

Angola, M'biqwe call for peace monitoring

Evening Post
2 Feb 91

WINDHOEK — Angola and Mozambique have called for the establishment of joint commissions (JCs) similar to that between Angola, Cuba, Namibia and South Africa, to oversee peace processes in their regions.

United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen announced the move this week. He was on a short visit to Windhoek to attend the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

Outlining the successes of the JC, set up to oversee Namibia's transition to independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola, Mr Cohen said it had played "a very constructive role in both those issues".

Regarding the withdrawal of Cuban troops, he said it was only through investigations by the JC and a joint intelligence committee into accusations of violations that these allegations were able to be cleared up.

Mr Cohen said the commission was due to complete its work by June 30 when the agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal was fulfilled.

"There is a certain sentiment within the joint commission that it would be constructive to continue in existence with a new mandate," Mr Cohen said, adding that parties were currently discussing what that mandate might be.

"There are many large armies in Southern Africa, there is a significant amount of armaments . . . I think the joint commission can provide a vehicle for reduction of tension, reduction of armaments and diversion of expenditures from military to development objectives," he said.

Mr Cohen called the political-military situation in Namibia "essentially a stable one". He believed the security situation was "very good" in the sense that there was no longer any external threat to stability in Namibia. — Sapa