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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of External Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone: [redacted]

10 June 1983

STAT 2

TO: Mr. Ed Sanders, Staff Director
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ed:

This report, Angola: The Political Dynamics of the MPLA, has been prepared by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State. It is being made available with the understanding that it will be shown to MEMBERS ONLY. Thank you for your cooperation.

[redacted]
Senate Liaison

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(U) ANGOLA: THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF THE MPLA

Summary

(C) President dos Santos, who assumed the leadership both of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and of Angola in 1979, has consolidated his political power by decreasing the importance of competing MPLA factions and striving to maintain the semblance of party unity.

(C) The MPLA's ties with the Portuguese, Soviet, and Cuban communist parties enabled it to conduct a decade-long insurgency against the Portuguese colonial government and to win--with Soviet and Cuban military assistance--a civil war against its rival liberation movements. Since Angolan independence in November 1975, the MPLA has divided into factions on racial and tribal issues as well as questions of economic planning, military tactics, and relations with the Soviet bloc.

(S/NF) Dos Santos would like to prevent the internal violence that characterized the first years of Angolan independence and to pursue paramilitary operations against the UNITA insurgents of Jones Savimbi. He is likely to continue to solidify his position as national leader, although he probably will face growing opposition from the military.

* * * * *

(S/NF) When the MPLA assumed power in 1975, it divided into two factions:

--The "internationalists" were a small cadre of well-educated mulatto and black intellectuals who had close ties to the Portuguese Communist Party and who, for the most part, had lived

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May 5, 1983