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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jonas Savimbi, Leader of UNITA of Angola

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for National Security Affairs
Herman J. Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
Robert C. Frasure, Director for African Affairs, NSC (Notetaker)

Jonas Savimbi, Leader of UNITA
Jeremias Chitunda, Vice President of UNITA
General Tony de Costa Fernandes, Foreign Secretary of UNITA

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 13, 1990, 10:35 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
The Oval Office

The President and Dr. Jonas Savimbi met briefly in the Oval Office at 10:35 a.m. for a photo op. (U)

The President: I want to welcome you. Your meeting yesterday with Shevardnadze will send a strong signal. We salute you on it. How did you feel it went? (U)

Dr. Savimbi: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for all that you have done for us. (U)

It went very well. It was clear that Secretary Baker had been working on him already! He was very open. I said we should make the process as short as possible. He agreed with that. He was on board. I said if the arrangements including a ceasefire took too long, it could, in fact, be derailed. He agreed with that. He said that the MPLA reforms had to be put into place. (C)

Secretary Baker: You made a good impression on him. He had seen you portrayed by the MPLA as some kind of gangster, in the Angolan press I suppose. (C)

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The President: He volunteered all of that to us. (U)

Secretary Baker: I meet with Loy. At that time they had no instruction on attending the five-party meeting. They have now agreed to do so. (C)

The President: Who will be attending? (U)

Secretary Baker: The Portuguese, the Soviets, the MPLA, UNITA, and ourselves. (U)

The President: Shevardnadze was very complementary of the Portuguese mediation effort. Do you agree with that? (C)

Dr. Savimbi: Yes. But they need the U.S. to back them up on it. (C)

The President: Cavaco Silva assured us that he wants to be a catalyst on all of this. He thought it would work. We are glad it is taking place. (C)

Dr. Savimbi: Thank you. It is all due to U.S. support. The MPLA wanted to wipe us out in May. (C)

Secretary Baker: At my meeting with them they now claim they want national reconciliation including a unified army. Are we now looking at March as a possible date for a ceasefire? (C)

Dr. Savimbi: Yes. This would give them time for their constitutional revisions on a multi-party democracy. (C)

The President: Hank Cohen has worked very hard on all of this. I have great faith in him. I want you to know that when he speaks, he speaks with the full confidence of this President and Secretary Baker. (C)

Dr. Savimbi: Thank you very much. We want to thank you again for all of your support. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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