

MESSAGE FROM MR CARLOS ALDANA

SWAfile
6/4/89

Dear Mr van Heerden

We are fully willing to take part in an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Commission. We share your pre-occupation as to the seriousness of the situation which has been created and are ready to play a constructive part. Cuba was and will remain firmly attached to the political will to honour its engagements.

Just like you on more than one occasion we have suggested that any public declaration by any of the parties could have a negative influence. I beg you to use your influence in this field because the press agencies are pushing out lying statements which attribute responsibility to Cuba for the present situation. According to Western agencies these statements are being put out by Foreign Minister Mr R F Botha. For our part we have decided not to respond publicly so as not to contribute to a worsening of the atmosphere. We are confident that you will respond in the same way.

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FURTHER POINTS MADE BY MR GLAZE

- He had a long talk with Aldana
- Cuba accepted the date and place offered. The main delegation would be about 10 and would be led by Aldana. They wanted to bring their own armed security people and some journalists so the party would be some 30 in total. It was due to arrive in Angola today, 6 April.
- Aldana recognised fully that SWAPO had made "mistakes". The task of the international community was to put implementation of Resolution 435 back on course.
- Aldana wished to assure the South African Government that Cuba would make every possible effort to put Resolution 435 back on course. CTW was continuing.
- Cuba had absolutely no advisers whatsoever with SWAPO. As to rumours about SWAPO armour it was correct that it had four old tanks. But these were used only for training - they were not capable of making it to the border, let alone fighting.
- In the Joint Commission meeting Cuba would be perfectly objective and would not try to conceal mistakes which had been made.
- Thank goodness the Prime Minister had been on the spot; she had been absolutely right to refer the problem to the United Nations.

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BRITISH EMBASSY
PARLIAMENT STREET, CAPE TOWN

6 April 1989

Mr Neil van Heerden
Director-General
Department of Foreign Affairs

Dear Neil,

/ We have received, via James Glaze, the attached message from Carlos Aldana.

/ I attach also a number of points made orally by Aldana to James Glaze.

Yours ever,

Robin

Robin Renwick