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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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May 10, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

Botha's Assistant on South African Policy on Namibia: South African Foreign Minister Botha's aide today told an Embassy Cape Town official that the raid into Angola had not been approved by Botha, had not been "on the horizon" at the time the South Africans accepted the Western proposal, and had created a "great eruption" within the government. He said the hardline military and their supporters had won their point that South Africa follow a policy of "fighting and negotiating" like SWAPO and insisted the policy cannot be changed -- "no matter what we on the foreign policy side might do."

When told any further South African incursions would have grave consequences, the aide indicated that no additional attacks were planned. He asserted that any further action depends on SWAPO provocations and emphasized that if SWAPO tries to strike back to regain the initiative, the military will "wipe them off the face of Angola."

In response to the embassy official's warning that the raid raises serious questions about the sincerity of their acceptance of the Western proposal, the aide said that the intention of the "highest level" in the government is to implement the proposal. He believes that South Africa might demonstrate its good intentions in some ways, like the quick release of SWAPO detainees, but said that a statement of South Africa's readiness to negotiate the status of Walvis Bay with an independent Namibia is adamantly opposed by Vorster.

Further Brazilian Reaction to the President's Visit:

Brazilian foreign ministry officials were greatly relieved that the President treated the human rights issue within a framework acceptable to Brazil and did not publicly condemn Brazil or President Geisel. The officials reportedly believe that human rights should fade away as a problem in bilateral relations because:

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-- Brazil continues to improve its human rights situation as will be evident in the forthcoming constitutional reform; and

-- The President has modified his earlier inflexible policy.

The officials believe that nuclear and trade issues will continue to aggravate our relationship, even though they understand the President's sincere desire to restrict nuclear proliferation. U.S. pressure on Brazil is reportedly only producing an even stronger Brazilian determination not to modify its policy. The Brazilians are pleased with the progress in executing the nuclear agreement with West Germany even though little technological transfer has yet taken place.

Cuban Delegation Visits ZANU Training Site: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Cuban delegation visited a ZANU military training camp in Tanzania to inspect the training program and to survey needs for military equipment in case Cuba is asked to provide logistical or training assistance. The delegation received briefings from senior Tanzanian military and intelligence officials and were given an overflight of the camp. The visit reportedly was made at the request of the Cuban officials, and was handled through Tanzanian intelligence officers who work in the office of President Nyerere. The Cuban delegation did not meet with President Nyerere. [REDACTED] Tanzania currently has no plans to request Cuban assistance for the ZANU training facility, although they are being urged to by ZANU officials.

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