

OCTOBER 10, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met this afternoon with Portuguese Foreign Minister Melo Antunes who is in the United States for the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Portuguese Ambassador to the United States, Joao Hill Themido, accompanied the Foreign Minister; Secretary Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft also participated.

This afternoon's meeting, which lasted 45 minutes, afforded the President the welcome opportunity to continue consultations with high-level Portuguese government officials which he began last October with Portuguese President Costa Gomes' State Visit to Washington.

In addition to a general review of US-Portuguese relations, the meeting this afternoon focused in part on the current situation in Portugal, including Portuguese needs for economic aid and relief/resettlement assistance for Angolan refugees.

As a demonstration of U.S. concern for Portugal and the plight of the Angolan refugees, the President informed the Foreign Minister that the Administration is sending to Congress a proposed assistance program for Portugal. He also informed the Foreign Minister that we are willing to double our airlift of evacuees from Angola to Lisbon beginning October 14.

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