CAPRIVI STRIP AIRFIELD
SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

1. SIGNIFICANCE:
   THE LARGE AIRFIELD RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED IN THE
   CAPRIVI STRIP OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA IS NEARING
   COMPLETION.

2. REMARKS:
   THIS AIRFIELD IS BEING BUILT BY THE REPUBLIC OF
   SOUTH AFRICA AS AN "EMERGENCY LANDING STRIP."
   HOWEVER, VARIOUS COLLATERAL REPORTS, THE AIRFIELD'S
   SIZE, AND ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION BORDERING ON ANGOLA,
   ZAMBIA, BECHUANALAND, AND RHODESIA, SUGGEST THAT THE
   AIRFIELD MAY BE INTENDED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. WHEN
   COMPLETED, FACILITIES AT THIS AIRFIELD WILL INCLUDE
   ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, A WORK SHOP, AND TWELVE
   5,000 GALLON FUEL TANKS.

3. LOCATION:
   IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP, A FINGER OF LAND JUTTING EAST-
   WARD FROM SOUTH-WEST AFRICA; APPROXIMATELY 9 NM
   SSW OF THE TOWN OF KATIMA MOLILO.

4. COLLATERAL:
   THE TERMS OF A LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE UNDER WHICH
   SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNS THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH-WEST
   AFRICA, PROHIBIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY BASES
OR THE STATIONING OF TROOPS IN THE AREA. THE LEGALITY OF THIS MANDATE HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONTESTED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, WHICH IS REVIEWING SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY.

ACCORDING TO THE CREW OF A RHODESIAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT WHICH OVERFlew THE CAPRIVI STRIP IN LATE SEPTEMBER, OBSERVED A SQUADRON OF SOUTH AFRICAN JET FIGHTERS AND SOME HEAVY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AT THE AIRFIELD. THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED EITHER TO A TRAINING EXERCISE OR TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN OVER THE RHODESIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. HOWEVER, ANY INDICATION OF MILITARY USE OF THIS AIRFIELD WOULD MOST LIKELY RAISE PROTESTS FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES, POSSIBLY WITH SOME INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS.

5. **FIRST IDENTIFICATION:**

6. **NEGATION DATE:** NONE.

7. **SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE:** NONE.

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These notes have been prepared for briefing purposes only and should not be used for detailed analytical work. Their use should be restricted to the particular briefing board(s) they were prepared for and must be considered valid only for the reporting period as indicated by the date of issue.
8. **DIMENSIONS/SPECIFICATIONS:** 7,525 x 130 FT ENE/WSW RUNWAY.

9. **MISSION READOUT:** THIS MISSION REVEALS A 7,525 X 130 FT ENE/WSW UNSERVICEABLE RUNWAY WITH A PARALLEL TAXIWAY, 2 END-CONNECTING LINKS AND 2 CROSSOVER LINKS, 1 PARKING APRON, AND 2 ALERT APRONS. THE SURFACE MATERIAL OF THE RUNWAY AND Crossover LINKS APPEARS TO BE WINDROWED, POSSIBLY INDICATING THE BLENDING OF AGGREGATE OR A BINDING MATERIAL PRIOR TO FINAL SURFACING.
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