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Arms for Salazar

Early this month U.S. customs officials discovered a large number of arms about to be smuggled out of the country by a flyer named John Hawke. Accused of violating Federal bans on exporting munitions, Hawke tried to wiggle his way out by claiming that he was acting not with selfish aims but in the interest of the U.S. government.

The customs officials did not get what Hawke was driving at and haled him to court. There he announced that he had been employed by the Central Intelligence Agency to deliver American arms to the Portuguese forces in Angola and Mozambique. Hawke also testified that he had flown seven B-26 bombers to Portugal. These secret arms deliveries to Salazar were coded "sparrow" and "Monarch." The operations were carried out in the following manner: the planes were purchased from an Arizona firm ostensibly by a Canadian and then taken to Portugal by Hawke.

Judging by everything, Hawke was arrested by mistake. And when there appeared a possibility of the scandal becoming public, the authorities hastened to hush up the affair. But that is not so simple. Martin Caidin, a respected aeronautics expert and consultant to the U.S. Air Force, confirmed that he himself had recommended Hawke to the CIA for the flights to Portugal, and that these flights were performed under U.S. government auspices.

And yet Washington, it is well known, claims that it abides honestly by the U.N. Security Council's decision banning arms deliveries to countries waging colonial wars in Africa.