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(UCAH)



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Note for the File
Security Meeting
18 December, 1995

UNAVEM reported the following:

1. **Decrease of level of cooperation from Government and UNITA:** A certain trend has been noted in reports coming in from UNAVEM teamsites. It appears that both Government and UNITA liaison officers have become less cooperative with UNAVEM officers at local level. Relief agencies may experience a low level of cooperation from formerly cooperative officials. This change in attitude may be a result of increasing tension after the clash between FAA and UNITA military that took place on 20 November in Sumba, near Soyo in Zaire province.
2. **Aftermath of the Sumba military incident:** Part of the measures taken following the incident include the temporary suspension of the quartering process, restriction of movement of UNAVEM personnel including humanitarian and UNAVEM flights, and some harassment of NGO staff.
3. **Human Rights violations:** Reports of human rights violations are increasing specially in Quilengues, Cubal, Ganda and surrounding areas. Mostly due to cattle stealing by FAA and UNITA military.
4. **Demining:** The number of joint FAA/UNITA demining exercises has lessened. It is no longer possible to arrange joint meetings at local level without permission from Luanda and Bailundo.
5. **Tension areas:** The traditional tension areas during the past two weeks continue to be Quilengues, Cubal, Ganda, Chongoroi, Lucapa and Dundo. New problem areas in the past two weeks include Andulo and Chitembo, as well as Sumba (Zaire province).

UCAH informed:

6. **UNITA officials harass NGO staff in Quibala:** Local UNITA officials confiscated the SCF-US HF radio, vehicle and food in Quibala, Kwanza Sul. In response, SCF-US informed UNITA of the suspension of activities in all areas under their control due to harassments. In Lumege NGO staff, including SCF-US

staff were told that they could continue their activities in the area but that UNITA officials were no longer responsible for their security. SCF-US reported that although this statement was withdrawn late Friday 15 December, the suspension continues.

7. **UNITA officials harass NGO staff in Lumege-Cameia:** Local UNITA officials withdrew the keys to LWF vehicles, house and warehouse in Lumege-Cameia from LWF staff, who sought refuge at the UNAVEM teamsite when UNITA officials entered forcefully into his house. After strenuous negotiations he was allowed to leave in a UNAVEM flight and is now safely in Luanda.
8. **UNITA restricts humanitarian flights:** UNITA officials in **Moxico** requested that they be informed eight hours in advance of any flight to UNITA controlled areas in the province. In **Zaire province**, local UNITA officials requested for the registration number of relief planes and the names of the crew members. A plane used by WFP was temporarily restrained from departing from **Mbanza Congo** because it was reported to have an MPLA flag. Local UNITA officials said that they did not want this plane to transport relief aid to **Licua**, Kuando Kubango province. ICRC flights to **Ebanga**, Benguela province were also temporarily suspended. ICRC has resumed flights to this destination after discussions with UNITA representatives at the Joint Commission.
9. **Luanda:** CICS reported that their house in Luanda was robbed. UCAH reported that this morning the American Embassy had prohibited all Embassy staff to travel to Jamba or/and Licua by plane. No reason was given for this order.
10. **Security problems in Cacuso:** UCAH reported that WVI had to temporarily suspend food distributions in Cacuso, Malange province from 5-11 December when local police officers attempted to get part of the food rations for its beneficiaries. The issue was solved locally thanks to the Malange Vice-Governor for Defense who sent some military personnel to protect WVI staff during distributions.
11. **Security problems in Wako Cungo:** AFRICARE reported that three explosions took place at Wako Cungo *sede* on 12 December. The cause of these explosions is still unknown.
12. **Ebola scare in Ebanga:** A joint mission with UCAH, ICRC, and UNITA officials found no evidence of Ebola (hemorrhagic fever) virus in Ebanga, Benguela province. The area was reported to be isolated and interviews with local health workers and members of the families of the suspected victims gave no indications that the deaths reported were due to hemorrhagic fever.

UCAH/RM