



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 4941

SPECIAL HANDLING

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DOS Review Completed.

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ACTION INRD-04

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4433

S E C R E T LUANDA 01702

ROGER CHANNEL

F.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: ANGOLA CONTINGENCY PLANNING

attached

REF: STATE 258155

1. HERewith THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTel.
2. INTENTIONS OF OTHER CONSULATES: ALL CONSULATES EXCEPT THE BRAZILIAN SPECIAL MISSION ARE OPERATING WITH SKLETON STAFFS AND ARE PREPARED TO SHUT DOWN IMMEDIATELY. MOST ARE CLOSED FOR NORMAL BUSINESS AND TAKE CARE OF ONLY URGENT PROBLEMS. ALL CONSULS GENERAL LEFT THE COUNTRY SOME TIME AGO IN ANTICIPATION OF A BREAK IN RELATIONS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BRAZILIANS, ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE REPRESENTED BY ONE JUNIOR OFFICER, EEC NATIONS HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO ADOPT A COMMON POLICY ON RECOGNITION AND PROBABLY WILL REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA REGIME IN LUANDA. THE BRAZILIANS WANT TO KEEP ON WITH WHAT THEY CALL THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGOLA AND HAVE COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF RECOGNIZING WHOEVER IS IN CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAS YET TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION, BUT THE BRAZILIAN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS DELUDED HIMSELF INTO BELIEVING THAT THE FORMULA IS A SPLENDID ONE, DESIGNED TO AVOID ALL SORTS OF CON-FUSION.

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3. MOST GOVERNMENTS PLAN TO PLACE THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CARE OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYEES OR RESIDENT NATIONALS. THE ITALIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE TWO RESIDENT ITALIANS ON THE PAYROLL WHO WILL TAKE CUSTODY OF THE CONSULATE IN THE EVENT OF CLOSURE.

4. THE STEPS OUTLINED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL WILL NOT IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE RISK TO PERSONNEL. WE HAVE ENOUGH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. WHETHER WE ARE NEAR TO OR FAR FROM THE AIRPORT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN THE LEVEL OF RISK; THE SCENARIO THAT IS ABOUT TO EMERGE IS ONE IN WHICH THE AIRPORT WILL BE CLOSED LONG BEFORE ANY EVACUATION PLANE OR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT CAN GET IN. AS FOR DETAILED PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE QUICK EVACUATION, THERE IS NO WAY USG PERSONNEL CAN BE QUICKLY EVACUATED FROM LUANDA. IN SHORT, THE ONLY WAY ADEQUATE TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES IS TO REMOVE THEM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE ON NOVEMBER 11 AND, AS I POINTED OUT IN MY EARLIER CABLE, BY NOVEMBER THREE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE US AIRLIFT AND TO BEAT A POSSIBLE FNLA ATTACK ON LUANDA PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.

5. BEFORE WE DECIDE WHETHER TO LEAVE ON NOVEMBER THREE OR NOVEMBER TEN, OF COURSE, WE MUST DECIDE WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE AN MPLA GOVERNMENT OR SIT IN LUANDA WITHOUT ANY STATUS UNDER AN MPLA REGIME. IF THE DECISION IS TO STAY, AND IF THE MPLA LETS US STAY, WE MUST THEN DECIDE THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION WE DESIRE AND THE SIZE OF THE STAFF.

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IN MY OWN CASE, CONTACTS WITH THE MPLA HAVE BECOME FEWER AND FEWER AS THE WAR HAS HEATED UP AND AS ANGER OVER US SUPPORT FOR FNLA AND UNITA HAS GROWN IN THE FACE OF MPLA DEFEATS. AFTER A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, I WILL HAVE NO USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY, NOR SHOULD WE RETAIN A CONSUL GENERAL HERE, EVEN IF WE DECIDE TO REMAIN OPEN. IF THE AGENCY WANTS TO KEEP ITS OPERATIONS GOING AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, THEY CAN STAFF THE OFFICE AND HANDLE ANY URGENT CONSULAR BUSINESS

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OR PROTECTION ACTIVITIES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO KEEP ONE OF THE FSU'S HERE, EITHER THE CONSULAR-ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OR THE POLITICAL-ECONOMIC OFFICER. A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LOCALS WILL BE ON HAND TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND CUSTODIAL CARE.

6. ONE LAST POINT. IF WE DON'T TAKE OUR PEOPLE OUT ON NOVEMBER THREE, WE MAY HAVE TO BRING IN AN EVACUATION PLANE. TAP WILL REDUCE ITS GROUND PERSONNEL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THERE IS ALSO GOING TO BE A RUSH ON THE FEW AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, SO THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR CHAOS AT THE AIRPORT AND TICKET OFFICES.
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