province of Benguela, Dumilde Rangel.

UNITA ALLEGEDLY REGROUPS IN BIE PROVINCE

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 23)

The current governor of Bie province, Antonio de Freitas, accused UNITA on Saturday of regrouping forces in Muhango, municipality of Kuiemba, in order to imped the progress of the peace process in the country. Governor de Freitas noted with urgency UNITA's demonstrated lack of interest in this process.

The governor cited as an example of this lack of interest the fact that a meeting of the GOIP was delayed for the second time because of the absence of UNITA's members. The meeting was organized in Kuito, Bie province, to find strategies for the extension of State administration in this region. Mr. de Freitas urged UNITA to show more flexibility in carrying out the Lusaka Protocol agreements.

MOZAMBIQUE IS SITE OF UNITA RECRUITMENT SAYS RNA

(Source: Radio Nacional de Angola, February 23)

In Mozambique the police arrested four people who were reportedly recruiting young people for military service in Angola. This group has been detained in the administrative office of Makape. According to the Mozambican chief of police, Joachim Wilson, the four men were operating using false documents from the Mozambican Ministry of Defense who, according to

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information quoted by the Radio Nacional de Angola, allowed them to recruit Mozambicans for military duties in Angola.

DELAYS IN THE NORMALIZATION OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION IN KUANDO-KUBANGO

(Source: Jornal de Angola, February 23)

In Jamba, the former UNITA headquarters, and in Licua, the date for the extension of State administration has not yet be set.

The vice-governor in charge of defense for this province, Jorge Fernando Biwango, declared to the Jornal de Angola that UNITA proposed, during a GOIP follow-up meeting, to have the normalization of the state administration take place 50 kms. away from Jamba.

With regard to Licua, UNITA has proposed to fix the normalization of this locality at Wasseque.

RADIO

The Public Information Office (PIO) of MONUA produces and broadcasts a radio program in Portuguese, Monday through Saturday.

***Times are as follows:

11:00, 14:00 and 21:00 - Monday to Friday.

10:00 -12:00 - Saturday.

*** A radio program in French is broadcast every Friday at 21:30 *** Radio frequencies are as follows:

AM - 219M - 1367 Khz,

- 276M - 1088 Khz

SW - 31M - 9720 Khz

- 25M - 11955 Khz

-41M -4245 Khz

-60M -4950 Khz

- 90M - 3375 Khz

FM - 93.5 Mhz

TELEVISION

*** MONUA PIO also produces a TV

program which can be seen on Angolan
National Television (TPA), on
Wednesday and Fridays following the
evening news, as well as on Sundays
between 12h10 and 12h40.

TRANSLATED BY FERNANDO GOMES

ANNOUNCEMENT