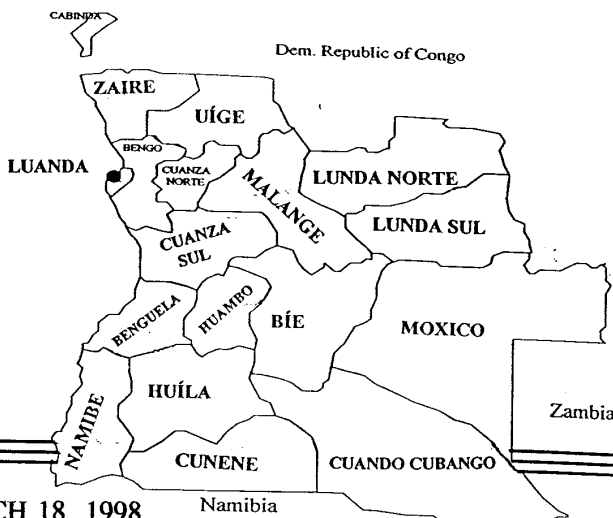


DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

MONUA Public Information Office



Nº881 - MARCH 18, 1998



UN SG LATEST REPORT: UN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS MUST CONTINUE

(Source: MONUA/PIO, March 18)

In his report, the SG observes that: "The delay in the normalization of State administration in the UNITA strongholds of Andulo, Bailundo and Mussende, which is mostly due to political considerations, also hinders the establishment of central authority in adjacent areas, where UNITA appears to be maintaining a security perimeter. However, UNITA claims that the delays in the normalization of these areas are mostly due to the conduct of the ANP, which is being accused of gross violations of human rights. At the same time, in some provinces delays are related to logistical difficulties and security considerations on the part of the Government".

Referring to the progress that was made he said: "The 6 March 1998 revised timetable includes an agreement between the Government and UNITA stipulating that "Radio Vorgan" would cease broadcasting on 31 March 1998. In the meantime, efforts have continued to allow "Radio Despertar"

to become operational as soon as possible by acquiring the necessary equipment".

In preparations to the talks ahead he said that: "MONUA has been paying particular attention to its public relations efforts aimed at strengthening peace-building and national reconciliation. To this end, United Nations public information officers have been deployed to several politically sensitive areas. The improved outreach will help broaden local political dialogue and public participation in the peace process, as envisioned in MONUA's mandate".

However he said: "The general military situation in Angola has remained relatively stable. Some of the tensions were due to the aggressive conduct of the ANP who often harass the local population in the areas where central authority has been recently established. At the same time, the security situations has deteriorated in some parts of Angola as a result of politically motivated attacks instigated by both UNITA "residual" troops and supporters, as well as Government forces. Overall security has also been affected by the discovery of numerous arms caches and the laying of new mines in

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Bie Province, which is attributed to UNITA elements.

On the restructuration of the mission the report said: "As indicated in my report of 12 January 1998 (S/1998/17), the planned downsizing of the military contingent of MONUA has been accomplished. In accordance with resolution 1149 (1998) dated 17 January 1998, the present strength of the MONUA's military task force stands at 1,045 personnel, including four infantry companies, 45 staff officers and 90 military observers, along with the small helicopter, signals, logistic and medical support units. With the present military force, the United Nations retains a capacity to respond to emergency security needs and continue to assist in the implementation of residual military tasks.

In the new configuration of the mission and in view of the substantial withdrawal of MONUA's military units and the progress made in the normalization of state administration, the tasks of the civilian police component (CIVPOL) have increased both in terms of geographical coverage and its impact on the peace process. The presence of civilian police observers in many sensitive localities throughout the country enables MONUA to monitor the conduct of the ANP in order to prevent human rights abuses, and to instil much needed confidence among the civilian population. In addition, United Nations police observers continue to monitor the activities of the Rapid Reaction Police (RRP), the effective incorporation of UNITA elements into the ANP and RRP, the security arrangements for UNITA leadership, and to perform other crucial tasks.

Concerning the future of the mission,

the SG said:" The Security Council requested me to make recommendations regarding the configuration of MONUA before 30 April 1998 when the current mandate of the mission will expire. In view of the delays in the implementation of key provisions of Lusaka Protocol and the short period of time remaining until the expiration of MONUA's mandate, no major changes in MONUA's strength and operations appear desirable at this time. Nevertheless, it is my intention subject to condition on the ground, to resume the gradual downsizing of the military component of the Mission, by the end of April. At the same time, Demobilization and Reintegration Office of UCAH, which was to be funded through the assessed budget until the end of March, will now operate until April, as a result of a recent compromise between the Government and UNITA regarding the special demobilization arrangements for the remaining registered troops.

The UN must continue to maintain its efforts to have a total peace in Angola. As indicated above, despite some progress made in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, the current political climate in Angola is still characterized by mistrust between the Government and UNITA, and by a sense of insecurity among the Angolan population. While much has been achieved to bring relative stability to the country over the past three years. The peace process continues to demand concert international efforts to ensure a lasting peace and the reconstruction of the country. Under these circumstances, it would be advisable to maintain a significant United Nations involvement in the peace process, in order to promote confidence-building measures,

national reconciliation and socio-economic development.

ANGOLA: UNITA READY TO DEMOBILIZE GENERALS

(Source: MONUA/SPOKESMAN OFFICE March 18)

UNITA Leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi today confirmed that generals and other high ranking officers of his Movement will finally be demobilized, thus marking an important step in the final and successful conclusion of the Angolan Peace Process.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Angola, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye was today in Andulo to discuss with the UNITA Leader the current state of the peace process.

The UNITA leader reiterated to the UN envoy his Party's commitment to implement the remaining tasks of the Lusaka Protocol signed in 1994 in Zambia ending two decades of a civil war that had claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

The Angolan Government and UNITA which are both represented at the Joint Commission - The body created to oversee the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol-Had agreed on 6 March to complete the current peace process by April 1st 1998. The UN and the TROIKA of Observers States (Russia, USA and Portugal) are also members of the Joint Commission.

The UNITA Leader confirmed today that the remaining key elements of the Protocol will be implemented within the agreed timetable, in particular the demobilisation of over 150 high ranking UNITA officers and generals, the return of all localities under UNITA's control to the Government, the demobilisation of UNITA's

residual forces as well as the cessation of UNITA's Radio broadcasts.

Tomorrow 19 March, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) will proceed with the demobilisation of these UNITA generals in Bailundo, one of UNITA's main strongholds.

"Both Bailundo and Andulo which are the main residences of Dr. Savimbi as well as sixty seven (67) other localities under UNITA's control must be returned to the Central Government by April 1st. Out of the three hundred thirty five (335) localities under its control, UNITA has returned two hundred sixty six (266) to the Central Administration".

For its part, the Government had already lifted the ban on UNITA's political activities and agreed to provide the UNITA leader with 400 bodyguards when he settles in Luanda. UNITA confirmed today that the 400 soldiers will be registered today so that the process for their integration into the National Police could begin.

However, the Government is yet to promulgate the special status of Dr Savimbi as the principal Leader of the Angolan opposition. This has already been enacted last April into law by the National Assembly where seventy (70) UNITA members of parliament are represented.

The Government had also fulfilled its commitment to appoint UNITA officials to various posts in the Central, Provincial and Local Government Administration.

Eleven (11) UNITA officials have been appointed to ministerial posts in April 1997. " Two days ago, the Angolan Head of State issued a decree appointing ten (10) UNITA officials as Governors and Vice -

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Governors. Other remaining tasks of the Lusaka Protocol include the appointment of UNITA officials as Ambassadors to Canada, Mexico, India, Cape Verde, Poland and UNESCO, as well as the disarming of the civilian population.

After UNITA had formally declared the complete demilitarisation of its forces, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) confirmed on 10 March that UNITA had indeed no military forces left with exception of 1645 residual forces to be demobilised through a Special Agreement and the 400 bodyguards of Dr Savimbi. Furthermore, UNITA is to hand-over its remaining war-like equipments still in its possession.

MONUA is still verifying locations throughout the country as it deems necessary.

KOFI ANNAN: SANCTIONS PREVAIL
(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 18)

The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, affirmed that sanctions imposed on UNITA by the Security Council will only be lifted after the total implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

Kofi Annan was speaking to the press at the UN Palace in Geneva. "Although there was progress in recent times, it does not mean that everything is alright. The lifting of sanctions won't happen before completion of all tasks of the Lusaka Protocol. The peace accords "is in the hands of Savimbi and I hope that the terms will be implemented before the end of the year", he said.

The Security Council is expected to meet today to review the Angolan situation based on the report of the UN Secretary

General, Kofi Annan.

PEACE PROCESS IN THE AGENDA OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER

(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 18)

Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jaime Gama is on a visit to USA. The Angolan peace process is on his agenda.

Tomorrow he will meet with US Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Madeleine Albright, and Defence, William Cohen, and with Assistant-Secretary of State, Thomas Pickering. He will return to Lisbon in March 20.

APPROVED TIMETABLES ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED

(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 16)

Yesterday the SRSG Alioune Blondin Beye urged that "all approved timetables must be implemented". He said this after the audience with the Angolan President.

The director of the Humanitarian Coordinating Unit (UCAH) and WFP Representative, Ramiro da Silva, was at Futungo de Belas, to bid farewell to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. He is leaving after completing a two years mission in Angola.

BEYE TRAVELS TO ANDULO

(Source: RNA 13:00 March 18)

Maitre Beye travelled to Andulo this morning to discuss with Jonas Savimbi the timetable for the conclusion of the pending tasks of the Lusaka Protocol. The timetable consists of twelve points of which two are already concluded.

MONUA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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**FNLA CALLS ON UNITA AND
GOVERNMENT TO HONOUR THEIR
DECLARATIONS**

(Source: New Bulletin: March 17)

Beñuela: FNLA called on the Government and UNITA to honour their recent statements to end the peace process. This declaration was made in public, in Benguela, on the occasion of the 37th anniversary marking its armed struggle. FNLA member, Mr Albert Mavinga, said that with the present situation the country can not develop.

- 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.

FROM: FERNANDO GOMES/PIO

ANNOUNCEMENT

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
