

[REDACTED]

december 17, 1983

**SOUTH AFRICA-UN: Diplomatic Initiatives**

*//South Africa's proposal to withdraw its troops from Angola is an effort to calm the coming debate on Angola in the UN and to reopen bilateral negotiations with the Angolan Government.//* [REDACTED]

In a message to the UN Secretary General on Thursday, Foreign Minister Botha proposed to withdraw South African troops from southern Angola on 31 January in exchange for assurances that Cuban, Angolan, and SWAPO troops would not exploit the withdrawal. South Africa proposed a 30-day "disengagement of forces" that could be extended. Botha stated that Pretoria was ready to proceed with the Namibian independence process, if a solution could be found to the issue of Cuban troops in Angola. [REDACTED]

*//Pretoria has attempted to reopen bilateral discussions with Luanda recently. [REDACTED] Negotiations for a mutual disengagement of forces broke down early this year following a major SWAPO incursion.//* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] /Pretoria's move reflects earlier South African concern that its permanent military presence in southern Angola may lead to a crisis in South Africa's dealings with the US. In addition to calming the Security Council debate, Pretoria hopes to shift the focus from its military presence in Angola to the Cuban withdrawal issue.// [REDACTED]