

Prime Minister

1. I had a meeting last evening with Edward du Cann and Tiny Rowland, at Edward's request.
2. The stated purpose of the meeting was to "follow up the talk which you had had with Tiny Rowland at Chequers on 17th January 1982.
3. Rowland claims to be Savimbi's closest friend; Rowland believes that Savimbi is gaining strength in Angola all the time and that it is likely that Savimbi will come to power. If that happens, then Lonrho in particular, and United Kingdom companies in general, will derive immense advantage.
4. Rowland is giving every assistance he can to Savimbi; according to Rowland, arrangements are fairly advanced for Rowland's own aeroplane to take Savimbi from Angola to Iceland for a secret meeting with senior Officials of the State Department, which would precede an overt meeting in Washington between Savimbi and President Reagan.
5. Rowland believes that that meeting with President Reagan would be the prelude to the departure of Cuban and East German soldiers from Angola, the collapse of the present Marxist government, and its replacement by Savimbi.
6. Rowland also reported that moves are afoot to achieve a reconciliation between Mugabe and Nkomo in Zimbabwe which would involve Nkomo returning to the Government.



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7. Rowland says that Machel (who is coming to see you on 4th May) is only a figurehead and thinks that he will not last beyond the end of the year. He says that the most powerful political figure in Mozambique is Dos Santos.
8. Rowland has returned recently from Kenya where he says that he (Rowland) drafted a letter for Moi to send to you, inviting you to visit Kenya. Rowland says that Moi is the best man available in Kenya and that the United Kingdom ought to do all in its power to support him. When he was in Nairobi, Rowland had had a long talk to Leonard Allinson, of whom Rowland thinks highly. Rowland suggested that Allinson should be given much more of a roving brief in East and Central Africa and that he is too valuable and has too deep an understanding of Africa to be confined to Kenya. Rowland cited the precedent of Malcolm MacDonald.
9. This was the first occasion on which I had met Rowland, and I am bound to say that he impressed me.

10.2.83

IAN GOW

P.S. Edward told me, in confidence, that Duncan Sandys is to retire as Chairman of Lonrho at the AGM next month. Duncan is to be succeeded by Edward!