

**March 6, 1984**

**Message of R.F. Botha to the Governments of the  
United States, Angola, and Zambia**

**Citation:**

"Message of R.F. Botha to the Governments of the United States, Angola, and Zambia", March 6, 1984, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South Africa Department of Foreign Affairs. Included in "Southern Africa in the Cold War, Post-1974," edited by Sue Onslow and Anna-Mart Van Wyk.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/118263>

**Summary:**

Message from R. F. "Pik" Botha declaring that, despite SWAPO incursions into Namibia, South African forces have not retaliated, in order to give the maximum amount of time for Angola to make good on its promise to withdraw its forces. South Africa will, however, maintain a military presence in Namibia while the threat is still there.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Transcript - English

In my statement of 26 February 1984, I mentioned that the South African Government had made it clear to the Angolan delegation on the Joint Monitoring Commission that SWAPO's activities in the area were contrary to the letter and the spirit of the agreement reached in Lusaka. The Angolans did not question this analysis and undertook to consider concrete ways and means of giving effect to the Lusaka agreement.

Although the Joint Monitoring Commission commenced its operations as scheduled and cooperation on the ground between the Angolan and South African components is satisfactory, it is nevertheless clear that serious breaches of the Lusaka agreement have continued as a result of SWAPO activities. These breaches include the following:

SWAPO has used the disengagement process to infiltrate a large number of terrorists, possibly as many as 800 into South West Africa. This is a clear breach of the condition set out in South Africa's offer of 15 December 1983 that "SWAPO... would not exploit the resulting situation, in particular with regard to actions which might threaten the security of the inhabitants of South West Africa/Namibia".

There are still considerable numbers of SWAPO in the area of the Joint Monitoring Commission. One company of SWAPO is at present in the Mupa-Evale-Nehone area. Two companies are in the vicinity of Mulola-Chitando and one company is north of Mupa.

SWAPO continues to move southward from Dongo despite the FAPLA presence there. There are indications that 350 SWAPO special unit members in the Indungo area, within FAPLA's sphere of control, have already begun to move southwards. FAPLA deployed reconnaissance units in Xangongo and Mupa as early as 28 February 1984 in contravention of the terms of the Mulungushi Minute. SWAPO units in Jamba and Cahama continue to receive the military supplies required for their operations against South West Africa via FAPLA controlled routes from Namibe and Lubango. FAPLA has not exerted pressure on SWAPO to call back its forces in the area in question by radio, even though it has this capability.

As a result of these developments the Angolan component of the Joint Monitoring Commission was informed today that the South African forces in southern Angola and the Joint Monitoring Commission will remain in their present positions for as long as may be necessary to give the Angolan authorities the fullest opportunity of restricting SWAPO activities in accordance with their commitments.