

Savimbi:

correctâ\200\231

Political Correspondent
UNITA leader, Dr Jonas
Savimbiâ\200\231s account of
South Africaâ\200\231s four-month
involvement in Angola
was disclosed in a report
from Washington pub-

lished yesterday in the
r 0-Government news-
. â\200\230paper Rapport.

The report revealed
that Dr Savimbi had
visited South Africa wice
â\200\234in the past two months to

plead for military 2s
sistance in the Angolan
war. Records of a meeting
â\200\230between Dr Savimbi and 2
United States Senate as-

sistant, Mr Bill Coughlin, |
will be presented to the

" United States Senareâ\200\231s

Africa Committee this
week. ; ik
Dr Savimbi was quoted
as saying that ~South
Africa had at all times
acted â\200\234painfully correctlyâ\200\231
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; .approval of
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Coast.

had realized that he
eeded military help to
F a Cuban_ troops

MPLA.

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Qavimbi â\200\230said, were a a
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%ag;;gl:r president

id that by the end
dï~\201see;taember last year he

Kunene River-
on the to Zaire to. ask
ew Ppresident

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Male of
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the M Mobutu

made fit known that there
was an sAmerican friend
who wanted to help.

â\200\230The â\200\230American said that
no United States troops

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â\200\230Savimbi: â\200\230SAâ\200\231s role

Continued from page 1

would - be supplied, but
that aid would be
provided to Zaire. ;
.Light American
w were received
but these were not suf-

ficient since at the same

time Dr Savimbi ap-

proached President

Kaunda, President

Mobutu, and President
' HouphouetBoigny and re-
. quested them to ask South

Africa to provide secret
. assistance.

Soon afterwards a South
African force of
1200 and 1:500 men began
moving up the coast to
Port Amboine, about 150
km south of Luanda.

The FNDA forces were

* already in the outskirts of

Luanda and, according to
- Mr Coughlin, this is the
' point where the Russians

poured in massive quan-

tities of arms and
thousands of Cuban troops
to support the MPLA.

At the end of November
about 50 South African
soldiers- went to assist
Unita in central Angola.

| After being exposed to
the Cuban fire power, the
| South Africans called for
reinforcements and the
number of South African
troops in 'central â\200\230Angola
totalled 200.

In December South
Africa told Savimbi - that
its troops were 'to be with-
drawn., It was said that
South Africa did not get
the expected support from
the United â\200\230States and that
it could not fight the Rus-
sians and Cubans alone.
Further South African re-
inforcements could not be
provided without notifying

the South African Par-
liament, Dr Savimbi was
told.

At this point, Dr |
Savimbi arranged a meet-
ing between Dr Savimbi
and Mr Vorster in Pre-
toria on December 20.
After â\200\230this South Africa re-
mained in Angola in a
defensive capacity.

On Christmas Day the
South African commander

- told Dr Savimbi that his
troops were pulling out of
Cela for good. Dr Savimbi
again flew to Lusaka and
another meeting was ar-
ranged with the South
African authorities, this
time in South West
Africa. .

He was â\200\230told that the
South Africans. would re-
main in Angola until after
the Organization of Afri-
can Unity meeting.

On January 21, after
the OAU meeting, South
Africa informed him that
all soldiers would be with-
drawn and within 48
hours the South Africans
had pulled back to the
dam in the far south of

Angola.

According to Rapport,
Mr Coughlin read from
the notes of his meeting
with Dr Savimbi when he
divulged his details to the
newspaperâ\200\231s Washington
correspondent. Mr Cough-
lin also had talks in South

Afric ith - Mr Brand

Fouri ' â\200\230Secretar; for

iForei ffairs, Mr Japie
] 'Umied

Basson, Partyâ\200\231s
foreign affairs spokesman,
and Dr F van Zyl Slab-

â\200\230 bert, the [Progressive-Re-

form Partyâ\200\231s chief spokes-
man on Defence.
The Minister of

Defence. Mr P W Botha,

last night declined to â\200\230con-
firm or deny the accuracy

â\200\230of wthe newspaperâ\200\231s report.

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16 FEB 1975

Jorn of Africa

Trouble in the French territory of the Afars and Issas threatens the West's ability to keep watch on a vital area which includes the entrance to the Red Sea and Suez Canal and the start of the oil run round the Cape, writes ANTHONY DELIUS.

LONDON. A busload of French schoolchildren was hijacked on the outskirts of Djibouti and caused nearly as much worry about the sea routes round the

Cape 4000 miles away as the war in Angola. For the event seemed to load the dice for a bitter war which could engulf the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea straits of Bab el Mandeb. Immediately it seemed to lessen the chances of a peaceful French withdrawal from the Territory of Afars and Issas round the strategic port of Djibouti and a coastal base for France and French sea power. Almost straight across from Djibouti lies the once great British naval base and a coaling station of .

Aden, now well out of

Western hands. The United States has long been complaining, too,

about Somalia's allegedly granting naval facilities to Russia at Benbera 200 km down the African coast.

Big trouble

Now the prospects are of big trouble in the hand-over of the Territory of the Afars and Issas which would lose the West any

real ability to maintain watch and ward in this vital area, which includes the entrance to the Red Sea and Suez Canal and the start of the oil run round the Cape.

The bus hijack was carried out by a freebooting guerilla group called the Front for the Liberation of the Somali Coast, which has its headquarters in Mogadishu, capital of the Somali Republic. The children were those of French soldiers who help guard the territory.

There is a strong feeling among the soldiers about the capture of their children and their abduction to a place a short distance over the

Foreign Legion brushed

aside the Somali guard, killing wone, and then shot the hijackers at the expense of one child dead, four wounded and one missing. The result is growing fury between France and the Somali Republic, both of whom complained to the Security Council.

Now the matter has been further complicated by a long statement by the military rulers of Ethiopia, who maintain that the hijacking episode was probably encouraged by the Somalis to keep matters boiling in Djibouti. To see why an accusation like this is like puffing out a bonfire with petroleum it is necessary to unravel the extraordinary complications of the Djibouti scene. First of all the Territory of the Afars and Issas lies alongside the northern end of Somalia. Also Djibouti provides the

principal part for
Ethiopia's exports and im-

border

ports, lying at the end of

a long railway line coming
from Addis Ababa. Then
again the Issas are really
in fact Somalis and the
Afars are-part of a much
bigger group inside
Ethiopia. So that both the
Somali Republic
(Somalia) and Ethiopia
once claimed the territory

. by right of consanguinity,

contiguity and economic

interests." I 4 i g

In recent years both the
Somalis and the Ethiopians
have given up their
claims to the Territory of
the Afars and Issas, but
the Somalis have been insis-
ting that it should be-

come independent on its

own. After much pressure
from 'the Arab League,
the Organization of Afri-
can Unity and the United
Nations, the French have
reluctantly announced
that they are bowing out.

But, in the way the
French have, they ar-
ranged to keep . some

strong ties' and a base for
a couple of submarines.
The reason why the
French were confident of
doing this was because of
their friendly relations
with ' the man who was
voted chief minister in 1974
and whom many op-
ponents contend the
French arranged to have
voted to this exalted post.
This is Ali Aref, who also
happens to be an Afar and
has built up friendly rela-
tions with the Ethiopians.
It was' he who the
French believed was well
in position to take over
the control of the ter-
ritory in independence, to

the great joy of the Ethio-
pians and the intense
chagrin of the Somalis.
â\200\230Opposition

Mr Ali Aref is opposed
by the only legal opposi-
tion, the Popular Africa
Independence . League
(LPAI), which used to be
mainly Issa. Then there is
the illegal Front for the
Liberation of the Somali
Coast, which is even more
strongly Somali. Both the
League and the Front are
recognized by the OAU,
to everybodyâ\200\231s confusion.
Then Ithere' is another
Djibouti liberation grou
based on Addis Ababa. Ali
Aref relied upon the
strength of the Afars in
Djibouti and its environs
to hold the position for
him.

But now there has come

â\200\230about a violent estrange-

ment between the Ethio-
pian soldiery and _the
Afars. There are about

_half a million Afars on

Py

Ethiopian soil and their
revered Stm;% of All the
Afars, Sulf%g Ali Mitrah,
refused to ey the land
nationalization orders is-
sued from Addis Ababa.
No trouble to the Ethio-
pian army â\200\224 its soldiers
wiped out the Sultanâ\200\231s

capital and would have
wiped him out too if he
had not fled with his two
dozen children to Djibouti.

The sultan was coolly
received in Djibouti by
both the French and Ali |
Aref, who were anxious to
keep on the right side of
the Ethiopians. The result
is that the sultanâ\200\231s son
has started an Afar lib-
eration movement, the sul-
tan is ftravelling around
the Arab states whipping
up support for it, and
Afar support of Ali Aref
is declining rapidly. The

Afar Liberation Front is
allying . itself with the
Arab - backed Eritrean
secessionists who want to
take the Eritrean province
out of Ethiopia and have
been at war with the
Ethiopian army for more
than a year now.

Ali ~ Aref has been
struggling to cool things
so that there can be a
quiet and easy transfer of
power from the French to

himself and everything re-
main friendly between
former ruler and new in-

dependency as__possible.
But the would-be lib-
erators of the Somzli

coast are determined that
there is going to be a
first-class row about who
rules in Djibouti, hence
the hijacking of the chil-
dren, and the pitting of
the French and Somalis
aga)inssitt onel anovth:r. The

ion league has now
gggx% out and started
agitating too. And the
great powers look on and
wonder.

Unhmlfed arms' to flghf Sm:fh

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The offer, which
cheque, was made at
~a secret meeting in
Budapest, Hlmgalâ\200\230y,
reports John - Dickie,

" Daily Mail, today.

Mr Nkomo, who is at
-.present engaged in a pro-
tracted round of talks
with Mr Ian Smith in a

â\200\230bid to solve the Rhode-

RU

amounts fo a blank.

' diplomatic . correspon-:
~dent of the- London ;

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sian crisis by negotiation,
slipped out of London 10
days ago after seeing the
Foreign Secretary, Mr
James - Callaghan, for - a
one-day meeting in Bu-
dapest with a high-power-
ed Soviet delegation. -

Mr Nkomoâ\200\231s aides will

deny that the encounter;
with the Russians ever.
they .

took place since]
have a cover for his vi-

@ To Back Page

guerrilla "struggle again

g 200\224200\224200\224 .

VKOMO GETS
SSI N

200\231 R SSIA has offered Rhodesia Africa
limited supply of arms and military a
- lists to accelerate the

for use by African national-
ist the Smith Government

Nkomo offered
Russian arms

' From Page One

sxt 200\230200\224 his son Phumani is

gola by prowling back-
ing in Tanzania for anti-
Smith guerrillas. :

Mr

a student in the Hunga- But, says Dickie,

rian capital says Dickie. Nkomo ~ kept the Rus- |
But it is" irrefutable = Ssians dangling, refusing200\230

the * Russians have 200\234of- - to say yes or no until.

ferred to provide massive
supplies of sophisticated
military equipment and
training -advisers to co-
operate from Mozambique.

Its President Samora Ma-
stchel:
~ over guerrilla camps to

is ready to turn

the Soviets.
- Moscow is anxious to
get in before the Chi-

nese. because of suspicions
that Peking may be plan-
ning - to counter-balance
the Russian gains in An-

he had weighed up the

chancÃ©s of - Britain mak-
ing one more try at a
peaceful settlement,

â\200\224y