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ANGOLA WORKING  
GROUP PAPER No. 85

5 NOV 1975

REPORT: WORKING GROUP ON ANGOLA

1. The fighting in Angola has gone through several distinct phases:

a: Fighting between Angolan liberation groups (e.g. MPLA vs FNLA).

b. Introduction of foreign military advisors-- Soviet and East German with MPLA, South African with UNITA and Portuguese with FNLA.

c. Introduction of combat units from neighboring African countries.

d. Introduction of combat troops from outside Africa in the form of Cuban troops in support of the MPLA.

2. The arrival of as many as 2,000 Cuban military personnel and equipment has permitted the MPLA to deploy several hundred Cuban troops on the Luanda front, and a large force in defense of Lobito. Cuban units have also been reported in Cabinda, where they could represent a significant change in the balance of forces in favor of the MPLA.

3. We should anticipate that an escalation to the next phase might occur after 11 November 1975 with the MPLA declaring itself the government of a sovereign state and calling on other African or Communist states to enter into open military assistance arrangements with Angola. Such agreements could cover the shipment of war materiel openly by sea and air to Luanda.

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This could significantly shift the military balance in favor of the MPLA as Zaire is weak in air power and other African countries would be reluctant to commit air power in Angola.

DOS Review Completed.

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5. CIA is preparing a separate assessment of the current situation in the face of prospects of serious escalation by the USSR.

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