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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, NFAC

The attached is in response to a request by
USUN Ambassador Young to the DCI.

[Redacted]

STAT

Director
Regional & Political Analysis

Date

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THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

13 DEC 1978

Dear Andy,

Pursuant to your request to the DCI, the attached memorandum, drafted by [redacted] of our Africa Division, is an update on the leadership shake-up in Angola. We are in the process of completing a broader memorandum on Angola's leadership and the ways the situation might unfold should Neto depart the scene. We will forward this to you as soon as possible.

If you have follow-up questions or other requests, please let us know.

Yours

[redacted]

Robert R. Bowie

The Honorable Andrew Young
United States Representative
to the United Nations
799 UN Plaza
New York, New York 10017

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13 December 1978

SUBJECT: Angolan Government Reorganization

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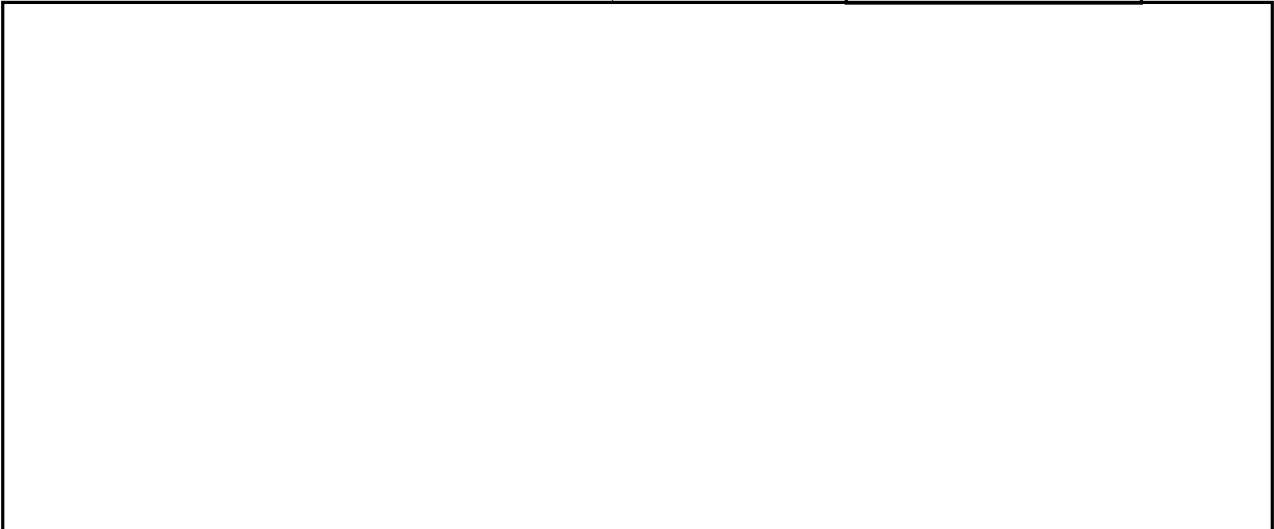
Angola announced last Saturday a major government and party shake-up that included the dismissal of two key members of the Political Bureau. The move is interpreted as an effort by Angolan President Neto to strengthen his control of the government.

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Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento and Second Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Rocha were removed from their government and party posts at the 9 December conclusion of the four-day Extraordinary meeting held by the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee. The decision to depose the two high-ranking officials--generally thought to be close to the President--and to abolish their posts probably reflects Neto's attempts to further solidify his power, strengthen party unity, and streamline a cumbersome government bureaucracy. Neto reportedly had been considering for some time abolishing the positions of prime minister and deputy prime minister, which he blamed for making the government unresponsive and "too complicated." The reorganization also appears to be aimed at improving communications between the central government and the provinces.

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SUBJECT: Angolan Government Reorganization [redacted]

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Nascimento had been Angola's prime minister since the country's independence in 1975, and was considered by many to be the second most important official in Angola. He usually ran the government in the President's absence and apparently was not opposed to Neto's recent attempts to establish a dialogue with the West. The former prime minister lacked an independent power base, however, and appears recently to have fallen into disfavor with the President. Nascimento may not be completely out of the political picture.

[redacted]

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The deposed second deputy prime minister, Rocha, is a mulatto who has strong Marxist-Leninist leanings. He had been mentioned as one of the Soviets' favorite candidates to succeed Neto.

[redacted]

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Rocha--often referred to as an able economist--recently was in Cuba where he signed new agreements calling for an increase in Cuban civilian advisors to Angola.

[redacted]

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We believe that the government reorganization also may be partially attributable to continued pressure from black nationalists in the party who believe that the mulattoes retain too much power in Angola. Although the black nationalist faction has been quiet in recent months, it is gaining support within the party and perhaps the military. Two blacks--Pascual Luvualu, the party spokesman for foreign affairs, and Evaristo Domingos, the provincial commissioner for Cabinda--have assumed the vacancies as full members of the Political Bureau.*

[redacted]

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**Luvualu is not regarded as a radical Marxist, nor is he considered to be a militant black. Luvualu's brand of Marxism is generally regarded as "humanist"--as is Neto's--and this often is attributed to his lengthy residency in Yugoslavia. Luvualu was a major participant in the Luanda meetings with US Ambassador McHenry and has been increasingly active as Neto's roving Ambassador and as a participant in formulating Angolan foreign policy. In the case of Luvualu, at least, Neto appears to have been grooming him for higher position for some time.*

[redacted]

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SUBJECT: Angolan Government Reorganization [REDACTED]

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Press reports stating that Neto had himself been removed from power apparently are false; Neto addressed the nation Sunday as President. We have no information to indicate that Neto's position is in jeopardy, although in his speech he mentioned that the time could come when the party might ask him also to step down. [REDACTED]

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Although we lack conclusive evidence as to the foreign policy orientation of Luvualu and Domingos, we strongly doubt that Neto would bring into his inner circle individuals who oppose his policies. This, coupled with the President's demonstrated interest in establishing ties with the West, leads us to conclude that the government reorganization is unlikely to have a major impact on Neto's continuing efforts to improve relations with the West. [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Angolan Government Reorganization

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