A RECORD OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HON. MR. SALIM AHMED SALIM AND THE AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S.S.R. H.E. MR. YOURI A. YOUKALOV

Discussions were held in the Minister's Office on 3rd September, 1982 at 1.40 p.m.

The MFA and the ambassador centred their discussion on the situation in Namibia.

NAMIBIA:

The ambassador expressed the Soviet Union's worry on the position taken by South Africa and the United States of America. He said the position taken by Pretoria and Washington aimed at creating a new situation in the Namibian settlement. He pointed out that Washington was trying to create an impression that the Namibian settlement was in close reach but was facing obstacles with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

The Ambassador said that Angola was now blocking the Namibian settlement because she has refused to support the issue of linkage i.e. withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola vis avis Namibia's independence. The Americans have taken this as a pre-condition for the Namibian settlement. The Ambassador warned that if this issue is not settled then the Angolan government will be weakened.

The Ambassador also noted the efforts being made by the Americans by exerting pressure on the Angolan government so that it forces the Cuban troops out of Angola.

The Ambassador pointed out that the discussions between Angola and Cuban government on the question of the withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola will resume only when Namibia is free and all the South African troops have withdrawn beyond the Orange Free State.

The Ambassador said he had held talks with the 4 remaining countries of the Western Contact Group. During their discussion they also said that they did not see any necesity of the linkage. On the issue entailed in Resolution 435, they all kept quiet.

U.S.S.R's Opinion

The Ambassador said that his government was of the opinion that the Angolan government needs a substantial amount of support from all over the world like the one contributed by the Frontline States.

He added that the continued aggression by South Africa should not be left to continue otherwise it will give a greenlight to South Africa.

After giving his opinion the Ambassador wanted to know the Minister's view and how to deal with the situation.

The Minister began discussing on the question of linkage. He said the Americans have always tried to relink the withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola with the Namibian settlement.

The Minister said America's position has been totally rejected by the Frontline States and it was clearly stated in Tripoli. He pointed out that the major obstacle continues to be the U.S. stand on the decolonisation of Namibia.

The Minister revealed that the problem so far is the type of assistance which is absolutely necessary for Angola.

He said that Angola is under South African occupation and agression thus it needs assistance to overcome such a situation.

The Minister said Angola's friends have ~~only~~ a strong role to play in supporting her - these countries include the Soviet Union and others. This support is needed by Angola so as to help increase her options and bargaining position.

The Minister told the Ambassador that President J. K. Nyerere had written to President R. Reagan dismissing the question of linkage. President Nyerere said the question of linkage is not within Resolution 435 of the United Nations. The Minister said however, the American government still holds it. Even the British and Canadian governments agree to it saying that it will solve the problem.

The Minister said the best support ~~and~~ to counter the aggression is the type of assistance ~~will be the one~~ which will ~~lead to~~ enhance the capability of Angola to resist South African occupation and aggression.

The Minister said that Tanzania supports Angola's choice and that the Frontline States supports whatever choices President Dos Santos has. The Minister made it clear that the common stand is still there.

The Minister said the Frontline States pressure on the U.S. government will continue. He added that Angola has a serious problem and that only those who are in a position to assist can do so.

The Ambassador said that the USSR was increasing her assistance to Angola and was doing every possibility to meet Angola's requests. He added that the Soviet Union cannot send troops to Angola because it will create a quite different International Situation and that is what South Africa wants!

The Minister said the Frontline States also dont want Soviet troops in Angola.

Angola is a sovereign state and has much right as any other sovereign state to make agreements with any country of her choice the Minister noted. According to the agreement reached between Angola and Cuban governement is that as long as South African troops threatened Angola the Cuban troops will remain positioned in Angola. The minute there is no threat no Cuban troops will be there. The Minister also noted the tremendous sacrifice made ~~by~~ in support of Angola and the liberation movements made by the Cuban troops.

The Minister called for intensification of pressure from Africa's reliable friends because it is the only way the enemies can understand.

Supporting the Minister's view the Ambassador pointed out thealready existing treaty of friendship between Angola and the USSR. He also called for a united action in supporting Angola and SWAPO.

The Minister assured the Ambassador of support ~~at any level~~ of the Frontline States. He said Angola is bearing the burden of the whole of Africa therefore there is a need for a united action.

Asked on the situation of the OAU, the Minister said efforts are being made so as to convene a meeting in Tripoli. The Minister added that the OAU is an important body for the whole of Africa.

(Grace Maro)

3/9/82 TS/EE