

FBIS-AFR-87-237  
10 December 1987

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### Malan Interviewed on Angola, ANC, Nkomati

MB092045 Johannesburg Television Service  
in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Interview with Minister of Defense Magnus Malan by Andre le Roux in Cape Town on the "Network" program; date not given—video recorded]

[Text] [Le Roux] General Malan, you have told the Swiss what values you are fighting for in South Africa. You also referred to the role of the SADF in the region. Can you elaborate?

[Malan] Basically, I spoke to them about southern Africa and the role they can play. I told them that Churchill, during World War II, said the southern part of Europe is the soft underbelly [preceding 2 words in English] of Europe. If we look at developments in technology it appears the world has shrunk, and therefore the weak underbelly of Europe has become the role of Africa. And if Europe does not pay attention to Africa it will lose its access to Africa. The Russians are busy infiltrating certain parts of Africa. Consequently, they must do something to keep Africa in the Western camp.

[Le Roux] Is that why South Africa is in Angola?

[Malan] Partly. We face an intrusion in southern Africa. We are a regional power. What happens in this region affects our interests directly. As a result, we must act. In Angola it is basically the Cubans who are in Africa. The question is: What do they want here? What are their objectives? Their operations indicate that they are moving to Botswana, to Zimbabwe, to Zambia, and even into the Transvaal. Therefore, it is important for us to know what their goals are in the region.

[Le Roux] Our ambassador at the United Nations said recently that South African troops will withdraw if other foreign troops in Angola withdraw. The Cubans are still there, but we are withdrawing. Can you explain?

[Malan] I cannot talk too much about the withdrawal. I would like to talk about what we did there. We went to Angola to achieve certain objectives, and we said we would withdraw if those objectives were realized. And when that

was done we would withdraw. In other words, a praiseworthy objective was set. If the United Nations had accepted a resolution that all foreign troops should withdraw then we would not have set those objectives. We would have withdrawn immediately.

[Le Roux] Do you mean that South Africa retains the right to identify new objectives in Angola and act again?

[Malan] South Africa's premise is that we have no expansionist tendencies, but we have the right to protect our own interests no matter where they are. If our interests are affected, as in border areas in the subcontinent, then South Africa will act to protect those interests. In other words we retain that right.

[Le Roux] It is strange that South Africa's withdrawal coincides with the superpower summit in Washington, where regional matters are being discussed today. Is there a link between the withdrawal from Angola and the view held by the United States in this connection?

[Malan] I think your deduction is incorrect. You say it is coincidence that our withdrawal is happening at the same time as the summit in Washington. It is the other way around. The summit coincides with our withdrawal from Angola. In other words, the summit is not the determining factor in our withdrawal. The determining factors are always military.

One thing must be remembered. Our public does not always realize that if you withdraw militarily you should not shout about it. It is a complex process. A withdrawal must be tactically planned because your forces are still under attack.

I am sure the talks in Washington will deal with the situation in Angola and South-West Africa. Our view is clear. We say the problem in the area cannot be solved if the Cubans do not withdraw from Angola. The United States shares this opinion.

[Le Roux] You are, therefore, aware of the impact that our presence in Angola will have on the talks?

[Malan] Yes. No country can forego its interests because other countries are holding talks. We have to think about our own interests.

[Le Roux] You say the withdrawal is not easy. How long will it take and will the last soldiers indeed leave Angola?

[Malan] The SADF is an instrument of the present government. If the SADF has to act outside the country's borders, then it is a decision for the government and the SADF carries out that decision. The SADF is responsible for the military operation and the government is responsible for the political consequences. General Geldenhuys has made a statement on the matter and I agree with him.

[Le Roux] How do you see the military situation in the neighboring states?

[Malan] We have said that we will not allow our country to be used as a springboard for attacks on neighboring states. In other words, if there are revolutionary forces in South Africa we would not allow them to operate from South Africa. We have also said we expect the same from our

neighbors. If this happens, we will act politically or militarily. Those countries have been warned by the minister of foreign affairs that we will act in our interests against those forces in their countries.

[Le Roux] What is your opinion of the Nkomati Accord, given the guarantees against infiltration by the ANC into South Africa?

[Malan] I think the Nkomati Accord is a very positive step by the government. It is unfortunate that the Frelimo government does not honor the accord. If you look at the propaganda broadcast daily against South Africa, which according to Article 5 of the Nkomati Accord is not permitted, they are not concerned. There are certain terrorists who move through Mozambique, and it appears Mozambique does have control over them, or they turn a blind eye. An accord is only good when it is properly applied. South Africa is working hard to get positive results from the accord. Continued contacts are necessary to point out areas where the accord is not working well.

[Le Roux] The Arusha conference in Tanzania has just ended. Your comments on that conference?

[Malan] The ANC is an associate of the SACP, and no communist party has ever negotiated on handing over power. They do not negotiate. They want to take power by force. Therefore, the ANC will never negotiate. The government is prepared to talk to the real leaders of various population groups about South Africa's future. It has invited the ANC to negotiate if they forswear violence. They have refused to renounce violence. Their intention is to take over government by force.

[Le Roux] There were reports that the Cuban 50th Division arrived recently in Luanda to reinforce Cuban forces in Angola. Is this true?

[Malan] It is very difficult to confirm such reports. I would say it is propaganda. I read about it in the press. It was noteworthy that the agency which released the details reported it from Maputo. It is Maputo which has accused us about what is happening in Angola. It is Maputo which says the Cubans have arrived. It is Maputo's agency that, to this day, does not accept that President Machel died in an air accident. Maputo continuously disseminates propaganda about South Africa and accuses South Africa of violating the Nkomati Accord.

[Le Roux] Are there new Cuban troops in Angola?

[Malan] That has not been confirmed.

[Le Roux] General, it has been a proud year for the SADF. Do you feel like bragging about it?

[Malan] The SADF is still champion. I cannot think of a defense force in the world which has fought for 21 years in South-West Africa and has beaten the enemy at every turn. It is a magnificent organization with the best leaders and the most motivated people. When I think of all the men who are looking after South Africa's interests, I am proud to be part of the SADF.