

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

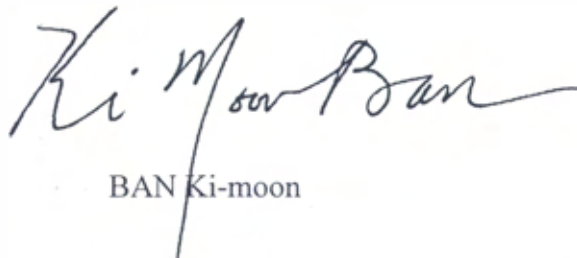
20 September 2011

Excellency,

It was with sadness that I learned of the plane crash in the province of Huambo on 14 September 2011, which killed a number of Angolan senior military officers.

On behalf of the United Nations, I wish to extend to you and to the people of the Republic of Angola my deepest condolences.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos
President of the Republic of Angola
Luanda



11-09079

EXR/17/006

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REFERENCE:

20 September 2011

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Angola to the United Nations
New York

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your approval and SG signature, a letter to the President of Angola concerning a plane crash on 14 September which killed several high-ranking military officials, including "Kalias" who served as the director of the office of the former rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, during the civil war.

For Angola, this was the third military plane crash in two months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Haysom', followed by a horizontal line.

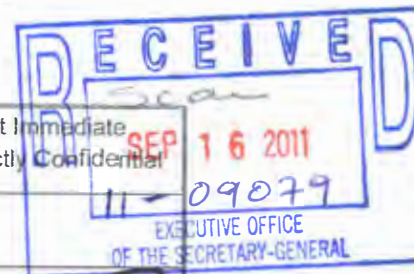
Nicholas Haysom
20 September 2011

Cc: KWS

11-09079

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TO/A: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet				
CC:				
THROUGH/WISE PAR:				
FROM/DE: B. Lynn Pascoe, USG/DPA				
Date: 15 September 2011		Ext: 3-5055		Room No. - No de bureau:
FOR ACTION			POUR SUITE A DONNER	
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FOR APPROVAL / SIGNATURE			POUR APPROBATION / SIGNATURE	
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SUBJECT/MESSAGE:

Please find attached a letter to the President of Angola, H.E. José Eduardo dos Santos, sending condolences for the plane crash in Angola, for the Secretary-General's signature.

Thank you

EXR/17/006



John



AFRICA

15 September 2011 Last updated at 04:58 ET

Angola: Huambo air force plane crash kills generals

A plane crash in Angola has killed 30 people, including three army generals, a military official has said.

Government official Luis Caetano, a spokesman for Huambo authorities, told the BBC the military aircraft crashed after leaving Huambo city airport.

He said six people had survived, including the pilot and co-pilot. State-run media says 17 people died.

Correspondents say the aircraft was a relatively new Embraer plane purchased by the army to transport top officials.

It is the third military plane crash in two months - after recent helicopter accidents in Moxico and Malange.

Wreckage split

Initial reports said that there were 36 passengers on board, but Mr Caetano told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme the number was 32.

He said the aeroplane divided when it crashed and 26 bodies - 20 men and six women - had initially been recovered from wreckage.

People in the front of the aircraft survived, but those passengers in the back died as that section caught fire, he said.

A photograph issued by state-run news agency Angop showed the plane had broken into two pieces upon impact.

A hospital official said five of the injured suffered second degree burns and one passenger was in a serious condition with third degree burns, AFP news agency said.

The plane's pilot said he did not know what had gone wrong.

"I don't know what happened, the plane was fine during taxi and takeoff, and then I really do not know what happened," captain Jose Goncalves said from hospital, AFP reported.

Angola state-run Angop news agency named two of the dead as Lt Gen Bernardo Leitao Francisco Diogo, known by his civil war name "Lelo Kizua", and Lt Gen Elias Malungo Bravo da Costa Pedro, known as "Kalias".

Kalias was the director of the rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's office and was apparently captured in 2002 when Savimbi was killed, ending the civil war, it reports.

Mr Caetano said the pilot, who had spoken to Angolan TV, seemed confused but insisted that he had complied with all

instructions from the control tower.

Portugal's Sol newspaper quoted a survivor in hospital as saying that the accident happened so fast it was difficult to know what the problem was, but the pilot seemed to be aware that there was a technical fault.

Portuguese news agency Lusa said the accident happened at about midday local time (11:00 GMT).

The plane, bound for the capital, Luanda, took off from Huambo's Albano Machado airport, which was only re-opened by the president last month after undergoing renovations.

Since 2002, Angola has been striving to tackle the legacy of a 27-year civil war that ravaged the country after independence.

It is one of Africa's major oil producers, but two thirds of the people remain in poverty.

According to Jane's Intelligence and Analysis, a digest of military information, Angola has the largest standing army in central and southern Africa and one of the largest air forces in sub-Saharan Africa.

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There are long queues outside polling stations, and some trouble in Lusaka, as Zambians vote in what is expected to be a close contest between President Banda and Michael Sata

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