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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

(X) 5054
September 10, 1973
INFORMATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: Harold E. Horan *HEH*

SUBJECT: Portugal in Africa

At NSC's suggestion, CIA has prepared the backgrounder on Portugal's African territories at Tab A. While a little long, the document is a useful summation of what we know of Portugal's attitudes towards these territories and the status of the insurgencies. Essential elements are these:

- Lisbon has 200 thousand men under arms in Africa and spends about one quarter of its budget in defense of its territories.
- The Portuguese give no indication they intend to withdraw from Africa, although some officials privately admit that Portuguese Guinea may soon be a lost cause.
- Lisbon is facing increasing pressure from Western European countries to grant independence to its territories.
- As political pressure builds, Lisbon will at least try to retain what support it has among its western allies, particularly the United States.
- This desire for support will doubtless be implicit in negotiations on extension of the Azores Base Agreement soon to reopen with the US.
- The insurgents (PAIGC) in Portuguese Guinea are the most successful to date, and with support from the Soviet Union and Cuba, have conducted sustained operations that have hurt the Portuguese.
- The PAIGC may declare Portuguese Guinea independent this year. If it does, it will receive quick support from communist countries and most non-aligned states.

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- The insurgency in Mozambique (FRELIMO) has slowly but steadily expanded its area of operations and the Portuguese changed their military commander in early August. Frelimo is well supplied by China and the Soviet Union, but has failed to take hold of a broad popular base in its national movement. The Portuguese are prepared for extended struggle in Mozambique and they think time is on their side.

- There are two insurgent groups in Angola (MPLA and GRAE). They have been unable to end their long-standing rivalry and for this and other reasons the Portuguese have been able to contain the insurgency.

- While the Portuguese do not appear prepared for an all-out push, the general situation in Angola is not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

Attachment

Tab A - CIA backgrounder, "Portugal in Africa: The Burden of Empire" - 31 August, 1973

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