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Moscow Warns Pretoria On Angola Port Attack

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union warned South Africa on Sunday that its attack on a Cuban and two Soviet merchant ships in the Angolan port of Namibe “cannot be left unpunished” and said Pretoria faced far-reaching and dangerous consequences because of its action.

The government also said the United States had to share partial responsibility for the attack because of its support for South Africa.

Radio Moscow reported Saturday that two Soviet ships were badly damaged and a Cuban ship was sunk in the attack on Thursday. The report said that frogmen attached mines to the hulls of the ships and that “at almost the same time gunboats opened fire on the port installations with missiles.”

The Angolan news agency ANGOP had previously reported that a South African warship slipped into the southern Angolan port before dawn Thursday. In addition to

attacking the ships, the agency said, the ships fired missiles that hit an oil storage depot on shore.

No Soviet casualties were reported in the action.

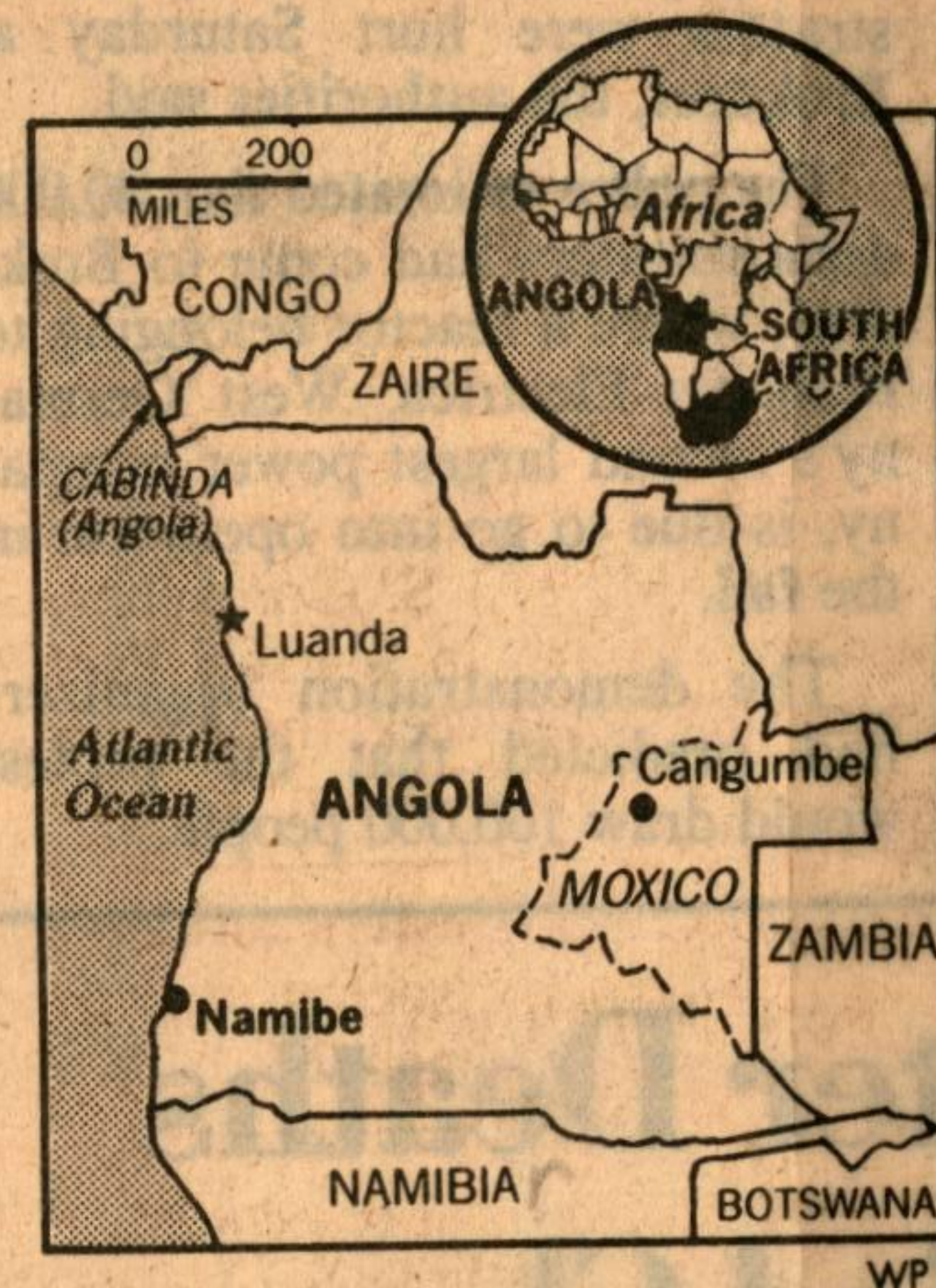
South Africa has refused to comment on the attack. In Cape Town on Sunday, a South African Foreign Ministry spokesman, Awie Marais, also refused to comment on the Soviet warning.

The Soviet government statement, carried by the official Tass news agency, condemned the attack as an act of terrorism.

“Responsible for the act of terrorism in the Port of Namibe in Angola is the Republic of South Africa,” the statement said. “Actions of this kind cannot be left unpunished.”

The statement gave no indication of how the Soviet Union, which has more than 1,000 military advisers in Angola, would retaliate.

“Responsibility for this is also shared by those who patronize the Republic of South Africa, above all



the United States,” the statement said.

The Soviet Union said the United States should prove it was against terrorism by putting pressure on South Africa to stop “flouting the generally accepted norms of international law.”

It said frequent that United States and British vetoes in the United Nations on resolutions calling for comprehensive sanctions against Pretoria have been interpreted by South Africa as encouragement to continue its raids on neighboring black states

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