

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “Portugal - President Gomes” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5841

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION
August 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

Mr. Clift *[Signature]*

Informal President verbally.

SUBJECT:

Letter to President from Costa Gomes

The information memorandum for your signature to the President at Tab I would forward the text of a letter just received from Portuguese President Costa Gomes requesting U.S. humanitarian assistance in the Angolan refugee airlift.

Your memorandum would advise that the concerned departments are looking into the question of how the United States can respond to this request positively and effectively, and would note that a proposed reply for the President's signature to Costa Gomes will be staffed separately.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/93, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY *[Signature]*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*



I



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON~~CONFIDENTIAL~~INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Letter from Portuguese President Requesting U. S.
Assistance with Angolan Refugees

Portuguese President Costa Gomes has written you (copy of letter received by telegram at Tab A) formally to request U. S. assistance in the airlift of Portuguese citizens from Angola to Lisbon. Of importance, he makes this request on purely humanitarian grounds.

We are currently conducting a priority interdepartmental review of how the United States can positively and most effectively respond to this humanitarian request, and a recommended reply for your signature to President Costa Gomes will be staffed separately.

This memorandum is to inform you of the formal request for assistance from the Portuguese President; no action is required on your part at this time.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/88, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY WJA, NARA, DATE 3/9/04~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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1974

A



Presidency of the Republic
Lisbon
August 27, 1975

Mr. President:

After the revolution of April 25, 1974, the Portuguese Government initiated a genuine decolonization policy based on the principle of self-determination for the peoples of the colonial territories as prescribed by resolutions of the United Nations.

In accordance with this policy, Portugal recognized "De Jure" the Republic of Guinea-Bissau as an independent and sovereign state on September 10 of last year and conceded independence to Mozambique, Sao Tome and Cape Verde in 1975.

The international community has therefore abundant reason to rejoice over the fact that the decolonization process of these Portuguese territories has been achieved with complete success in such a short period of time.

As for Angola, the present situation there is causing the Portuguese Government the greatest of concern. Indeed, the differences among the liberation movements have brought about an intense political confrontation accompanied by real armed conflict which has spread over the entire national territory.

The Portuguese Government has tried to maintain a policy of strict, active neutrality toward the Angolan situation without abdicating its political and moral responsibilities as an administrative power, defending the territorial integrity of Angola against separatism and outside interference and protecting people and property without any discrimination whatever.

Politically, the situation has deteriorated at an accelerated pace, which has led Portugal to seek the intervention of United Nations Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim.

The problem has also become especially acute in the social sector. As a social and humanitarian gesture for the purpose of protecting the public, a program of assistance has been put into effect in order to facilitate and speed up the evacuation of all those who indicate the desire to leave Angola for Portugal.



It is under these circumstances, Mr. President, that Portugal, facing the great task of mobilizing the necessary resources, has asked friendly nations to lend their support to this purely humanitarian task.

The assistance of the United States of America, as I have already had occasion to mention to U.S. Ambassador Frank C. Carlucci, would be particularly useful, especially in evacuating Portuguese citizens from Angola to Lisbon -- a task which requires material means which we do not have at the present time.

Mr. President, please accept the expression of my most esteemed consideration.

Francisco Da Costa Gomes
President of the Portuguese
Republic

His Excellency
The President of the United States of America
Mr. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

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SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ~~KISSINGER, H~~ *Cliff* REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

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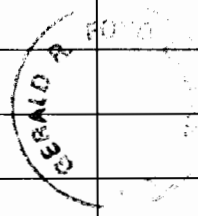
SUBJECT: *Ltr from Pres Costa Gomez requesting US assistance w/ Angolan refugees*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

| INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION | ACTION | INFO. | REC CY FOR | ACTION REQUIRED |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|------------|--|
| ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT | | | | MEMO FOR HAK () |
| STAFF SECRETARY | | | | MEMO FOR PRES () |
| FAR EAST | | | | REPLY FOR () |
| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | | APPROPRIATE ACTION () |
| MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA | | | | MEMO TO () |
| EUROPE / CANADA | | | | RECOMMENDATIONS () |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | | JOINT MEMO () |
| UNITED NATIONS | | | | REFER TO FOR: () |
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| SCIENTIFIC | | | | CONCURRENCE () |
| PROGRAM ANALYSIS | | | | DUE DATE: |
| NSC PLANNING | | | | COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS) |
| CONGRESSIONAL | | | | |
| OCEANS POLICY | | | | |
| INTELLIGENCE | | | | |

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

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| 9/8 | | NSC/3 | C | Handled via daily by Scowcroft | |
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SEP 17 1975

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