

# FACTS AND REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTINGS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

VOLUME 20, NO. H

20 APRIL, 1990

H1: Independent (Br), 90 04 11

## ANC picks strong team for government talks

THE African National Congress yesterday named a politically heavyweight 11-strong team, headed by Nelson Mandela, to take part in three days of "talks about talks" with the government in Cape Town, starting on 2 May.

It will be the first formal encounter held between the ANC and the government, the objective being to provide the springboard for full negotiations aimed at seeking a democratic alternative to white minority rule.

Mr Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, will be accompanied at the meeting by Walter Sisulu and Ahmed Kathrada, ANC veterans released from prison together last October; the ANC secretary-general, Alfred Nzo; the commander of the ANC's military wing, Joe Modise; the director of international affairs, Thabo Mbeki and Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party. Beyers Naude, Ruth Mompoti, Cheryl Carolus and Archie Gumede make up the rest of the party.

The names were released in a statement issued in Lusaka by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC — the organisation's top decision-making body. The most interesting inclusion in the list, perhaps, is Joe Slovo, in the sense that there is no member of the ANC whom South Africa's white population detest more. He is white, and therefore a "traitor" and he is a "Communist" — a term which, for all the changes in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, still generates much horror in the white residential areas. Mr Slovo is one of five members of the NEC who will be returning to South Africa from exile for the first time since the 1960's.

The statement yesterday urged the government to speed up promised legal measures to ensure that the returning exiles are immune from arrest for the duration of their stay in South Africa. The ANC team also includes, revealingly, three members of the United Democratic Front, a sur-

rogate ANC organisation founded inside the country in 1983.

The UDF has always claimed — for legal reasons as much as anything else — that it operates independently of the ANC. Since the ANC was legalised two months ago, however, the lines dividing the two organisations have become increasingly blurred, to the point that it is now a subject of some debate inside the UDF whether there is any point in formally keeping up pretences.

The inclusion in the talks team of Beyers Naude, an Afrikaner cleric and UDF "patron", Archie Gumede, UDF co-president, and Cheryl Carolus, a member of the UDF national executive, provides a strong indication of what the outcome of the debate is likely to be. Similar swiftness of action is what the ANC is looking for from the government after the May meeting. Yesterday's statement said: "To achieve speedy movement towards the abolition of

apartheid it is vital that this meeting achieve the necessary results in terms of removing the obstacles that continue to stand in the way of negotiations."

Foremost among these, as the ANC has identified them, are the government's persistence with the long-standing state of emergency and its failure to release all political prisoners. The trade-off the government would receive in return would, all indicates, be a commitment from the ANC to suspend the "armed struggle".

There is no indication, however, of the ANC relenting on its call to the international community "to remain firm", as yesterday's statement said, "in its commitment to isolate apartheid South Africa".

"So far, neither profound nor irreversible change has taken place... Any relaxation of pressure against the apartheid regime can only complicate and hinder the process of ending the system of white minority domination through negotiations."

H2: Fin. Times (Br), 90 04 14

## Direct Angola-Unita talks expected soon

By Julian Borger in Harare

DIRECT talks are expected to start soon in Lisbon between the Angolan Government and the rebel movement, Unita, amid high hopes they could lead to a resolution of Angola's 15-year civil war.

A new mood of compromise has been apparent since both sides fought each other to a standstill earlier this year in one of the fiercest battles of the conflict.

Earlier this week, Mr Venancio de Moura, Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister, said the talks would probably begin, behind closed doors, today. The ruling MPLA party was dropping its insistence they should take place on the African continent, but he predicted the venue would shift to the Cape Verde islands as the talks progressed.

His announcement was a quick response to a Unita offer of a ceasefire after a protracted and inconclusive battle for the south-eastern town of Mavinga. A government offensive launched last Christmas on

this Unita stronghold met stiff resistance, and although government troops succeeded in reaching the town they found its vital airstrip totally destroyed and have since withdrawn under rebel bombardment.

The battle was a victory for no-one. The rebels had thought Mavinga invulnerable, while the offensive forced Mr Jonas Savimbi, Unita leader, to cut short a visit to Portugal and dash back to his base at Jamba, only 130 miles to the south.

Unita has since recognised the "legitimacy of the Angolan state", having insisted it would only negotiate with the MPLA as a party, not as a government. Mr Savimbi has also dropped his demand that government troops pull back to their pre-Christmas positions before agreeing to a ceasefire.

The MPLA has moved closest to the negotiating table. The previous round of talks, begun last June when Presi-

dent Eduardo Dos Santos and Mr Savimbi shook hands in the Zairean town of Gbadolite, broke down principally over Luanda's demands that Unita be absorbed into the existing one-party system, and that Mr Savimbi retire from politics for at least a two-year cooling-off period. Both those demands have now been dropped.

A nine-point peace proposal handed by Mr Dos Santos to Mr James Baker, US Secretary of State, at Namibian independence celebrations in March asks only for recognition of the state. There is no longer any mention of respect of existing constitutional laws, as the Angolan constitution is at present undergoing a thorough review.

The MPLA is currently circulating preparatory documents for the party's Third Congress, scheduled for December this year, which, for the first time, raise the possibility that the "current political system might realistically evolve into

multi-party politics" under conditions of peace.

Even these proposals are beginning to look out of date, as realisation of the human and material cost of the Mavinga offensive has undermined party hardliners grouped around Mr Roberto de Almeida, ideology secretary, and the pace of debate inside and outside the party accelerates.

The party leadership is now being urged to bring the congress forward to July, in order to establish a multi-party system once for all.

Both sides now seem to have dumped Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko as mediator in the conflict. The Angolan Government has been increasingly hostile to President Mobutu's role, as his country has continued to provide the conduit for US arms bound for Unita, since the rebels' supply route from South Africa was severed by Namibian independence.

H56: Namibian (Nam), 90 03 30

# Emergency food aid

Oxfam launches relief operation in southern Angola

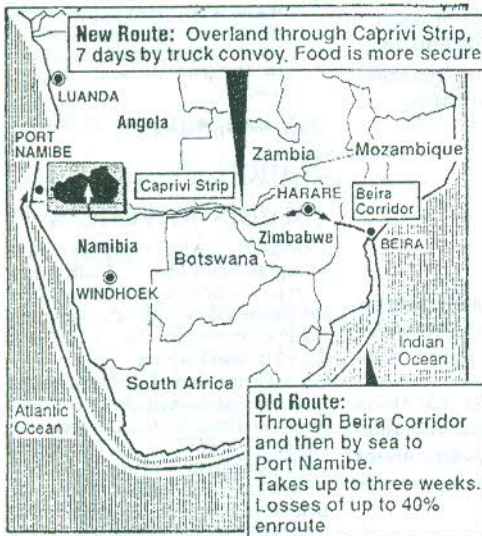
**THE** severe drought in southern Angola has galvanised a number of international development agencies into getting involved in an emergency food relief operation.

On Friday, March 23, Oxfam-Canada pioneered a new route for emergency food aid assistance into southern Angola. Twelve trucks containing 30 tonnes each of bagged maize departed for Harare the previous Saturday. The trucks came through Zambia and crossed Zambezi by ferry into eastern Caprivi, and from there passed through the Caprivi Strip, Grootfontein, Tsumeb and Ondangua, finally reaching Oshikango last week on Thursday.

The trucks crossed the border at Oshikango-Santa Clara at around 12h30 on Friday and were accompanied by Canadian parliamentarian Walter MacLean and Oxfam Canada staff from the Harare and Windhoek offices. The delegation was met by the Assistant Commissioner for the Cunene province, Geronimo Hailenge, who accompanied and looked after them during their visit.

H61: Herald (Zim), 90 04 10 (fragm)

# First overland food convoy reaches the Angolans



H65: Windhoek Adv. (Nam), 90 04 02  
**Angola**

**LISBON:** The Marxist Angolan Government and Unita gave conflicting accounts on Saturday of the shooting down of an airplane by guerrillas.

Angop said 25 people died, including three Portuguese, when Unita rebels shot down a Casa plane of the State Airlines Taag on Tuesday.

But Unita says 46 military men were killed when it attacked a Casa Aviocar-312 plane that it said was ferrying troops and weapons from Bie to Reinforce Government positions in Huambo province.

"We deny the government's allegations that a civilian plane flying from Bie towards Huambo was shot down on March 27," Unita said. Casa Aviocars normally carry up to 30 people.

H57: Fin.Times (Br), 90 04 10

# Unita rebels seek talks with Angola

**US-BACKED** Unita rebels said yesterday they were seeking direct talks with Angola's Marxist Government and were ready to proclaim an immediate ceasefire in the 15-year-old war, Reuter reports from Paris.

A statement signed by Unita leader Mr Jonas Savimba and made public in Paris called on the Luanda Government to accept secret talks in Portugal, the former colonial power.

The statement was issued after a meeting of the guerrilla force's political and military leadership at the Jamba headquarters of the National Union for the Total Independence of

Angola (Unita) in southern Angola and dated April 7.

The statement said that following talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last week, Unita "is willing to recognise the state of Angola on the basis of the Alvor accords."

The 1975 Alvor agreement set the basis for Angola's independence from Portugal, with all three rival liberation movements agreeing to share power. As civil war broke out, Unita denounced the agreement and proclaimed its own independent state in southern Angola.

H58: West Africa (Br), 90 03 26

● Portugal's Ferbri railway company is to begin rehabilitating 11 locomotives, 50 goods wagons, and 59 passenger coaches in Angola. The work will cost \$9.9m.

H59: West Africa (Br), 90 03 26

● The Opec Fund for International Development has agreed a loan of \$3.13m for the Malanje agricultural rehabilitation project.

H60: Radio Report

**Namibia: Red Cross search for missing persons**

The director in Namibia of the International Committee of the Red Cross was quoted by Radio South Africa on 31st March as saying that "far more than 1,000 Namibians are missing after the 25-year struggle": the Red Cross had the names of about 1,000. About 30 were being held in Angola and information about missing people had come mainly from relatives who had been allowed to visit them. [4]

H63: Marchés Trop. (Fr), 90 03 23

● **ENERGIE: appel à la RSA.**—Le gouvernement angolais a demandé un appui technique matériel et financier aux autorités sud-africaines pour réparer un barrage situé sur le fleuve Cunene, au Sud du pays, et gravement endommagé par un attentat de l'Unita, a-t-on appris le 14 mars, à Luanda.

Ce barrage, appelé Gove, retient 2,5 millions de mètres cubes et risque à tout moment de se briser, indique-t-on de source officielle à Luanda. Il avait été construit en 1969 par l'Afrique du Sud alors que l'Angola était une colonie portugaise.

Des experts qui se sont rendus sur place ont relevé des indices « graves » laissant prévoir une prochaine rupture, et les travaux de réparation dépasseraient les possibilités nationales angolaises.

H64: Marchés Trop. (Fr), 90 03 23

● **AIDE: don pour le Liban.**—L'Angola a décidé d'offrir 3 millions de dollars pour des « projets de développement » au Liban et doit y envoyer une aide en médicaments d'une valeur de plus de \$ 300.000.

Le ministre libanais de l'Habitat, M. Nabih Berri, également chef du mouvement chiite Amal, a déclaré, le 12 mars, en avoir été informé par le consul d'Angola au Liban et en Syrie. "Nous remercions le président, le gouvernement et le peuple angolais pour leurs nobles sentiments, et nous n'oublierons pas que ce pays d'Afrique contribue à l'apaisement des souffrances du Liban des dizaines de fois plus que les Etats-Unis", a ajouté M. Berri.

H67: Marchés Trop. (Fr), 90 03 23

● **COMPENSATION: accord soviéto-angolo-portugais.**—Le groupe soviétique Avtoeksport négocie actuellement avec la firme portugaise Tecnocarro la création d'un partenariat, permettant de réparer les camions russes livrés à l'Angola.

Tecnocarro répare déjà les véhicules suédois, et le principal client de l'Avtoeksport est le ministère de la Défense.

L'Union soviétique fournirait entre 15 et 20 millions de dollars de pièces détachées à l'Angola par an, mais elle n'envisage de plus amples relations que par l'établissement d'une joint-venture, limitant ainsi ses sorties de devises.

Avtoeksport a déjà négocié de nouvelles ventes de camions avec Luanda, mais son partenaire angolais demande aussi des véhicules de tourisme.

Un accord de compensation a été proposé, notamment avec la livraison de pétrole.

H62: Fin.Times (Br), 90 04 03

# Captured Frenchman dies

**US-BACKED** Angolan rebels said yesterday that a Frenchman they captured six weeks ago had died from illness and warned that foreigners in Angola faced dangers from the 15-year-old civil war, Reuter reports from Lisbon.

Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) leader Jonas Savimba said in a statement issued in Lisbon that 37-year-old Jean-Francois Grossenbacher had died of malaria and gastritis last Wednesday.

"We deeply regret the death of the Frenchman" Mr Savimba said.

"All [signs] suggest that the war will assume greater proportions," he continued.

H66: Southscan (Br), 90 03 30

# Lisbon bank gives loan for Angolan fishing

Portugal's Espirito Santo and Commerce Bank of Lisbon is lending Angola \$6m for its fishing sector, Angop reported on March 17. The loan was secured after a visit to Angola by a team from the bank early this month. The bank also decided to add more than \$10m to a short-term, \$30m loan previously granted to Angola.