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N1: Fin. Times (Br), 90 07 03 (abr)

N2: Guardian (Br), 90 07 02

## ANC strike call gets massive backing

By Patti Waldmeir  
in Johannesburg

SOUTH African blacks stayed away from work and schools yesterday after the African National Congress (ANC) called for a general strike in protest at faction-fighting between rival black groups in Natal province.

The 24-hour strike, which appears to have been supported by a majority of blacks in most big centres, was staged by the ANC and its affiliates to highlight concern over violence in Natal which has left 4,000 people dead since 1986. Organisers said 3m took part but this could not be independently confirmed.

The ANC-affiliated Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which called the strike, said two-thirds of black workers stayed away from work in Natal. Police put the figure at 60 per cent, and said intimidation had caused many people to observe the stayaway. The strike was also well supported in and around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Yesterday's action, which is to be followed by a week of protests, appears to be an attempt to isolate Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha political movement, whose supporters have been fighting the ANC and Cosatu in Natal.

The strike is aimed at putting pressure on Pretoria to end the Natal violence — including disbanding the KwaZulu police force, which Chief Buthelezi heads, as well as the homeland itself. Community groups accuse the KwaZulu police of favouring Inkatha in the fighting.

However, a senior ANC leader in Natal has highlighted the risks of such a strategy. Mr Archie Gumede, a member of the ANC team at recent negotiations with Pretoria, told the Johannesburg Daily Mail newspaper that the stayaway was "a first class recipe for intransigence on the part of Buthelezi... and a first class recipe for the continued

Opposition activists fear harsh clampdown by Kaunda

## Zambia still volatile despite failed coup

Ben Taylor in Lusaka

**A**FTER the weekend's abortive coup by what appears to have been a handful of army officers, paramilitary police and army troops patrolled the streets of the Zambian capital, Lusaka, yesterday, and activists involved in the unrest were reassessing the still-volatile political climate.

"Things may appear to have returned to normal but it doesn't mean the people have given up their struggle," said a pro-democracy activist in hiding in the capital. "They are still waiting for a Moses to liberate them."

After a quiet Sunday, disturbed only by the opening of a few banks to allow people to withdraw money to buy food, it was unclear last night how many officers had been involved in the takeover of the media headquarters early on Saturday morning. Some reports spoke of four drunk junior officers, others of six.

After troops loyal to President Kenneth Kaunda moved into the complex, the government described the coup attempt as a "pure fabrication of one indisciplined soldier". Later on Saturday, President Kaunda spoke of coup plotters,

and television news reported that only two other officers were involved — both junior to Lieutenant Mwamba Luchembe, who made the pre-dawn broadcasts announcing that the military had seized power.

However, the number of plotters seemed of minor significance to most analysts yesterday, compared to the jubilant response of soldiers and thousands of civilians who celebrated in the streets when they heard the takeover announcement.

Celebrations were not confined to the streets of Lusaka. Jubilant crowds gathered in the mining towns of Mufuilirwa, Ndola and Kitwe, although reactions in rural areas have not been reported.

President Kaunda on Saturday hinted of a tough response to the unrest, and there is no doubt that the coup attempt, on top of last week's protests, has shaken the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP).

"There have been too many coup attempts," he said. "We must ask ourselves whether we have been too soft on these criminals... On my part, I have been asking myself whether the law of the land we have been following is the right one."

Pro-democracy activists are prepared for the worst. Some are said by colleagues to be making plans to flee "to take the struggle international".

Suddenly it seems Zambia, for so many years the haven of refugees from South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Malawi and Zaire, may begin to produce its own exiles.

Some activists have already been arrested. Peter Chiko Bwalya, described in the official press as a "former political detainee", was arrested last week. A miners' union official is also in detention.

Relatives of Bishop John Mambo, of the Evangelical Church of God, have been warned by the authorities to "shut his mouth", according to friends. The bishop supports a multi-party system and was interviewed on the BBC on Saturday.

President Kaunda will find it difficult to restore his credibility. "He's become a laughing stock," said one diplomat yesterday. For that reason, he may decide not to attend this week's meeting in Addis Ababa of the Organisation of African Unity.

The unrest seems far from over. News announcers still start the news with: "Remember, UNIP is the pillar of the nation". But the pillar threatens to come tumbling down.

N3: Int. Her. Trib. (US), 90 07 03 (fragm.)

killing of people." He condemned the policy of isolating Chief Buthelezi: "I can't see that you can achieve this in Natal where Buthelezi has a genuine constituency."

Police and the army kept a high profile in Natal during the stayaway, but reported only isolated violence.

Two rival black political groups, the Pan-Africanist Congress and the Azanian Peoples Organization, also told their supporters to disregard the campaign.

The strike demonstrated the influence wielded in black townships by the African National Congress, which was legalized five months ago by President Frederik W. de Klerk after 30 years as a banned

organization. The labor federation said it was the first time that a national strike was held on an ostensibly regional issue.

The state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation said the Port Elizabeth area experienced an almost total strike by black workers, while the Western Cape, which includes Cape Town, was largely unaffected. Absenteeism at businesses in the Transvaal, South Africa's most populous province, ranged from 10 to 90 per cent.

Angola faces famine after drought and 15 years of war

## Angola set to accept multi-party system

By Michael Holman

HOPES for a settlement in Angola's 15-year civil war rose yesterday when the central committee of the ruling MPLA announced that the government would "evolve towards a multi-party system".

This has been one of the main demands of the Unita guerrilla movement, led by Mr Jonas Savimbi.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting in the capital, Luanda, which began last Wednesday, said: "Bearing in mind the history and reality of our country, the People's Republic of Angola will evolve towards a multi-party political system."

Western diplomats said last night that the statement, which follows two rounds of talks between the two parties under Portuguese mediation, paved the way for further progress at a meeting, due to take place later this month.

The diplomats said last night that, although the MPLA's agreement to accept a multi-party system was a big step forward, there might still be disagreement between the two sides over the length of a transitional period before elections take place. Unita was likely to press for a year to 18 months, while the MPLA expected some four years to elapse.

N79: Inform Africa (P), 90 06 30 (abr)

A UNITA delegation led by Jaka Jamba, the organisation's top official for Education, has been in Budapest, Prague and East Berlin. The delegation included UNITA's representative in New York, Abel Chivukuvuko.

N80: Radio Report

**Angolan military commander comments on UNITA-Zaire links** (Text) Luanda, 3rd July: Northern Front Commander Higinio Rarreiro has said that it would have been impossible for UNITA to establish a military base in Quimbele, Uige province, without the aid of the Republic of Zaire. Colonel Higinio said this in an interview with the national media in Uige city carried by today's edition of 'Jornal de Angola'. He said "there was sufficient evidence for this shameless interference of the Republic of Zaire in the Angolan internal conflict."

Colonel Higinio said that with Zaire's assistance, UNITA is trying to create conditions to transform Quimbele into another Jamba. He also pointed out that in less than one month, five air violations were detected in the provinces of Uige, Malanje, and Zaire, from Zairean territory. Colonel Higinio also said: "We can't say that the planes just deviated from their flight route. The aim is to provide material support to UNITA." He pointed out that Zaire is one of the most solid bases for the illegal entry of foreign forces into Angola. (ANGOP in Portuguese 1945 gmt 4 Jul 90)

## US asks for Soviet help on Savimbi plan

David Ottaway  
in Johannesburg

THE United States has asked the Soviet Union to support a proposal by the Angolan rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, to create urgently needed "corridors of peace" to allow safe passage of emergency food to 780,000 Angolans facing starvation in southern Angola.

A State Department official in Washington said the US Agency for International Development's office of foreign disaster assistance regards Angola as "the worst humanitarian crisis in Africa, bar none".

The disaster assistance office, which has set up a special task force to deal with the Angolan emergency, said in a report published on June 6 that 1.5 million Angolans, out of a population of 9 million, were affected by drought and that "many southerners are eating seeds and roots in order to stave off starvation".

The report cited an estimate by the International Committee of the Red Cross that 2,500 Angolans have died of malnutrition since the beginning of the year and that about 120,000 cattle had also perished.

US officials said the situation in Angola has reached crisis proportions because of a combination of a two-year drought

and the accumulated deterioration of the economy after 15 years of war between the US-backed rebel forces of Dr Savimbi and the Soviet-backed Angolan government.

One indication of the seriousness of the situation, according to a US official, was that Dr Savimbi had never before asked for outside food aid, having often boasted of the ability of his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to feed people in the territory it controls.

Dr Savimbi proposed the peace corridors, along with a ceasefire, in letters to President Bush, President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santos, State Department sources said.

On Thursday, a senior official in the State Department's Africa bureau, Jeff Davidson, met officials from the Soviet Embassy in Washington to discuss the idea of a joint US-Soviet humanitarian response to the Savimbi proposal. There was no immediate Soviet reply.

The Soviet Union and the United States have already worked together to help get emergency food aid into drought- and war-devastated regions of northern Ethiopia.

In Angola, US officials said, 250,000 people are at "immediate risk of starvation", including 150,000 living in the parts of southern Angola controlled by

Unita.

This area constitutes about a third of Angola and borders Namibia and Botswana. The US disaster assistance office had planned to ship 15,000 to 25,000 tons of food through these countries into Unita territory to feed people there for one year.

But both Namibia and Botswana told the US they would not allow any food through their countries unless the Angolan government assured them that it did not object.

So far the Angolan government has refused to give such an assurance, and the US relief operation has been on hold.

The US disaster assistance office said the United Nations had issued an appeal for 38,400 tons of food to feed 780,000 "severely and critically affected persons".

The disaster assistance office has granted \$1.6 million to the Red Cross to provide seeds and tools to peasants living in Unita areas.

The Red Cross is the only international relief group working in both rebel- and government-held territory.

Dr Savimbi's idea of peace corridors probably originates with a similar, successful operation two years ago in southern Sudan, where millions of people, trapped in fighting between the government and rebels, also faced starvation. — Washington Post.

N81: Radio Report

**Angolan government to allow relief supplies to UNITA-controlled areas** (ME/0808 B/5) Radiodifusao Portuguesa (Lisbon) reported on 4th July that the Angolan government is to authorise emergency food aid to be sent to UNITA-controlled areas. The government was said to be willing to co-operate in an international effort to supply humanitarian aid in "needy situations" provided that it would be responsible for the security of aid columns which would circulate under the escort of the Angolan armed forces. The Angolan ambassador to the UN said that UNITA would be held responsible if it impeded the movement of these columns. The US administration welcomed Luanda's decision, the radio said.

N82: Radio Report

**Angolan officials report shortfall in relief aid** (Text) Drought-stricken Angola has received less than a tenth of the food aid needed by the starving people of its central and southern provinces. Angolan embassy officials told a news conference in Harare that their government had asked for 300,000 tons of food aid last year but that donor insensitivity and security problems had resulted in an aid shortfall. An embassy spokesman said 600 people, including 200 children, and 62,000 head of cattle had died of hunger and exhaustion. He said about 2.5 million people needed food aid. (Radio South Africa, Johannesburg, in English 0500 gmt 26 Jun 90)