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G1: Guardian (Br), 21 03 90 (abr)

Joy and happy chaos as Namibia becomes free

THE flag was finally lowered on colonialism in Africa yesterday, as Namibia won its independence from South Africa at midnight amid much rejoicing.

About 2,000 foreign guests flooded this usually quiet little capital, precipitating scenes of amiable chaos as Namibians made frantic efforts to host a crush of world leaders, there to celebrate the end of one of the longest-running and most bitterly fought diplomatic issues in post-war history.

As leaders of the Swapo government-in-waiting bustled backwards and forwards along the red carpet at the airport all day to greet arriving VIPs, teams of traditional dancers and singers ululated excited, but increasingly weary, welcomes. Outside, convoys of cars hurtled along the single-lane road to Windhoek.

G3: Independent (Br), 22 03 90

NAMIBIA celebrated independence day with cheerful muddle yesterday, no one entering into the spirit of things more than President Sam Nujoma.

Mr Nujoma failed to take his place on the podium later in the day at the big independence parade through the centre of Windhoek.

Political passions in Namibia do not run anything like as high as in neighbouring South Africa, which was largely why the parade was such a jolly, gentle affair. The white community, far from slinking off timidly to their affluent neighbourhoods as they did when Zimbabwe became independent, turned up in force to take part in and watch the colourful show.

Drum majorettes, in matching shiny skirts but different shades of skin, marched through town in the direction of the Independence Stadium. With them went a succession of brightly-painted floats, in the red, blue and green colours of the Namibian flag, bearing people dressed as ostriches, elephants or pink flamingos; a band of middle-aged white men playing township tunes; black children performing tribal dances; and a cluster of cheerful women holding a banner demanding an end to male domination.

They all marched, most fittingly, down Kaiser Street.

Mr Nujoma spoke in English — the new nation's official language — yesterday afternoon when, addressing 15,000 people at the Independence Stadium, he delivered his first policy statement. This focused on the need to redress the distortions of the long-standing apartheid economy. But he had no plans to do this — as his South African comrades of the African National Congress insist they will next door — by large-scale nationalisation.

"We are committed to a mixed economy," he said. "In this regard, we look forward to a good partnership between the state and the private sector because only through working together will our country prosper."

He said that the government would seek to enter into joint ventures with the private sector and, in order to encourage such developments, laws which had long limited access to private production would be eliminated.

Much of the audience missed out on the minutiae of Mr Nujoma's address but all responded with cheerful excitement when, after he stopped speaking, he released thousands of balloons.

G5: Fin. Times (Br), 03 04 90 (abr)

De Klerk to crack down on township violence

By Patti Waldmeir

Tough measures to combat violence in South Africa's black townships and homelands were announced by President F.W. de Klerk, who added a warning that more people might be detained under the country's harsh security laws.

Mr de Klerk also announced a conciliatory step aimed at smoothing the way for talks with the ANC when he said legislation would be introduced for a partial amnesty for former ANC guerrillas. Provisions for a permanent amnesty may also be introduced. He confirmed that he would be meeting Mr Mandela on Thursday.

Mr de Klerk told parliament there would be a "greater visible security presence" in other areas of the country as well, involving roadblocks and patrols in black townships.

G2: Guardian (Br), 02 04 90

ANC calls off historic talks with De Klerk

THE peace process in South Africa was thrown into confusion at the weekend when the African National Congress unexpectedly aborted historic talks with the government, scheduled for April 11.

Nelson Mandela told the President, F. W. de Klerk, of the decision in a telephone call on Saturday morning. An ANC statement later said the talks had been called off in response to last week's police shootings in the black township of Sebokeng, in which at least five people were killed.

It is, however, widely believed that the decision was motivated by tactical considerations, and that Sebokeng was an excuse. The shooting took place last Monday, but by late in the week there was no indication that the ANC was considering such action.

Local newspapers reported yesterday that the organisation had already given Mr De Klerk the names of 11 senior ANC members who would be attending the talks. The government itself had announced a nine-man ministerial team.

It is assumed that factors behind the decision include fears within the ANC that it is in danger of losing its radical black supporters by being seen as too conciliatory towards the De

Klerk administration. There may also be a sense that the ANC has been stampeded down the road to negotiations by Pretoria, and that it is time to put the brakes on, at least temporarily.

Although both arguments may have merit, the way the ANC is handling the peace process is potentially damaging to its cause. The decision to cancel the April 11 meeting — coming

less than 24 hours after the ANC called off a joint peace rally in Natal which Mr Mandela was to have attended with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi — contributes to the impression of an indecisive, and possibly divided, ANC. Mr De Klerk's image as a "man of peace" meanwhile, continues to grow.

Mr De Klerk responded to the cancellation in conciliatory terms. Speaking at a National Party youth congress on Saturday, he argued that, even if there was "room for criticism" of the police over Sebokeng, the point of talking was to bring an end to such violence. "I told Mr Mandela that my door remained open," he said.

He was supported by the leader of the moderate Democratic Party, Zach de Beer, who said: "One can only hope that the ANC will think again, and quickly."

The cancellation is likely to be seen as a snub to Chief Buthelezi, at least among members of his Inkatha movement, and could exacerbate the conflict. It could also have far-reaching political consequences for the country as a whole.

ANC leaders in Natal that its own supporters and the UDF would not be able to attend because of the violence — leaving Mr Mandela to address what would have been essentially an Inkatha rally.

The upsurge in violence and attempts by Dr Buthelezi and Mr Mandela to negotiate a peace agreement also appears to have placed the ANC in a quandary over broader strategy. There is seemingly concern within the organisation that by allowing the two men to meet as equals they will be conceding Chief Buthelezi's standing and independent power base.

Mr Mandela has been promising a meeting with Chief Buthelezi — chief minister of the Zulu homeland of KwaZulu — and the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwe-

lithini, at a rally in the Ciskei, told a huge crowd that the ANC's armed struggle remained justified. "If the government talks about negotiations on the one hand and murders our people on the other, that we cannot accept," he said.

There are still hopes that the meeting will be held later. The ANC's national executive in Lusaka said it would meet this week to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, 13 people were killed when a car ploughed into a crowd on its way to hear Mr Mandela address a rally in the coastal town of Port Elizabeth yesterday. Another 12 people were injured, including the driver who was badly beaten by the crowd.

G4: Guardian (Br), 02 04 90

Mugabe poll victory

The decisive election victory of Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party has placed Mugabe firmly on the path to party state.

(More on Zimbabwe elections on p.2)

G6: Guardian (Br), 31 03 90

ANC calls off rally in 'snub to Zulu chief'

THE African National Congress last night called off a rally in the troubled province of Natal at which a joint appeal for peace was to have been made by Nelson Mandela and the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The announcement came after a meeting in Johannesburg of ANC leaders. They said: "The atmosphere is not yet ideal for a joint rally in Natal." Mr Mandela would, however, visit the province next week, and arrangements were "still being made" for a meeting between the two men.

Chief Buthelezi claimed in an earlier statement that the rally had been called on Mr Mandela's initiative and that the ANC leader had agreed to the timing and the venue.

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Mr Mandela has been promising a meeting with Chief Buthelezi — chief minister of the Zulu homeland of KwaZulu — and the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwe-

lithini, since shortly after his release from life imprisonment last month. But the meeting has been endlessly delayed by disagreements over the venue.

The ANC has been trying to have it staged at King Zwelithini's home in Nongomo — apparently to present it primarily as a meeting with the Zulu monarch. Chief Buthelezi has been pressing for it to be held at the KwaZulu capital of Ulundi, which is seen as his personal headquarters.

Mr Mandela, alarmed by the latest surge of violence, apparently tried to short-circuit the dispute with the plan for Monday's rally.

(cont. p.5)

667: Int.Her.Trib.(US), 22 03 90

Angola to Privatize Coffee Plantations

The Associated Press

LISBON — Angola's Marxist government will offer 126 state-owned coffee plantations to private buyers in an attempt to revive the failing industry, the world's fourth-largest before Angolan independence in 1975, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported Wednesday.

In a dispatch from Luanda, Lusa quoted a government official as saying the plantations in north-western Cuanza North province were up for imminent sale in a pilot program to boost harvests that slumped to an all-time low last year.

The official said one U.S. and two French coffee producers were interested in buying and had presented the government with rehabilitation projects for the plantations.

Angola, under Portuguese rule, was the world's fourth-largest coffee producer, supplying 19 percent of global imports in 1974.

Many plantations were abandoned in 1975 as the Portuguese colonizers rushed to evacuate.

They were nationalized immediately by Agostinho Neto's revolutionary government but continuing

673: Southscan (Br), 23 03 90

Angola chemical war scare laid to rest by Bonn expert?

Soviet ambassador to Angola Vladimir Kazimirov has rejected Unita accusations on the alleged use of Soviet-made chemical weapons by the armed forces Fapla, *Angop* reported on March 17.

He said the Soviet Union "has not supplied, nor does it supply chemical weapons to Angola".

Unita recently brought a group of toxicologists to southern Angola in a bid to buttress its accusations (*SouthScan* v5/9 p68 v5/10 p78).

Kazimirov also said that not a single Soviet military expert was involved in Fapla fighting.

Meanwhile a consultant for the West German armed forces, Dr. J. Maierhofer, a member of a "military policy committee" of the ultra-conservative CSU party in Munich, came forward with a rather straightforward explanation for the whole "chemical warfare" affair, being publicised by the Belgian professor, Auben Heyndrickx.

Maierhofer told the Cologne radio station WDR during a conference in Brussels on the Geneva CW convention negotiations that, "this type of bomb, with PVC, magnesium and

other things, has been quite well known since the '50s and '60s - its a classical affair", writes a correspondent.

They are "flare bombs", usually dropped to light up targets at night or in low visibility. "The Cubans" - as Maierhofer said - used them from time to time on clear days to sow confusion. Burning on the ground, the material releases obnoxious smoke clouds with a toxicity comparable to burning upholstery (which often contains pyramide stuffing).

The cases of "chemically intoxicated" patients presented by Heyndrickx did, however, he said, show a rather different clinical picture - showing more the signs of food poisoning, similar to the widespread olive oil poisoning in Spain in the '70s.

The cause was most probably in the food or drinking water polluted with mineral oil derivatives, he said.

The cases described by Heyndrickx and his group would hardly match smoke poisoning from the flare bombs.

"Perhaps, those people had just fetched their drinking water in diesel oil bins, or something like that", Maierhofer said.

mismanagement, poor harvests and sabotage by U.S.-backed UNITA guerrillas combined to depress production from 250,000 tons in 1973 to 3,156 tons last year.

Also, coffee prices have fallen since 1987, slashing desperately needed hard-currency revenues.

While still an avowed Marxist, single-party state, Angola under President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has been edging cautiously away from Communist ideology and centralized economic policies.

U.S. and European oil companies have for years helped the country exploit its rich crude reserves. The government has adopted new foreign investment laws and Angola was admitted to the International Monetary Fund last July.

But the government's project to clean up the massively inefficient economic and financial sectors has been slow to produce effects.

Foreign investors seem unwilling to commit large-scale capital while the 15-year civil war continues against UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, and the government still officially embraces Marxism.

674: Fin.Times (Br), 26 03 90

Angola initiative

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Nigeria. Before leaving Zimbabwe, he said he and US Secretary of State James Baker had agreed to work together on ending the wars in Angola and Mozambique.

676: Southscan (Br), 23 03 90

Debate on social reforms

The Angolan public and party militants have until April 15 to air their views on party and social reforms proposed by the central Committee in January. The Central Committee session in May will examine these opinions, according to reports in Luanda this week.

New proposed legislation covers press freedom; the right to strike; constitutional and electoral law changes to permit the candidacy of other individuals - but not other parties.

678: Fin.Times (Br), 30 03 90

Angolan air crash

An Angolan airliner crashed on Tuesday in central Angola, killing all 25 people on board, the official Angolan news agency, *Angop*, said yesterday, *Reuter* reports from Lisbon.

Angop, monitored in Lisbon, said the Spanish-built CASA aircraft of Angola's national airline, Taag, was heading for Huambo when it crashed about 20 miles from the city of Cuito.

668: Southscan (Br), 23 03 90

Cuban soldier killed in Unita attack

A Cuban soldier was killed and three others injured in a Unita attack in the central highlands of Angola. The soldier was part of on a re-supply column for Cuban forces north of the 13th parallel on March 17, the Angolan Defence Ministry announced on March 19. An earlier incident where two Cubans died resulted in the temporary suspension of the Cuban withdrawal. However, it is thought unlikely this incident will be allowed to disrupt moves to get Unita into ceasefire talks.

672: Southscan (Br), 23 03 90

Angola coffee profits drop

Angola made \$10.8m in 1989 from coffee exports - a drop of \$5m compared to 1988 - due to reduced relative quality, according to reports in Luanda.

669: Southscan (Br), 23 03 90

Angola will use Walvis Bay

A 22-member delegation headed by the Angolan Chamber of Commerce has visited Namibia and Walvis Bay to investigate the possibility of off-loading refined oil, cement and timber, according to reports in Namibia.

A commission to facilitate business contacts between the two countries is to be appointed. A group of Namibian businessmen visited Angola in January.

671: Market SE (Br), March 1990

Drought worsens in southern Angola

According to official estimates in mid-February 1.5m people in southern Angola will suffer serious food shortages as a result of the current drought. Officials said that 50,000t of foodstuffs from different donors would arrive at the ports of Lobito and Namibe in April.

Other measures currently being taken to improve the situation include the rehabilitation of facilities to tap underground water, the repair of wells and the installation of electric pumps.

A combined delegation including members of the UN Emergency Commission and NGOs visited Huila, Cunene and Namibe provinces in February to assess the situation.

By mid-February 4,800 head of cattle had died in the municipality of Kipungo in Huila Province over the previous few months as a result of the drought, as well as a lack of fodder and vaccines.

675: Market SE (Br), March 1990

ANGOLA: The European Economic Community is to channel \$8m into the rehabilitation of the Chivinguiro Agricultural Complex in Huila Province, according to Carlos Gil, EC commissioner in Angola, who said it would also spend ECU750,000 on teacher training for the project.

Projects currently financed by the EC in the province are the construction of a multi-storey building, the rehabilitation of the Lubango-Namibe highway and an agricultural equipment import programme.

Another ECU35m programme is for the importation of inputs for agriculture, fisheries, construction and industry.

677: SA Report (SA), 22 03 90

UNITA communique hails Namibia's independence

(Text) (1) The Angolan people in arms (?and) UNITA, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, congratulate the fraternal people of Namibia in general and SWAPO and their leader Sam Nujoma, in particular, on the occasion of the attainment of their independence on 21st March 1990 after long years of sacrifice and bloody war. (2) UNITA takes this opportunity to reiterate its solidarity with the fraternal people of independent Namibia, and will do its utmost to safeguard regional peace and stability. (3) UNITA also takes this opportunity to recall the friendship links that prevailed between our two organisations - UNITA-SWAPO - during the difficult and long years of our national liberation struggle against colonialism. (4) Finally, on the occasion of Namibia's independence we wish that the movement along the Angolan-Namibian border of our two peoples, who are united by ethnic, historic and cultural links, may be advantageous to friendship and frank co-operation between our two countries.

[Issued] Jamba, 20th March 1990. [Signed] Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, President, on behalf of the Political Bureau. (*Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese* 0510 gmt 21 Mar 90)