

FACTS AND REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTINGS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

VOLUME 20, NO. M

29 JUNE, 1990

M1: Int.Her.Trib.(US), 90 06 25

M2: Guardian (Br), 90 06 25 (abr)

National Party hit by bombs

David Beresford
in Johannesburg

THE hunt for South Africa's rightwing terrorist leader, Piet Rudolph, intensified yesterday after weekend bomb attacks at two Transvaal offices of the ruling National Party.

The bombs went off within half an hour of each other late on Friday night, rocking the offices of the Minister of Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, and the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Roelf Meyer. The two took part in talks with the African National Congress.

It is believed that the bombs were made of plastic explosives, possibly supplied by rightwing miners. Although there was no evidence connecting Mr Rudolph to the blasts, he was the immediate suspect.

Last week Mr Rudolph — a former security policeman who now has a £10,000 reward on his head — made a passionate appeal for an Afrikaner uprising against the government in a video delivered to local newspapers. He has been on the run since organising a successful raid on an air force armoury at Easter.

Mr Rudolph is deputy leader of a militant rightwing grouping, the Boerestaat Party, (BSP), which yesterday issued a statement expressing support for him and his "freedom struggle". The statement was signed by the leader of the Party, Robert van Tonder, and the commander of the Boere Weerstandsbeweging, (BWB), Mr Andrew Ford. The BWB is a breakaway from the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

The statement said that the BSP and the BWB had agreed at a meeting on Saturday to "co-operate in our main objective of re-establishing a Boer republic." It said that the BSP would provide the political leadership while the BWB would organise the Boer army.

The statement promised "all possible legal support for Piet Rudolph, and all the other unknown Piet Rudolphs," and said a fund had been established "to help the families of Boers who have to flee from the De Klerk-Mandela communists".

Meanwhile, a man suspected of killing the Swapo leader,

US weapons boost Angolan rebels

Alan George

THE recent turnaround in the fortunes of Angola's Unita rebels follows a sharp increase in clandestine American arms deliveries by a Florida-based CIA cargo airline, which is now operating three Hercules cargo planes into Angola.

For the past two years, Tepper Aviation has been ferrying weaponry from the Kamina airbase in southern Zaire to Uni-

ta's headquarters at Jamba, in south-east Angola. Until late last year, a single Hercules made about two deliveries each week. In mid-December, however, coinciding with a major government offensive against Unita in the south, Tepper brought in a second Hercules, and each aircraft has been flying to Jamba nightly.

Early this month, the operation was again expanded, with the arrival of a third Hercules. Well-placed sources say the Kamina staging post is now "overflowing with material".

Initially, Luanda's assault on Unita, codenamed Operation

Zebra, was a success. Despite fierce resistance, government troops crossed the Lomba River in January and February and took much of the rebel-controlled town of Mavinga. With the onset of the rainy season, the offensive was suspended, but supply problems meant that government forces became severely short of ammunition.

Bolstered by its newly-arrived US weaponry, Unita counter-attacked in early May, forcing Luanda's troops to retreat in disarray. Now, the rebels have turned their attentions to the north, where they are staging regular attacks close to Luanda itself.

Last week it was disclosed that the Bush Administration was pressing Congress to approve an extra \$10-15 million in aid to Unita, in addition to the \$50 million already budgeted for the present fiscal year.

In an effort to force Unita into negotiations, the CIA's Angolan operation was suspended last summer, either by Washington or Zaire, according to conflicting accounts. It was restarted in late November, but the first of the new flights ended in disaster when the plane crashed near Jamba, killing the crew and several rebels.

(cont. M1)

Anton Lubowski, has returned to his Johannesburg home, apparently confident that the security forces are going to protect him from prosecution.

Mr Leon "Chapple" Maree, a member of the Civil Co-operation Bureau — a South African murder squad run by the military — vanished after Namibian police issued an arrest war-

rant after the assassination last September.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times quoted him yesterday saying that he had no regrets about his work for the CCB, and that all countries had such units. "I know, and the SADF (South African Defence Force) generals know, we did nothing wrong."

M3: Int.Her.Trib.(US), 90 06 23

Plot to Kill Leaders Is Reported

By Christopher S. Wren
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — The police arrested and subsequently released 11 whites whom an Afrikaans-language newspaper said were linked to a rightist plot to murder Nelson Mandela, President Frederik W. de Klerk and other politically prominent South Africans.

The weekly newspaper, Vrye Weekblad, reported Friday that the plotters envisioned shooting Mr. Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress, when he returned July 18 from his current tour of North America, Africa and Europe.

The report said that a leader of the South African Communist Party, Joe Slovo, was also a target of the assassination plot.

In addition to Mr. de Klerk, the newspaper said targets in the government included Defense Minister Magnus Malan, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and some members of Parliament.

The report said the information was provided by an informer, Jan Johannes Smith, who had infiltrated a group of rightist militants. Mr. Smith is a former security

policeman and National Intelligence Service agent.

The newspaper said it based the report largely on a sworn affidavit by Mr. Smith, which it made public on Friday.

The editor of Vrye Weekblad, Max du Preez, said Friday that Mr. Smith had left the Johannesburg area and that he was somewhere in hiding under police guard.

The arrests on Thursday led to reports that the 11 whites might be part of a larger conspiracy by rightist extremists to frustrate Mr. de Klerk's plans to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation and share power with the black majority.

On Friday, the police refused to confirm the existence of the plot, but it said that the 11 men had been arrested. The police said six of the whites were released Thursday and the remaining five on Friday.

The Conservative Party of South Africa, which is the official opposition in Parliament, wants apartheid preserved or the country partitioned into separate homelands for whites and blacks.

In the affidavit, which was cited by Vrye

Weekblad, Mr. Smith said he had been contacted by a member of the paramilitary Afrikaner Resistance Movement last February.

Members and supporters of the far-right group spoke of plans to short-circuit power stations, set fires at supermarkets and blow up a soccer stadium at the black township of Soweto. Mr. Smith said he was told that the resulting chaos would culminate in a rightist coup.

Mr. Smith's affidavit said that at one meeting, the members of the the Afrikaner Resistance Movement "made a suggestion that I eliminate Nelson Mandela on behalf" of their group.

The rightist group reportedly proposed that Mr. Mandela be shot at a rally from a helicopter.

Mr. Smith said that after he told the group that their plot was too dangerous, he was informed that a "mentally disturbed" man would do the killing and that an alternate plan was prepared to murder Mr. Mandela at the Johannesburg airport.

Published by the Holland Committee on Southern Africa (Angola Comité).

O. Z. Achterburgwal 173, 1012 DJ Amsterdam, Holland. Tel: 020-270801. Telex: 17125. For subscription terms see back page.

M66: Independent (Br), 90 06 22

M66a: Southscan (Br), 90 06 08

Unita steps up pressure on Luanda

THE ANGOLAN government, which a year ago seemed to be close to neutralising the rebel Unita movement, now seems to be under severe pressure with the rebels mounting attacks close to the capital and the Bush administration asking Congress for an increase in covert aid to Unita.

A year ago today President Eduardo dos Santos shook the hand of Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, under the gaze of 18 African leaders at Gbadolite in Zaire. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire appeared to have pulled off an extraordinary and historic diplomatic coup by finding a formula to which both sides agreed after more than 15 years of war. In fact the Angolan government and the rebels had agreed to completely different proposals but that was only discovered afterwards.

The Government insisted that Unita had agreed to accept the existing constitution and that Mr Savimbi had agreed to go into exile. Unita said it committed them to nothing more than a ceasefire and negotiations. The two sides soon slipped back into war and only in April this year did they resume talks, meeting in secret in Portugal. The second round of secret talks took place last weekend.

Earlier this year the government launched "Operation Zebra", a two-pronged push south into Unita territory. One armoured column took the strategic town of Mavinga where it is believed the government hoped to use its airstrip for resupply and for launching air attacks on the Unita headquarters at Jamba. Instead they found the airstrip unusable and the town an easy target for Unita. The garrison was nearly cut off and had to retreat north again. The government said the withdrawal had been "a gesture of goodwill".

Meanwhile, Unita has switched its operations to the north using US supplies channelled through Zaire. The rebels are now attacking Luanda regularly and have destroyed 44 pylons, reducing the capital to depend on two gas turbines for its electricity. Water and power are rationed and sporadic bombing in the city itself is causing deep disquiet which is expressing itself in open criticism of the ruling MPLA government.

The United States government has said it wants Congress to increase aid for Unita by an extra \$15m (£9m). This year the CIA is reliably reported to have given \$50m worth of arms to Unita. Increasingly exasperated with the Luanda government, the US has upped its demands in the past five years. Once it only insisted on Cuban withdrawal from Angola, then it demanded negotiations to end the civil war and now Washington is backing Mr Savimbi's demands for elections in a multi-party state.

Luanda claims US and Israel are engaged in coup plot

HARARE/ The Angolan government claims it has uncovered a coup plot hatched by the US and Israeli intelligence services, among others, writes a correspondent here.

Speaking at press conference in Zimbabwe on May 31, Andre Panzo, the *charge d'affaires* at the Angolan embassy, said that recent sabotage attacks on fuel stocks and power lines to Luanda and other cities were intended to create a climate of dissatisfaction in which such a coup could be mounted with popular support.

An official of the US embassy in Harare dismissed the claims as "nonsense" the following day.

Panzo also strongly attacked Zaire's role in the Angolan conflict and accused the country of constantly violating Angolan airspace. He said that Zaire today was "the

M66b: Southscan (Br), 90 06 15

US rejects Soviet Angola offer, boosts aid for Unita

WASHINGTON/ Despite a Soviet offer to stop arms supplies to the Angolan government the US administration is pushing to give an extra \$12 million to Unita rebels, in addition to the present claimed \$50m a year in covert aid.

The congressional intelligence committee will consider the administration request this month, reports a correspondent here.

Efforts by some congressmen are under way to block the extra money from going to Unita which has been receiving renewed supplies through Zaire after a short break in deliveries.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, who has influential friends in the conservative circles of Washington, was recently given a new supply of Land Rovers and automatic weapons

Washington has said that it would continue to supply Unita for as long as the Soviet Union supplies the MPLA. A State Department spokesman said that, although Soviet aid this year had dropped to around \$800m, "appropriate US funding would continue".

Moscow, on the other hand, has floated the idea of a mutual arms cut off - an offer the Americans seem unwilling to take up.

The secret talks have left the two sides still far apart and Washington chose to express its irritation by finding more support for Mr Savimbi.

main, if not the only, point of transit for sophisticated war material, which forms part of the US' considerable aid to Unita, through the Kamina base."

According to Panzo, the coup was to have put in power "certain Angolan personalities who would form a transitional government and then rapidly conclude accords for national reconciliation with Unita."

The Angolan government has made other coup allegations in the past, but the most recent charges were backed by details including names, dates and places. A document, entitled 'Angola: Portrait of a conspiracy', claims that the coup operation is code-named COMA and is the "brainchild of a retired Israeli colonel called Mayhos Maair, who is presently living in the Republic of the Cameroun, where he works in the security section for the president."

The first stage of the plan, to be put into effect "next summer", was to undertake "deliberate initiatives" to worsen food supplies and living con-

ditions, especially in Luanda.

Then mass demonstrations were to be incited, coordinated by radio propaganda from the CIA-financed 'Voice of the Black Cockerel'. It was hoped that this would provoke the security forces, inexperienced in crowd control, into an "excessively repressive reaction" and increase opposition to the government.

In the final stage of the plan Unita agents, "in collusion with Mossad, Boss, CIA and Zairean agents" would attempt to assassinate important MPLA and government figures.

The document claims that finance was to be provided by sources in the US, South Africa, Israel, Zaire and Brazil.

Although the government does not explicitly name the "personalities" who would form the transitional government, it pointedly refers to recent initiatives involving Jonas Savimbi and estranged ex-MPLA cadres such as Joaquim Pinto de Andrade (a priest and one of the founders of the short-lived 1975 intellectuals' group, *Revolta Activa*), Mario de Andrade, Adolfo Maria and Gentil Viana. (The latter's son recently organised a meeting in Lisbon apparently favoured by both Unita and the government - *SouthScan* v5/17 p117).

However, Mario de Andrade, a well-known literary and intellectual figure who spends his time between Paris and Maputo and maintains close relations with the older generation of Frelimo militants, has described Savimbi as a "political worm". After contacts with senior MPLA figures in Maputo recently, Andrade has reportedly re-applied for an Angolan passport.

The government document goes on to list statistics of Unita attacks since the signing of the Gbadolite agreement on June 2, 1989 (*SouthScan* v4/24 p182). These include the death of 4,121 people, 5,979 who were injured and 2,579 who have been abducted.

These attacks were made possible, Luanda says, by equipment supplied by the US through Kinshasa airport and the Zairean port of Matadi. Supplies were still being transported to Unita's northern bases in Hercules C-130 transporters and Puma helicopters from Zaire as recently as mid-March. Practically all bridges in the north of the country have been demolished and many telecommunication centres destroyed.

In southern Angola it is claimed that South Africa continues to support Unita with fuel and military supplies.

The Angolan document claims that Unita is now using superior range artillery to that of the Angolan armed forces (Fapla) on the Mavinga front.

Panzo denounced the "partiality of the Zairean authorities" and said that it "disqualifies His Excellency President Mobutu from his mission as mediator."

The document also accuses Mobutu of sabotaging Angolan attempts to recall the Committee of Eight African states "by virtue of [his] constant lack of availability" and of failing to deliver new Angolan government proposals to the interested parties.

(*SouthScan* v5/22 p160). The US administration has refused to consider the Soviet offer to stop arms supplies to the two sides and work toward a peaceful solution.

The offer was repeated at the summit meeting in Washington last week between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev.

The administration's position remains that the Angolan government has far greater amounts of arms and even if the Soviets stop supplies, the MPLA has the capacity to purchase arms in the open market.

This is incorrect say critics, who claim the Angolan government is heavily in debt and does not have the foreign exchange to buy arms - and they are likely to get arms on credit.

"Our policy is a

throwback to the cold war which seems to have expired everywhere else but in Angola", a congressional source said.

"US officials keep insisting that the Soviets have cooperated in Nicaragua and Namibia, but not in Angola."

Randall Robinson, director of black lobbying organisation Trans Africa, is meeting congressional leaders next week to call for changes in the US policy toward Angola.

He has been seeking to focus attention on human rights violations by Unita rebels and the widespread suffering caused by the war. A congressional source said that two votes were needed in the house intelligence committee to block the extra \$12m from going to Unita.

The extremely successful campaign launched by Washington has paid off over time. Unita publicity is managed by Black, Manafort and Stone - an influential firm with high-level contacts in the Republican administration.

"The firm is very close to Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

A small elite is controlling US foreign policy toward Angola," said a congressional source who deals with the area.

Angolan government focusses on the enemy within

LISBON/ The atmosphere in the Angolan capital Luanda was tense this week as the MPLA government warned against any show of political deviation in apparent gesture to the shadowy political groupings that have lately fired statements across the ruling party's bows.

Midweek, as the armed forces re-trenched in the south as a gesture of "goodwill" towards the rebel group Unita, and military commanders turned their attention to the long suffering northern provinces, an equally tense political situation was developing in the country's capital city, writes a special correspondent.

As the government and its diplomats continued to issue increasingly shrill denunciations of Unita's backers which reached a peak in Harare (see neighbouring story), it was also focussing sights on the enemy within.

Just who that is exactly isn't yet clear but with two foreign journalists given their marching orders in recent weeks, no one in Luanda wants to be the first to speculate in public.

The first sign of trouble came in mid May last month when an open letter to "militants of the MPLA Workers Party" began to circulate in the city.

Signed by three doctors, an accountant and a journalist, it accused the government of using the promise of reforms to entrench privilege and unequal opportunities and said the proposed changes came too late and had been overtaken by events.

The political model chosen by the party did not correspond and had never corresponded to Angola's historical, political and economic reality and benefited only a tiny fraction of the people, they said.

The signatories said that every Angolan should have an equal political voice and equal rights and said this was incompatible with the single party system.

The letter mocked the promise contained in the party's discussion document that Angola could eventually "evolve into a multi-party state", pointing out that this made nonsense of the party's insistence that a single party system was democratic.

Attacking the very foundations of the MPLA government, the document accused all signatories to the Alvor Accord (signed in January 1975 and intended to regulate the transition to independence) of having breached the agreement, and added that the subsequent 15 years of strife were a logical consequence of the accord's collapse.

Only a couple of weeks after the open letter appeared, a second document was distributed to diplomats and journalists, also hostile to the government.

Dated March 1, it purported to come from a group calling itself the

Catana Ardente (Burning Sword); founded in one of the poorest capital's bairros, it claimed to include members of the MPLA, the now defunct FNLA and Unita.

The document seemed to follow no particular ideological line, but accused all three organisations of being responsible for Angola's present predicament: after setting out a mishmash of "positions",

it invited the government to sign a ceasefire and proceed to free elections.

If there were no signs of compliance by May 27, the group would initiate a campaign to "liquidate hardliners" in the MPLA, kidnap or assassinate Angolan journalists and foreigners who supported the government, attack strategic installations and shoot down Soviet aircraft and those belonging to the commercial carrier TransAfrica.

The document ended with a salute to the memory of Nito Alves and Jose Van Dunem, two leaders of the failed coup attempt in 1977.

Notwithstanding the reference to the 'Nitista' adventure, the tone of the document does not support comparison with the coup makers of 1977. But whereas the Nitistas were leftists, who saw the MPLA as a revisionist party, this group seems in favour of a multi-party system.

Either because of the appearance of two documents or because of the generalised increase in political debate in the last few months, nerves in ruling circles seem to be jangling.

The political bureau, sounding unusually embattled, issued a statement on May 31 warning that fifth columnists were at work in Angola sowing fear, confusion and discontent, and called on citizens to be on the alert, more specifically, it drew a historical parallel: "We should not forget that on the eve of national independence, a handful of ambitious and opportunist intellectuals with petty-bourgeois foreign interests provoked a split in the MPLA and Angolan society."

This has been seen as a reference to the *Revolta Activa*, a grouping of intellectuals which based itself in Lisbon in the mid-70s and was critical, from inside the organisation, of the MPLA leadership - a stance which the party has ever since blamed for weakening the organisation at a critical moment in its history.

The reference to *Revolta Activa* has been keenly noted in Luanda.

In recent months, an ill-defined political organisation called the Civic Association (*Associacao Civica de Angola*) has taken shape, under the leader ship of Joaquim Pinto de Andrade, formerly a leader of the *Revolta Activa*.

Widely described as "the third force" in Angolan politics (beside the MPLA and Unita), ACA has an unquantified body of support, but has drawn a lot of interest.

A connection between ACA and the authors of the May 12 document has been widely rumoured and the political bureau's attack has been taken as an indication of the limits to political liberalisation.

One more sign of the government's short fuse is the order to Portuguese journalist Sergio Soares to leave the country. Soares, the correspondent for Lusa, the Portuguese news agency, is accused of failing to check stories and quoting rumours.

The government says Soares is not being expelled but that it wants him replaced. Only two months ago, Angolan journalist Ricardo de Melo was told to stop filing stories for various media houses in Portugal.

Things turned uglier last weekend, say journalists returning here from Angola, with the rumoured beating up of Sergio Soares' deputy, Joao Serra by security personnel at a checkpoint late at night. There appears to have been no comment from Lusa.

M69: Radio Report

multi-party system discussed in preparations for party congress

(Text) The emergence of political parties in the People's Republic of Angola will have to be based on realistic, serious and concrete programmes in order to cover all layers of our society. This was stated by Maria Mambo Cafe, Central Committee secretary for youth and grass roots organisations, during a meeting held at 10th December Palace in Luanda yesterday. The meeting discussed the draft documents for the third party congress. Maria Mambo Cafe was commenting on the question of a multi-party system for Angola in line with changes taking place in our society and the widening of the party's social basis. She said the main idea is that all Angolans should be united so that our country may be stronger and prosperous, thus ending the current misery, famine and lack of clothing, as well as tribalism, regionalism and other forms of dividing the Angolan people. Maria Mambo Cafe said at its third congress the MPLA-Workers' Party would approve whatever the people decided. Accordingly, she urged a greater participation of Angolans in the debates on the draft documents to the congress. (*Radio Nacional de Angola, Luanda, in Portuguese 0600 gmt 12 Jun 90*)

M70: Radio Report

appointment of Deputy Defence Minister A presidential decree reported by Radio Nacional de Angola (Luanda) states that Lt-Col Antonio Francisco de Andrade has been appointed Deputy Defence Minister for armaments and military technology for "administrative reasons".*

M71: Radio Report

ministerial appointments Appointments reported by Radio Nacional de Angola (Luanda) on 16th June included Boavista da Silva Cardoso as Information Minister (ME/0791 ii), Jose de Franca Dias Van Dunem as Planning Minister and Aguinaldo Jaime as Finance Minister. [4]

M71a: Radio Report

creation of Ministry of Information Radio Nacional de Angola (Luanda) reported that President dos Santos had on 11th June signed a law creating a Ministry of Information, which had been created so that the information sector could "fully meet the current demands posed by the country's socioeconomic and political developments".*

French missiles were 'intended for Unita'

BRUSSELS/ The French weekly *L'evenement du Jeudi* says in a recent report that Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, adviser for African affairs to French President Mitterrand, held a secret meeting with Angolan Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in 1988. Several months later some French Mistral missiles were sold to South Africa by the company Matra. The weekly contends that they were destined to go to Unita, but the deal did not go through.