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SUMMARY NOTES OF A MEETING BETWEEN MR D W AURET AND MR J MARX OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN MINISTER SILVINO DA LUZ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CAPE VERDE : PRAIA, CAPE VERDE, 19 MARCH 1986

*J 17/4*

Also present : Mr du Prés - Chef du Cabinet of Minister da Luz.

MINISTER DA LUZ welcomed the South African visitors and said that he was particularly pleased that Minister Botha had responded so quickly to his request for a special envoy to visit him in Praia. He said that as Mr Auret would recall, he had raised a number of points during the previous discussions which had taken place in February and he would like to discuss these matters at a later stage. The main purpose of his request for Minister Botha's envoy to visit him was that he wished to give South Africa some impressions of the recent journey which he and his President had undertaken in southern Africa. They had encountered a somewhat difficult situation in Angola and Mozambique and President Perreira had used the occasion to discuss the southern African situation from the point of view of Cape Verde. In this regard the information which had been conveyed to Minister da Luz had been used to good effect and a frank discussion had taken place on various issues. In both Angola and Mozambique he had sensed a spirit of profound distrust regarding the situation in southern Africa and more particularly as far as the role which South Africa played in the region was concerned. This had left Cape Verde ill at ease but he was convinced that the doors as far as future developments were concerned were not closed. Reading between the lines he wanted to say that there might be future possibilities also for dialogue but he did not at this stage wish to place too much emphasis on this. He had also during his discussions in various countries mentioned the problems which Cape Verde had regarding the landing-rights which it granted to South African Airways and he wanted to point out that Cape Verde indeed had a problem at the OAU in this regard. Nevertheless, and as he had previously indicated to Mr Auret, Cape Verde had sent a special delegation to OAU to defend

itself on this matter. Moreover, he had also sent a letter to the OAU which had been distributed as an official document of that organization. He wanted to repeat, and this remained Cape Verde's view, that it had nothing to hide as far as its landing-rights for SAA was concerned. This position had also been clearly put to the various African delegations with the result that the question of Cape Verde landing-rights had been removed from the Agenda. Despite the fact that this small victory had been achieved, Minister da Luz said that he had nevertheless insisted that the letter which Cape Verde had sent to the Organization of African Unity in which its position was clearly set out, still be distributed.

MR AURET asked what the prognosis was as far as future action in this regard was concerned.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that he had no doubt that this question would again be raised in future, perhaps at the forthcoming Paris Conference of the Lusophone countries or at the OAU meeting of Heads of State in Government in July 1986. He wanted to give Mr Auret the assurance however that the Cape Verde would not change its position as far as landing-rights for SAA was concerned.

MR AURET said that he had conveyed the sentiments expressed by Minister da Luz during their last meeting to Mr Gert van der Veer, Chief Executive of South African Airways. The latter had expressed his appreciation for the position adopted by Cape Verde and had asked that the sentiments be conveyed to Minister da Luz.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that he would briefly want to refer to the questions which had been raised during the previous meeting.

MR AURET said that he had gone into the various issues which Minister da Luz had touched upon and would like to convey the following information.

As far as Captain du Toit was concerned, South Africa was extremely concerned that its national, who was being held in an Angolan jail,

be released. He pointed out that Minister da Luz had indicated that he as well as President Perreira would raise this matter during their visit to Luanda and he would be grateful for an elucidation in this regard. An important aspect which should be borne in mind was that South Africa was prepared to speak directly to the Angolans on this matter. He would be grateful if Minister da Luz could convey the impressions which he had obtained in Angola regarding Captain du Toit.

As far as Mozambique was concerned Mr Auret informed Minister da Luz that Minister Botha had recently visited Maputo and that a frank and forthright discussion had taken place concerning problems which existed on both sides. It was his impression that this meeting had taken place in a good atmosphere and that decisions regarding future contact between the two countries, which would serve to iron out difficulties which might arise, had been arranged. In the meanwhile South Africa was continuing with various aid projects in the country and it appeared that relations were developing satisfactorily.

As far as Angola and South West Africa/Namibia was concerned Mr Auret referred to the announcement made by State President Botha on 4 March 1986 in which he had indicated that South Africa would be prepared to implement Security Council Resolution 435 on 1 August 1986 provided that a firm and satisfactory agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal had been reached by that date. Minister da Luz would be aware that Minister Botha had communicated the text of this announcement to him prior to it being made by the State President. This was an indication of the trust which Minister Botha placed in Minister da Luz and South Africa sincerely hoped that Angola would respond with concrete proposals in order that the process leading to the independence of South West Africa/Namibia could move forward. In this regard Mr Auret said that what was important in southern Africa was that countries of the region should talk to each other. He pointed out that each time that South Africa had had direct talks with the Angolans, some form of

agreement had been secured. In this regard the Lusaka agreement of 16 February 1983 was particularly important. A climate of confidence had been established and the agreement had led to considerable progress. It was a pity that its ultimate success had been tarnished by the fact that SWAPO had chosen to ignore the terms of the Lusaka agreement but the point was that much could be achieved through direct contact. Mr Auret said that he wished to repeat that Minister Botha would be prepared to meet with Minister Rodrigues (Kito) at any time. South Africa had gone out of its way to create a climate in which progress on this issue could be made and it was high time that Angola also took decisions which could advance the process.

MR AURET referred to the question posed by Minister da Luz regarding two Soviet nationals which were said to be held by RENAMO in Mozambique. In this regard Minister da Luz had sent Minister Botha a telegram containing the names of the two persons involved. Mr Auret said that he wished to point out that as he had indicated previously, South Africa had no direct links with RENAMO and it was thus not possible to establish what the position was regarding the persons in question. There were however other channels which might be used and although it might take some time, South Africa would see what information could be obtained from other sources in this regard.

MR AURET said that Minister da Luz had also previously asked for statistics regarding South Africa's trade with Africa. As he understood it Cape Verde wanted to use these statistics to refute allegations by other African countries that only Cape Verde had any dealings with South Africa. In this regard Mr Auret pointed out that it was South Africa's policy not to make statistics regarding individual trade figures with African countries public. This was done because South Africa did not want to publicly embarrass those partners in Africa with which it traded. However it could be pointed out that according to the latest statistics, Africa as a whole formed South Africa's third-largest trading partner. South

of Africa traded actively with 46 out of the 51 African States and the trade with the continent had increased by more than 300% during 1985. This was an indication of the large volume of activity which was taking place and should be useful to Minister da Luz in developing arguments which could be used to good effect.

MINISTER DA LUZ thanked Mr Auret for the information and said that he would like to ask why an agreement regarding Cuban troop withdrawal was important for South Africa. He understood that what South Africa required was an agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal and took note of this position.

MR AURET said that as Minister da Luz knew, the settlement proposal in terms of Security Council Resolution 435 made provision for the reduction of South African troops according to a specified time-table. Thus South African troops would have to be reduced to 12 000 six weeks after implementation of the settlement proposal, to 8 000 after nine weeks and to 1 500 troops after 12 weeks from the implementation date. The Angolans had accepted the principle of Cuban troop withdrawal during discussions in Cape Verde in November 1984. However, they had not yet agreed to any specific time-table for such withdrawal and it was important that this time-table, which would run parallel to the reduction of South African troops in South West Africa/Namibia, be established before implementation could proceed. There was nothing sinister in the South African position but it was clear that unless there was a firm agreement regarding such a time-table, progress would be impossible.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that this information clarified the matter in his mind. He wanted to say that Cape Verde would continue to urge Angola to explore all possibilities in trying to advance the negotiations. During their visit to Angola he had again raised the question of the release of Captain du Toit and as far as a direct meeting between South African and Angola was concerned, he had also addressed this aspect. As far as Captain du Toit was concerned it was his impression that the Angolans were prepared to discuss this problem within the context of the release

of FAPLA and Cuban prisoners which were being held in southern Africa. The Angolans had again suggested that a third country or the International Committee of the Red Cross be used as a go-between in the interim but Minister da Luz had not thought it wise to go into detail of this suggestion at that stage. Minister da Luz said that he wanted to be sure that a very important matter of principle be clear to both sides i.e. South Africa and Angola. Cape Verde did not want to be seen as an agent for South Africa, Angola or the United States. He said that the United States had contacted Cape Verde regarding a possible presence of the Angolans in Washington and had given them, for the first time, a paper with specific proposals in this regard. Cape Verde had however indicated to the Americans that they would also not be prepared to act as an agent for the United States and that they should take this matter up directly with the Angolans.

MR AURET said that he thought that the position which Cape Verde adopted was understandable and said that what Cape Verde was in actual fact asking was that direct discussions between the various countries concerned take place. This was precisely what South Africa was prepared to do.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that as far as a meeting between South Africa and Angola was concerned, the question arose as to which points would be on the agenda. This was an idea which he had not raised with the Angolans since it was his impression that the timing had not been right. If South Africa had any specific ideas in this regard Cape Verde would be prepared to transmit them now or in future. He had talked seriously to the Angolans and they were reflecting on this matter. He wanted to say that President Perreira had subsequent to their return again telephoned President Dos Santos in order to urge him to seriously consider this point. During their visit to Luanda, they had also tried to contact Nujoma who was however not available since he was travelling. Minister da Luz said that during their visit to Botswana they had taken note of the remark which President Masire had made and in which he had indicated that President Botha's statement of 4 March 1986 was a welcome one. He had made two important points during his conversation with President

Masire; firstly that concrete steps were needed to advance the course of peace in southern Africa and secondly that the mission of President Perreira to southern Africa was a mission of peace. Minister da Luz said he also wanted to note that during a press conference on their visit to southern Africa President Perreira had responded to a question concerning sanctions that he did not see how one could ask someone to commit "suicide solidarity" if they were to ask for sanctions against South Africa. He wanted to say that Cape Verde was disposed to continue to speak to Luanda on various points which had been talked about.

MR AURET thanked Minister da Luz for this information and said that as far as the question of points which might be discussed with Luanda were confirmed he was not authorised to raise such points at this stage. He would however mention this to Minister Botha. As a personal remark he did want to say however that he was sure that there was much which the two countries could discuss.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that he thought that there was a slight chance that the Angolans might agree to direct discussions once they knew what the Agenda could possibly consist of. He wanted to add that the Angolans were not well disposed to the United States at this point especially following the visit of Savimbi to Washington. Cape Verde was certain that possibilities in the southern African region could develop and would continue to play a positive role in facilitating contact between countries. Cape Verde would also insist that the Angolans move on the question of Captain du Toit. As a last point he wanted to say that Cape Verde would appreciate it if South Africa could provide further assistance to Mozambique.

MR AURET said that Minister da Luz would recall that he had mentioned that South Africa was continuing with the project which it had initiated in Mozambique. This was being done to the mutual benefit of the two countries and was extremely important in furthering the relationship which had been established.

MINISTER DA LUZ said that he would appreciate it if Minister Botha could be informed that Cape Verde was now more prudent than before and that they would appreciate a continuation of the present contact. He said that Cape Verde would again send an emissary to President Dos Santos in order to obtain a definite reply on Captain du Toit and an indication of the Angolan position regarding direct contact with South Africa.