



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

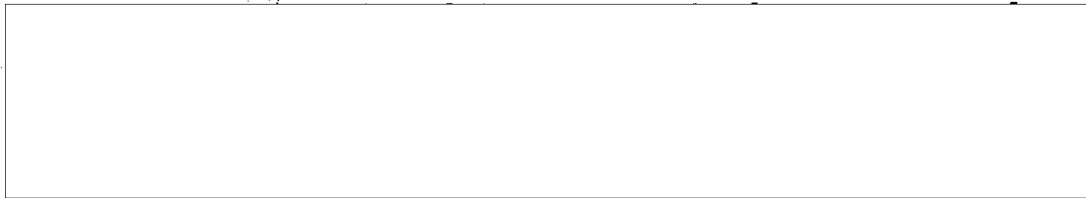
October 29, 1975

to LPS desk

Sir:

DOS Review Completed.

There is another issue not addressed in this memo -- avoiding a symbolic transfer of power to the MPLA in Luanda on November 11. Antunes has said the Portuguese will not turn over the government to any one of the three movements.



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My concern is symbolism; the symbolism of the MPLA's control of Luanda, the capital, compounded by a symbolic ceremony which transfers power from the Portuguese to the MPLA. Pictures of a Portuguese governor general handing the flag or the sword or whatever to the MPLA representative would be distinctly unhelpful to our objectives in Angola.

We might consider urging the Portuguese to leave with an absolute minimum of (or even better without any) ceremony at all. This may be more than their Latin temperaments can bear but it may be worth an effort.

Another alternative, considered by the OAU, would be for the party to turn the "instruments of power" over to all three movements in three different cities.

I have asked that AF address this question in another memo to you.

WJ
Jerry

*- approved closing
Luanda before 11/11*

HAC

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