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TITLE : ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

10 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Interagency Intelligence Memorandum - Assessment of Developments
in Angola

This memorandum was requested by the Department of State; it has been coordinated at a working level within the Intelligence Community, but has not been reviewed further because of pressure of time.

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National Intelligence Officer
for Africa

Attachment
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10 June 1977

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Assessment of Developments in Angola

KEY JUDGMENTS

The Neto regime has been weakened and its long-term prospects are much dimmer as a result of recent developments, deteriorating economic and social conditions in Angola, increased resentment against the growing Cuban involvement, and insurgent successes.

Nevertheless, with determined Cuban support, Neto is likely to survive the current crisis. No dissident faction nor any insurgent group acting alone possesses the capacity to overthrow the government, although insurgents may expand somewhat or consolidate their position in territory they now hold. We have no clear evidence that insurgents or dissidents are planning to combine their forces, and we believe that the crackdown now underway against the regime's opponents as well as the persisting differences among them will hinder any cohesive anti-regime effort in the next few months.

The current turmoil is rooted in racial and factional divisions (mulatto-black, civilian-military)

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which have existed within the Popular Movement since it was founded in 1956. No purge can eliminate them or even suppress them for long.

We believe that in these circumstances the Neto government will be forced into increasing dependence on the Cubans. Although the Angolan commitment is increasingly burdensome, the Cuban government now appears willing to commit additional resources to assure the survival of the Neto regime, and we believe that Havana will continue to do so unless the military situation becomes untenable or the USSR presses for a major shift toward a policy of compromise.

Although other African leaders are increasingly uneasy about the situation in Angola, we foresee no significant shifts in Neto's relationships with the OAU governments.

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