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1. Q and A	Q and A with background on advisors in Mozambique (1 p.)	4/7/76	C(A)

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obviously, we have unconfirmed reports that are both public and private.

Q Bob, about a month ago I asked a number of questions about the possible presence of around 600 Cubans in another part of Africa, Somalia. You took the question about four times, and now a month later there have been some more published reports saying about the same thing. Do you have any further confirmation or non-confirmation?

A I checked that as recently as yesterday on Somalia, John, and I have still not received confirmed reports.

Q You have unconfirmed reports about the Somalia thing as well, is that right?

A We have jumped around. Let me just try to wrap it up. What we have been talking about are reports that have indicated within the past year that there have been Cuban military personnel in as many as a dozen countries around the world, and in quantities varying from a small number of advisers to the thousands of Cuban troops in Angola.

My understanding at the present time is that it is public knowledge that there are Cuban military personnel

in the Congo, whose capital is Brazzaville; Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau, as well as in Angola.

Now, in addition, there have been unconfirmed reports of the arrival of Cuban military personnel, in addition to Somalia and Mozambique, of which we have spoken here today, Equatorial Guinea.

Q Go back to Mozambique and Somalia.

A Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Somalia; and also there have been reports of arrival of Cuban military personnel in South Yemen. That is the wrapup that I have. I do not have anything beyond that.

Q Some reports refer to what?

A Both public and private.

Q You mean from other diplomatic sources you are talking about.

A I mean official as well as public.

Q Official American?

A That is right.

Q You are not reading back the AP wire?

A No.

Q Or UPI?

A I don't mind. But I am including them as public reports.

Q Bob, is this the same list DOD put out a few weeks ago?

A Who did?

Q The Department of Defense.

A I do not know.

Q When you referred to Cuban military personnel, you are making no distinction here between military advisers attached to an Embassy and battalions of troops?

A I said that there were reports about both. They vary from small numbers of Cuban military advisers to the Cuban troops in Angola.

Q Right, but when you are referring to additional countries here I have no way of knowing whether you are referring to reports that Cuba sent two military advisers to Equatorial Guinea or a regiment.

A I do not have that kind of precision in the information I have received, Murrey.

Q Does the information you have tell us to what extent the Russians are entwined with these interventions, in all or some?

A No. Obviously what is known in Angola, but not beyond that.

Q In the others the Cubans could be totally self-starters?

A It could be, but I am not saying it necessarily is.

Q Were these reports in any way what motivated the Secretary to issue any of his several warnings to the Cubans about further adventures in Africa?

A I honestly do not know, but I think what he really was directly referring to was the presence of the 13,000 Cuban expeditionary force in Angola and any repetition of the Angolan adventure.

Q In the interest of comprehensiveness, perhaps we should ask you about a report which has appeared in the Post for the last two days about Cubans on the Chinese border. It appears on the same page as Jack Anderson's column.

(Laughter)

A Is this a serious question, or are you teasing? (Laughter)

Q I am just trying to cover all the countries. You seem to have run down all the other countries we can think of.

A I do not have anything on that.

June 26, 1975

MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE

Q. Yesterday the President sent a letter to the President of Mozambique on the occasion of that nation's independence. What is the status of the American Consulate General in Mozambique?

A. FRELIMO, the political movement that assumed power in Mozambique, ordered all consular establishments opened during the Portuguese administration to close on June 24. We closed our Consulate General on June 24, but in the absence of a specific request from FRELIMO we have not withdrawn our staff, which is headed by Peter C. Walker.

We have recognized the new state of Mozambique and have offered to enter into normal diplomatic relations with the new Government, including the opening of an Embassy.

Q. Who represented the United States at the independence celebrations in Mozambique?

A. We were not invited to the ceremonies. Two members of Congress were there as invited guests: Mr. Charles C. Diggs, Jr., of Detroit, and Mrs. Cardiss Collins of Chicago.

Note: For further details, refer to the State Department.