

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

MONUA Public Information Office



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UN SATISFIED WITH PEACE PROCESS

(Source: MONUA/PIO, March 27)

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Angola, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye today commended the angolan government and UNITA for their tremendous efforts made in the last three weeks to conclude the angolan peace process.

Mr. Beye chaired the 84th session of the Joint Commission to review progress made in the implementation of the pending military and political tasks agreed upon by the angolan parties in a calendar approved on 6 March. The Joint Commission is the body charged with the follow-up and implementation of the Lusaka Peace Protocol. Its members include the delegations of the government and UNITA, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) and Ambassadors of the Troika (Russia, USA and Portugal).

The meeting was attended by the

chairman of the Security Council Committee charged with monitoring sanctions against UNITA, Ambassador Njuguna MAHUGU of Kenya. The angolan Vice-minister of Interior and Commander of the National Police, Fernando DA PIEDADE

"Nando" sitting on the government bench also briefed the session on the government's current efforts to disarm the civilian populations, one of the tasks in the approved calendar.

The Joint Commission had noted with satisfaction the completion of the demobilization "in situ" of UNITA residual forces, the demobilization of UNITA high ranking officers and generals, UNITA's declaration of its demilitarization, the registration and demobilization of 400 men who will compose Dr. Savimbi's personal guard.

Six thousand four hundred thirty five (6435) UNITA residual forces had gone through the demobilization in-situ process out of a total of seven thousands seven

hundred fourteen (7714). The remaining one thousand two hundred seventy nine (1279) will be demobilized through a system called the open mechanism.

The 218 (two hundred eighteen) UNITA high ranking officers and generals have been demobilised (135 up-to-date) or will be demobilised (the remaining seventy three) directly through the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA).

The Joint Commission had also applauded the re-launch of the disarmament of the civilian populations by the government and made recommendations for the creation of an atmosphere of trust for the successful end of such operation throughout the country.

Today's meeting had to be adjourned due to the late hour. But it will resume on Monday to welcome in a special session a high level US delegation mandated by the Clinton Administration to review the Angolan peace process. The resumed ordinary session will then assess the pending political tasks of the peace process.

These include the installation of the UNITA leadership in Luanda (on 31 March), the cessation of UNITA's radio broadcast (on 31 March) and the hand over by UNITA of all remaining areas under its control to the central administration (on 1 April). For its part, the Angolan government had already legalised UNITA as a political party and nominated UNITA officials to the posts of Governors, Vice Governors and Ambassadors.

The Angolan head of state had also promulgated the special status for UNITA leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi as the leader of the main opposition party in Angola.

The Joint commission would also

assess the military situation in the country in light of the several reported incidents including last Wednesday's gun fire attack in Cabundi-Catembo, Malange province against a UN helicopter and a government helicopter which were bringing UN and Government officials to re-establish the central administration authority in the area. A new incident was again reported today in Chongoroi, Benguela province where an unidentified armed group attacked the MONUA team site and surrounding buildings but no team member was injured. MONUA is investigating both incidents.

This is the first time Mr. Beye was chairing an ordinary session of the Joint Commission since his return to Luanda earlier this month after an absence of nearly three months due to ill health.

ASSESSMENT ON THE DEMOBILIZATION PROCESS

(Source: RNA, March 27)

According to the Information Officer of UCAH, Rosa Malango, the demobilization of Savimbi's personal guards began today in Bailundo, Andulo and Mungo.

Concerning the demobilization of high ranking officers and generals she said: "115 elements were already demobilized. Therefore, preparations are going on to demobilized those who are in Luanda.

"The process is on track and it will be accomplished soon".

Rosa Malango also spoke about "open file" mechanism which will be organized by IRSEM and the Army. This mechanism will apply to soldiers who weren't present at the time of the demobilization "In Situ".

USA SUPPORTS DEMOBILIZATION
(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 27)

On Friday the military attache of the US Embassy in Angola, Mykel Wprik, will travel to Kwanza South Province to assess the training and reintegration programmes for demobilized soldiers.

VENANCIO DE MOURA: SC DECISIONS MUST BE RESPECTED
(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 27)

Angolan Minister of External Relations, Venancio de Muora appealed to his french speaking African counterparts to respect decisions of the SC.

On Wednesday night he told the press that during the Franco-African Summit he briefed his counterparts on the current stage of the peace process in Angola.

"The angolan peace process is of the interest of all countries", he said.

POLICE DISARM CIVILIANS

(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 27)

In Namibe Province, the Police seized various types of weapons, including AKM Automatic rifles, self-propelled "RPG7" grenades, 82mm mortars and G-3 SKS.

According to the Namibe Provincial Police Chief, Sub-Commissioner Antonio Victor Teixeira da Cunha, some of the UXOs seized were destroyed and witnessed by MONUA representatives.

PROMOTING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Source: Jornal de Angola, March 27)

The participants to the new work program between the Angolan Government and UNICEF, discussed the 1999-2003 cooperation program and the need to allocate

financial resources to social sectors.

Vice-Minister for Planning, Ana Dias Lourenco said: " Angola might become the country of the lost generation, since 67 percent of its population live in extreme conditions of poverty.

The participants also recommended the formation of a joint advocacy between the Government and UNICEF so that a major fund raising campaign would be organized.

UNICEF Regional Director, Shahida Azfar, stressed the infant mortality rate, basic sanitation, health and education, as well as exploitation, negligence and abuse on women and children.

REPORT ABOUT CHILDREN STATE

(Source: RNA, March 27)

The report on the children was released today in the theatre hall of the RNA in the presence of UN, Government, MONUA and the UNICEF Regional Director.

Angolan vice-Minister of Health, Teresa Cohen, said : " the Angolan Government is trying its best to correct the situation.

"The biggest problem that affects dramatically the Angolan children can and must be reversed. This is a situation fundamentally caused by war. For this reason peace is a paramount factor and all means ought to be applied so that peace becomes the first priority for the Angolan people and first opportunity for the children of Angolan."

UNICEF Regional Director Said: "about 183 million children are under weigh, 226 million have a retarded development and 100