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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

A PERSPECTIVE ON THE ANGOLAN LEADERSHIP

Angolan President Agostinho Neto appears to be firmly in control of his party and the government despite continuing sporadic signs of popular unrest and discontent among blacks in the cabinet. In recent months, Neto has increasingly consolidated power in his own hands at the expense of other government officials. It now appears that all important decisions are made by him or by a small number of trusted advisers.

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An indication of Neto's current political strength is the apparent lack of internal opposition to his recent diplomatic initiatives, including the campaign to improve relations with the West.

This memorandum was prepared by the African Division of the Office of Regional and Political Analysis and coordinated with the Directorate of Operations. Questions and comments may be addressed to the author,

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Those members of the party and the government who in the past had strongly opposed the return of Portuguese technicians and who generally advocated a more radical "black-power", and pro-Soviet line have maintained a low profile in recent months. [redacted]

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[redacted] Neto probably commands sufficient support to keep them in check. Nevertheless, this group probably enjoys considerable support at the grass-roots level of the party and the government and probably would quickly assert itself if Neto were to leave office.

The most immediate consequence of Neto's departure would be a significant diminution of mulatto influence in party and government circles. The younger blacks, particularly those in the military, strongly resent the disproportionate influence wielded by the mulattoes and probably would push for their removal if Neto was no longer in a position to protect them. Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento, a mulatto, lacks a strong independent power base and recently has been rumored to be losing influence. The other high-ranking mulattoes--party theoretician Lucio Lara and Second Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Rocha--probably are in a stronger position, but still vulnerable because of their race. Defense Secretary Iko Carreira, a mulatto [redacted]

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[redacted] reportedly expects he may have to flee the country. Many other mulattoes would probably join him if it appeared a major power struggle was about to break out in the post-Neto period.

Although the mulattoes might press for a collegial form of government to include them and other high-ranking blacks, such a solution probably would only be temporary. If a power struggle resulted, the type of regime most likely to emerge would be strongly nationalistic, more Marxist-Leninist, and directed if not controlled by the military. While the emergence of such a regime would bode ill for Portuguese interests in Angola, given Angola's

economic and security problems, it probably would not lead to a major reversal in current foreign policy initiatives.

Prime candidates to lead such a government would be Pascoal Luvualu, the black foreign affairs spokesman for the party who has gained considerable influence and exposure over the past year, and Rodrique Joao Lopes, known as "Ludy", the black director of the internal security service. Although Joao Luis Neto, "Xieto", a black and the deputy defense minister, has long been considered a leading candidate for the presidency

Others who would probably be jockeying for top positions include the extremely competent black provincial commissioner for Huambo, Pedro Maria Tonha, "Pedale"; black minister of education Ambrosio Lukoky; and Enriques de Carvalho Santos, "Onambwe", a mulatto who has been closely associated with the Cubans but may now be somewhat in their disfavor.

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