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ANGOLA WORKING
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REPORT: WORKING GROUP ON ANGOLA

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1. President Ngouabi of the Congo announced on Radio Brazzaville on 3 November that he is mobilizing his army to send it to defend Cabinda if Cabinda is attacked by outsiders. He announced that if foreign mercenaries entered Cabinda "we will all be engaged in the fight on the side of the MPLA". ^{25X1}

4. While we cannot determine the exact size of the potential Congo military force which might confront a FLEC/Zairian army drive into Cabinda, the Congolese armed forces, including security forces and police, are estimated to number in excess of 11,000 men with more than 4,000 of these stationed in or around Brazzaville. The effectiveness of the Congo forces over the past few years should have improved through the procurement of artillery, armored vehicles, and small arms from the Communist STAT

DIA review completed.

countries, principally the USSR, but also East Germany. There has been extensive technical training for Congolese military personnel in the USSR, China, East Germany and Algeria. The Congolese army is 5,000 strong, has one paracommando battalion, one infantry battalion, one armored regiment, one artillery regiment, one engineer battalion and one signal company. It maintains one infantry company, one paracommando company, one armored platoon, and one artillery company with supporting transport and naval detachments at Pointe Noire, nearest the Cabinda border. The Congo maintains a 200-man air force with Soviet-supplied transports and ten helicopters. It has a 120-man navy with nine Soviet river assault craft and four small Chinese patrol boats.

5. As to the effectiveness of the Congo army, a DIA assessment a year ago deemed it capable of coping only with minor disorders within the country and not able to sustain any offensive action against its neighbors unless greatly assisted from external sources. DIA also reported that the Congo has a mutual defense agreement with Cuba in the event that the Congo is threatened by internal or external forces. (Comment: This latter report has not been elsewhere confirmed.)

6. Were the Congolese forces to invade Cabinda against a FLEC/Zairian army force--as now seems most likely--the Congolese would have the MPLA occupation troops as allies, and most probably some Cuban assistance, in view of reports that some of the Cubans recently landed to assist the MPLA were being sent to Cabinda. Thus, the forces arrayed would seem to be considerable on both sides.