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KWACHA News IR

The Official Newsletter of the Free Angola Information Service

Savimbi to Visit United States

Dr. Jonas Savimbi, President of

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ton, D.C. and other U.S. cities in October

to promote peace, national reconciliation

and democratic elections in Angola.

Dr. Savimbi is expected to meet with high government officials including President George Bush, Secretary of State James A. Baker II and Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney. He will also meet with Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and a number of Congressmen and Senators, including those involved in the Senate Angola Task Force, chaired by Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), and the newly formed House Angola Task Force, chaired by Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK).

This will be Dr. Savimbi's third official visit to the United States since 1986.

Shortly before his U.S. trip, President Savimbi visited five African nations to discuss the situation in Angola. During an official visit to the Ivory Coast, Dr.

-- Savimbi met with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who gave his full support to the Angolan peace process to end the 14-year civil war.

In Togo, official talks were held on August 13 between Dr. Savimbi and President Gnassimbe Eyadema. The Togolese President also held a banquet in honor of Dr. Savimbi. Guests included the former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Togo Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yaovi Adodo, and other prominent African and international figures.

In Cameroon, Dr. Savimbi had an official meeting on August 17 with Presi-

. dent Paul Biya, who also attended the ~ Gbadolite Summit. The two African leaders exchanged ideas concerning future steps in the peace process in Angola.

DAVID VALDEZ, The White House

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During his peace mission to the United States last year, UNITA President Jonas Savimbi met with then Vice President George Bush to discuss the future of Angola.

On August 28, Dr. Savimbi was in Morocco for a meeting with His Majesty King Hassan II, a long-time supporter of UNITA, who reiterated his full backing of the peace process in Angola. In Morocco, Dr. Savimbi also met with Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS) and Herman Cohen, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Finally, on September 22, 1989, President Savimbi met with President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya in the historic city of Nakuru. It was in Nakuru in June 1975 that the celebrated meeting with Dr. Savimbi, the late Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta, then-FNLA President Holden

Roberto, and MPLA President Agostinho Neto took place. An accord was signed during this meeting, which pledged compliance with the January 1975 Alvor Accord.

After his meeting with President Arap Moi in Nakuru, Dr. Savimbi went to Nairobi, where he met with other political dignitaries of Kenya.

The Kenyan government also gave credit to UNITA's peace plan which paved the way for a peaceful solution to the 14-year civil war in Angola.

During his visits to these African countries, Dr. Savimbi also met with the international news media.

Jonas Savimbiâ\200\224â\200\224African Leader

Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), has been one of Africaâ\200\231s most pivotal political leaders for nearly three decades. He was born in 1934 in Munhango (Moxico Province), which was then a major rail repair and marketing center next to the Benguela Railroad in central Angola. His parents, Loth and Helena Savimbi, were Protestant lay ministers. His father became the first African station master on the 1,000-mile Benguela Railway. At every railroad station he was assigned to, Loth and his wife founded a church and a school. President Savimbi received his strong religious convictions and organizing abilities from his parents.

Savimbi was also trained by his grandfather Sakaita Savimbi, a traditional chief who fought against the seizure of his land by the Portuguese and participated in the Bailundo Revolt of 1902-04. Sakaita taught his grandson about the rich culture of his people.

Although he began his university studies in Portugal, he was forced to leave that country in 1960 because of his anti-colonialist activities. He studied medicine and then began course work for a doctorate in Political Science at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, which he completed in 1965.

While in Switzerland, he resumed his political activities and established contact with Holden Roberto of the Union of the Peoples of Angola (UPA) and leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation for Angola (MPLA). At this time, he met Tom Boya, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Kenya, who encouraged him to join UPA. He took Tom Boya's advice and soon became Secretary-General of UPA.

Under his leadership, he brought about the merging of several groups into a single national movement known as the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

Dr. Savimbi was convinced that the struggle for liberation from the Portuguese must be carried on within the country rather than from without. On March 13, 1966, he founded UNITA to work for â\200\234a real united front of all nationalist forcesâ\200\235 in his home province of Moxico.

As the struggle for liberation from Portugal was coming to completion, Dr. Savimbi was a key player in various

negotiations that were to provide a

peaceful transition to democratic rule. He enlisted the support of presidents of African countries to hold negotiations with the Portuguese. His persistence led to the Alvor conference in January 1975, which resulted in the historic Alvor Accord between the liberation movements of Angola and the Por-

tuguese government. Alvor set forth the guidelines for a government of national unity, and set the date for elections and independence in Angola.

Shortly after Alvor was signed, war broke out between the MPLA and the FNLA. Savimbi pressed for a conference to restore peace and safeguard the Alvor Accord. The conference was held in Nakuru (Kenya) in June 1975.

Unfortunately, the civil war continued and the MPLA, with Soviet tanks and Cuban troops, seized power in Luanda. The scheduled elections were never held.

Savimbi's UNITA would not accept this new form of foreign intervention. Soviet, Eastern European and Cuban military

s

personnel had replaced the Portuguese. UNITA unleashed a guerrilla war on the unelected minority government. Operating from its base at Jamba in south-east Angola, UNITA created not only an effective army, but also schools, hospitals, agricultural cooperatives and other economic enterprises throughout the territory controlled by UNITA.

Savimbi led UNITA to continue the ~ * fight against foreign intervention and totalitarianism in Angola. Savimbi's grass-roots support and military expertise led UNITA to win victory after victory over the Soviet/ Cuban-backed MPLA.

The resounding theme of Dr. Savimbi's leadership has been the call for peace, national reconciliation and free and fair elections in Angola. In 1985, Dr. Savimbi petitioned the United Nations for support in bringing an end to the war in Angola. In 1986, UNITA offered a peace platform at its 6th Ordinary Congress. In 1987, UNITA offered to reopen the strategic Benguelan Railroad for non-military purposes.

In 1988, a series of formal and informal negotiations were held concerning proposals to end the war and force the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola. On March 13, UNITA proposed once again a withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and a Peace Plan, which included a moratorium on UNITA's military offensives and the appointment of a negotiating commission.

On June 22, 1989, Dr. Savimbi met with MPLA President Eduardo dos Santos and 18 Heads-of-State from Africa in Gbadolite, Zaire. This historic meeting resulted in a pledge for a ceasefire and negotiations leading to national reconciliation in Angola.

Dr. Savimbi's leadership has been the chief reason that Angola is now nearing a lasting peace, national reconciliation and a democratic society. g

[Editor's Note: An excellent biography of Dr. Savimbi, entitled Jonas Savimbi: A Key to Africa, by Fred Bridgland (Paragon House Publishers, New York, 1987) is available from your local bookstore or library.]

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Moxnay, SEPTEMBER 25, 1989 A21

U.S. Strategy on Angola Peace Talks Falters

White House Is Relying on Zaire's President to Mediate African Solution to Civil War

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writer

Three months after a much-heralded start on peace talks for Angola, the Bush administration strategy is failing badly and the process is still not underway.

The administration has relied on Zairian *President Mobuto Sese Seko to mediate an African solution to the Angolan civil war. But the two warring parties have not yet even sat down together in the same negotiating room.

Jonas Savimbi, the U.S.-backed Angolan rebel leader, has publicly rejected Mobutu as mediator, and U.S. efforts to get Savimbi to the latest proposed round of talks last Monday in Zaire proved fruitless.

Meanwhile, a ceasefire declared June 24 is floundering amid accusations of multiple violations by both sides.

I don't know what the next step is myself, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

That whole initiative is in trouble, said the director-general of South Africa's Foreign Ministry, Niel Van Heerden, at a press briefing Tuesday. We are virtually back to square one.

It is unclear what this means for the U.S.-brokered accord of last December that provides for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and independence elections for South African-ruled

Namibia.

But both South African and U.S. officials said Cuba is so far adhering strictly to the timetable for phased withdrawal of its troops. In addition, Havana has given no indication that it might renege on its pull-out commitment even if the civil war resumes, according to these officials.

Congressional and other American backers of Savimbi are blaming the administration for the failure to achieve any progress in the national reconciliation talks.

The State Department has remained strangely silent about the peace process, said 13 senators in a Sept. 12 letter to Secretary of State James A. Baker III. They urged Baker to become personally involved in the process.

The United States has considerable influence with both sides. It is Savimbi's main

outside supporter now, with a covert aid program of \$40 million to \$50 million. It also can offer the Angolan government diplomatic recognition and U.S. technology, both of which it ardently seeks, in return for a compromise.

But the Bush administration, seemingly anxious to avoid high-profile and risky diplomacy, has not shown any interest in mediating the talks. Instead, it has deliberately promoted Mobutu as the Angolan peacemaker.

At first, this strategy seemed possible. The Zairian leader started with a major diplomatic coup on the eve of a visit to Washington, getting Savimbi and Angolan President Eduardo Jose dos Santos to

+ shake hands and agree to a ceasefire at a meeting June 22 in Gbadolite, Zaire.

Mobutu even got 17 other African heads of state to witness and bless the historic meeting between the two adversaries, who have been locked in a devastating civil war since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.

But Mobutu never succeeded in getting an Angolan delegation in the same room

with one from Savimbi's National Union -

for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The senior U.S. official said the Angolan delegation refuses to sit at the same table with these bandits, as they call them

[UNITA members], and Mobutu has

never gone beyond contact talks carried out indirectly by Zairian officials shuttling between the two parties.

Meanwhile, Mobutu began associating himself in August with the Angolan government's view of what was allegedly agreed to at Gbadolite, which Savimbi has hotly contested.

At an Aug. 22 meeting of eight African leaders in Harare, Zimbabwe, Mobutu signed a declaration that upheld the Angolan government position: Savimbi's followers are simply to be integrated into existing Angolan institutions while Savimbi is to go into temporary and voluntary retirement in exile.

Savimbi, on the other hand, is demanding elections, a transitional government, the creation of a multiparty system and sweeping

changes in Angola's Marxist-Leninist constitution. He also refuses to go into exile.

Mobutu's apparent acceptance of the Angolan government view so infuriated Savimbi that he announced he would not, attend the next planned round of talks in Kinshasa Sept. 18.

Assistant Secretary of State Herman J. Cohen rushed to the region last week in a futile effort to convince Savimbi to show up. The State Department issued a statement saying it strongly supports UNITA and its goal of national reconciliation followed by fair and free elections. It also rejected the Angolan government's concepts of exile [for Savimbi], amnesty and integration [for his followers].

The statement did not change Savimbi's mind but it did infuriate the Angolan government. Angola's ambassador to the United Nations, Manuel Pedro Pacavira, said Thursday that the U.S. demands amounted almost to a declaration of war.

Our government will not make concessions that would take its people to suicide. It will not accept the demand for the creation of a government of transition. It will not revise its constitution because of foreign pressure and to satisfy the ambitions of a small group [UNITA], he said in an interview here.

The U.S. position now, as explained by the senior U.S. official, is that both sides should accept a new ceasefire followed by face-to-face open-ended negotiations with no preconditions and no non-negotiable demands. Mobutu, he said, still has the full backing of the administration to serve as mediator.

But the Zairian leader's current approach seems certain to be rebuffed by Savimbi again. Mobutu is supposed to draw up a declaration basically along the lines of the Angolan government's approach, which is embraced now by eight African leaders and then get Savimbi to sign on, according to both Pacavira and the U.S. official.

It is not clear how Mobutu will do this.
But Zaire is now the main conduit for U.S.
and other arms flowing to Savimbi, giving
Mobutu considerable leverage if he decides
to use it.

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. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1989

â\202-he Washington Times

Despite truce, war
in Angola rolls on

By Jonathan Sharp
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

KUNZUMBIA BASE, Angolaâ\200\224Mangled
weaponry, shell-blasted trees and the chill-
ing debris of modern combat litter the latest
killing field in the Angolan civil war.

â\200\230I send you the kiss of victory,â\200\231â\200\231 wrote a
soldier to his wife in a letter that was never
sent because its smoky remnants were
found in a shellhole.

But this battle, fought in a desolate
corner of the African bush, was not one
that the soldierâ\200\231s leaders in the faraway
Angolan capital of Luanda will relish.

The wrecks of more than 20 government
military vehicles, " including two Soviet-
made TSS tanks, lie shattered, victims of
the pro-Western rebel UNITA guerrillas
who have fought leftist Luanda forces for
the past 14 years.

Shells and bullets, live or spent, still litter
the churned earth although the UNITA vic-
tors have buried their own and their
enemyâ\200\231s dead.

The battle, which broke out last month
near a muddy little river called the Kun-
zumbia, -was one that international diplom-
acy was supposed to prevent.

In June, Angolan leader Jose Eduardo
dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, his counter-
part in the National Union for the Total In-
dependence of Angola (UNITA), shook
hands in Gbadolite, Zaire, apparently seal-
ing an accord that held out hope for peace.

But a ceasefire failed to hold. Both sides
accused the other of multiple violations and
the accord was in shreds.

Last weekend, UNITA escorted reporters
by truck across roadless bush country to the
battle zone in southeast Angola to give its
version of events that have dragged the

former Portuguese colony back into the mire of war. ;

According to Gen. Arlindo Pena, a UNITA commander who favors the pseudonym "Ben", Ben and sports a pair of designer dark glasses, a 3,000-strong govern-

station measuring several hundred square yards.

A few miles away the scene was repeated when UNITA badly mauled a second government strongpoint.

On the third day, the Angolans pulled back 20 miles, half the distance they had advanced.

But the fighting may not be over.

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Pictured above is Soviet-made weaponry captured by UNITA forces. Despite the recent accords , the war continues in Angola.

ment force advanced on Aug. 18 from Cuito Cuanavale, just west of the rebel enclave.

This was a direct violation of the ceasefire, UNITA says. The government denies any contravention.

On Aug. 19, two Angolan MiG-23 fighter-bombers were shot down over UNITA-held territory. The wreckage of one was on show.

According to Gen. Pena, speaking in a camouflaged dugout at his headquarters called Kunzumbia Base, the government forces penetrated 40 miles into UNITA territory.

On Aug. 27, they ran into trouble on the banks of the Kunzumbia River. A UNITA mortar bombardment hit and blew up a loaded rocket launcher parked near fuel and ammunition stores.

The resulting blast gouged a huge crater and left only a few blackened chunks of the rocket launcher visible.

The UNITA bombardment of the government position left a panorama of deva-

"We know they have 10,000 men [in this sector], and so far they have used only half. At any time, they will be used to attack again," says the UNITA commander.

He put government losses in the offensive at 89 men, while UNITA losses were 23

killed and 76 wounded. Government accounts put rebel casualties far higher.

UNITA says the Luanda government may feel the rebels are ripe for defeat now that South Africa, their longtime ally, has stopped sending aid. South Africa, along with the United States, supported UNITA until an agreement last year under which Cuban forces withdrew from Angola in return for the independence of neighboring South African-run Namibia.

Efforts are proceeding to mend the Gbadolite accord, but the sights and sounds at Kunzumbia Base remain much as they have been in Angola for the past 14 years.

As Gen. Pena briefed reporters, the dull crump of artillery sounded in the distance.

Someone, somewhere, was breaking the ceasefire.

KWACHA NEWS/September-October 1989

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lite Declaration, duringâ\200\231
which the MPLA and UNITA
- agreed to a ceasefire as of
June 24, 1989, the hostilities
have not ceased in Angola.

~ against UNITA in August
- utilizing five brigades, or
- about 10,000 troops. UNITA
~ troops were forced to defend
- themselves against the sur-
prise attack.
___The unprovoked attack,
_ which was in direct violation
~ of the June 24 ceasefire,
- occurred near the Kunzumbia

â\200\2305â\200\230?-DÃ@spite the hlstonc db_Ã©ido-, '
Angola mounted an offensive]

River inside UNITA-con-
trolled territory. Eighty-nine
MPLA and 23 UNITA soldiers
were killed and 76 were ~
wounded. More than 20
MPLA military vehicles, in-

tanks, were destroyed. Inâ\200\231
addition, two MPLA MiG-23
fighter bombers were shot
down over UNITA-held terri-
tory.

Although the MPLA troops
were stopped in Kunzumbia
on August 27, 1989 and
forced to retreat back to

. Chaminga (10 to 15 km.

in Angola

, S e
from Cuito Cuanavale), an-

other offensive near
Munhango is now in
progress. Three MPLA bri-
gades, supported by a com-

pany of TS5 tanks and
are being used.
UNITA is committed to the
new ceasefire agreement,
which began two days after
the Gbadolite Summit on'
June 24, 1989. UNITA calls
on the MPLA to abide by the
terms of the ceasefire so that
peace, national reconciliation

and democratic elections can
take place in Angola. [

Congressman Dave McCurdy, a Demo-

. crat from Oklahoma; is the new Chair-
man of the U.S. House Task Force on
Angola. Congressman McCurdy is also
the Chairman of the Task Force on
Foreign Policy and Defense and is a
member of the House Armed Services
and Intelligence Committees.

The House Task Force on Angola will
serve as â\200\234â\200\234an informal, bipartisan forum
to augment U.S. policy in southern
Africa, including the verification of
Cuban troop withdrawals, a negotiated
settlement to the civil war in Angola and
the holding of free elections there,â\200\235
according to The Defense Democrat, a
monthly newsletter on national defense
and foreign affairs published by the Co-
alition for a Democratic Majority.

Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO) will

Congressman McCurdy

Oklahoma Congressman Forms House Task Force on Angola

serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Task
Force. Other members include: Michael
A. Andrews (D-TX), Dan Burton (R-IN),
Beverly B. Byron (D-MD), Jim Cooper (D-
TN), David Dreier (R-CA), Bill Emerson (R-
MO), James M. Inhofe (R-OK), Ben Jones
(D-GA), Bob McEwen (R-OH), Thomas C.
McMillen (D-MD), Alan B. Mollohan (D-
WV), John J. Rhodes IL (R-AZ), Bud
Shuster (R-PA), Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-
NY), Ike Skelton (D-MO), Jim Slattery
(D-KS), Lawrence J. Smith (D-FL), John M.
Spratt, Jr. (D-SC), Charles W. Stenholm
(D-TX), Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) and
Tim Valentine (D-NC).

A parallel organization, the Senate
Task Force on Angola, has been work-

ing under the direction of Senator Dennis
DeConcini (D-AZ) since last year. [

â\200\231 KWACHA NEWS/ September-October 1989

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â\200\234A New Year's Message to the Angolan Peopleâ\200\235â\200\224Dr. Jonas pUSE ea

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ology of UNITAâ\200\231s efforts to achieve national reconciliation, and the
success of bi-partisan support in the United States of UNITA's goals

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JONAS SAVIMBI, PRESIDENT OF UNITA, TO VISIT WASHINGTON:
KWACHA NEWS NEWSLETTER DETAILS VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Dr. Jonas Savimbi, President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, is in Washington this week for meetings with President Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, and Herman Åohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Dr. Savimbi is also scheduled to brief Members of Congress who are involved in the U.S. Senate and House Angola Task Forces, which are chaired by Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) and Congressman Dave McCurdy (D-OK).

President Savimbi has met with five heads-of-state of African countries over the past few weeks to discuss the prospects for a lasting peace and negotiations leading to national reconciliation in Angola.

The international visit comes at a critical time in the peace process in Angola. Despite the agreement in Gbadolite, Zaire for a ceasefire as of June 24, 1989, the Marxist government of Angola has mounted several offensives against UNITA positions.

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Free Angola Information Service Is registered with the Department of Justice under 22USC Sec. 611 ef saq. as a representative of UNITA In Jamba, Angola. The required statements are on file at the Department of Justice. Registration does not indicate approval by the U.S. government.

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2: ANGOLAN LEADER TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BUSH THIS WEEK

According to the September-October edition of Kwacha News,

the official newsletter of the Free'Ã©ngola Information Service, the Marxist MPLA governmenÃ© launched one offensive with 10,000 troops against UNITA soldiers in UNITA-controlled t;rritory. UNITA troops were forced to defend themselves against this surprise, ;nprovoked attack (see page 3 and articles on pages 4 and 5). _

Unfortunately, another offensive against UNITA is now in progress. UNITA is committed to the new ceasefire agreement, which was lauded worldwide as an historic accomplishment and the end to the war in Angola.

President Savimbi's visit to the United States iÃ© focusing on ways to achieve peace and national reconciliation in Angola.

Press packets and further information is available on Dr. Savimbi's visit and the status of negotiations in Angola. For

more information, please contact the Free Angola Information

Service at 202/775-0958.

