

~~Secret~~



(b)(3)



Weekly Summary

~~Secret~~

5 October 1973
No. 0390/73

Copy No 49

CONTENTS (5 October 1973)



[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

**MIDDLE EAST
AFRICA**

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

**15 Portuguese Guinea:
Rebels Proclaim Independence**

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

Portuguese Guinea
REBELS PROCLAIM INDEPENDENCE

97 [The anti-Portuguese rebels met inside a "liberated" area of Portuguese Guinea last week and declared their long-awaited independent state of "Guinea-Bissau." This political move by the insurgents will generate new international criticism of Portugal's presence in Africa, but is not likely to bring an early settlement of the insurgency in the territory.]

97 [A communique issued by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde indicates that party leaders have assumed the top positions in the new "government." Luiz Cabral and Francisco Mendes, both major party figures, will serve as chief of state and head of government, respectively. Aristides Pereira remains in the key post of head of the party although he holds no government title.]

97 [The independence declaration is intended to give the rebels an appearance of legitimacy that will enable them to gain increased foreign economic and military assistance. The Portuguese still control the important areas of Portuguese Guinea, and the military situation is stalemated.]

95 [The insurgents, however, have improved their military position this year, largely through a new capability—Soviet-supplied SA-7 surface-to-air missiles—to counter Portuguese air power. They have also made some limited gains on the ground.]

95 [There are indications that Lisbon has been assessing the high cost of its continued presence in the territory. Portuguese officials told the US Embassy in Lisbon last week that Lisbon had resumed indirect probes for an accommodation with the rebels. The rebel declaration, however, and the diplomatic recognition the rebels have received will make it more difficult for the Portuguese to construct a political arrangement on their own terms.]

96 [Most African and a growing number of other nonaligned nations, as well as China and the Soviet Union, have recognized the rebel government.] International reaction will become clearer when the Africans raise the question of Guinea-Bissau's status at the UN. Nigeria's General Gowon, in his capacity as current head of the OAU, has called a meeting of African foreign ministers in New York to coordinate a common position at the UN in support of the rebel regime.]

95 [Portugal is accustomed to verbal abuse of its African policy, and argues that neither diplomatic recognition nor UN resolutions will change the internal situation in Portuguese Guinea. After some delay, General Bettencourt Rodrigues has arrived in Bissau to take over as the new commander in chief and governor. The general's actions over the next few weeks may give some indication of Portuguese intentions.]

(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~