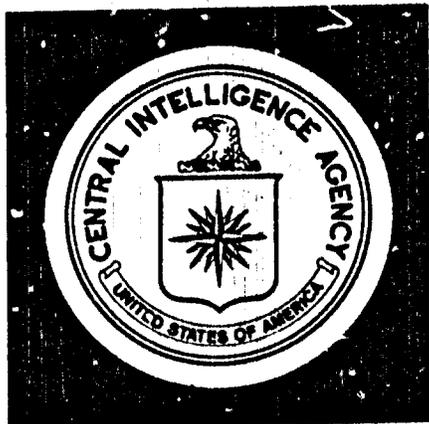


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Weekly Summary

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CONTENTS (May 10, 1974)

The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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5 Portugal: Filling the Gap; Africa

Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary.

PORTUGAL

FILLING THE GAP

A flowering of new political parties and groupings has created a fluid political situation in Lisbon and has added to the junta's difficulties in deciding who will participate in the provisional government it has promised to form by mid-May.

Thousands of returning political exiles and recently freed political prisoners have joined with other citizens in contributing their energy and political talent to a number of newly created political groupings. A majority of these new parties have a leftist orientation. Their organizers have emerged from hiding after years of clandestine operations.

Socialist Party leader Mario Soares, who has been very active since his return from exile, traveled to European capitals last week to meet with various heads of state and to drum up financial and technical support from European Socialists. He apparently met with some degree of success, because Georges Dubunne, the vice president of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, has said that he and other European labor leaders will visit Portugal soon to demonstrate their support for Soares.

Soares is in favor of including Communists in the provisional government on grounds that it will be better to have the Communists share cabinet responsibility than leave them on the outside to criticize. He emphasized that the Communists would be denied sensitive portfolios such as the foreign, defense, and interior ministry posts. Soares implied that he would become prime minister.

Meanwhile, the climate of political tolerance in Lisbon has sparked a rash of political demonstrations and seizures of public institutions. One large group demonstrated in front of junta headquarters for better pay and shorter hours. Last week, well-organized employee groups took over operations of the telephone company, the government airline, and some local government offices.



Soares

The junta reacted to this activity on May 5 by issuing a toughly worded statement warning that such acts will be considered "insubordination and a crime against the Armed Forces Movement." The Portuguese Communist Party issued a similar warning, but it has become apparent that the party is unable to exercise effective control over the extreme left.

Demonstrations and seizures have diminished this week, but concern is growing within the business community that the country is headed for a period of economic disorder. To reduce the flow of wealth abroad, the junta on May 8 imposed a series of belt-tightening economic measures, reinforced by the threat of heavy jail terms for violations.

STRATEGY IN AFRICA

During the past week the junta leaders began to amplify their policy toward Portuguese Africa. The immediate objectives are to put the insurgents on the political defensive and to reassure the sizable white populations of the major territories that Lisbon will not abandon them.

In press conferences in Angola and Lisbon, General Costa Gomes, the number two man in the junta and chief of staff of the armed forces, urged the insurgents to stop fighting and participate in a free political "dialogue" along with other political forces in the territories and the metropole. His offer was, in effect, a challenge to the rebels to prove in the open their long-held claims of wide popular support. It also was apparently intended to let the insurgents know they cannot expect Lisbon to defer to them on the basis of their alleged military strength or control of territory.

Although insurgent leaders immediately rejected Costa Gomes' offer, they clearly have been put off balance by the sudden switch in Lisbon to a regime advocating major changes in African policy. They are under strong pressure to compromise with the junta from independent African leaders who have supported them over the years and who now sense a possible way out of a black-white military confrontation. At the same time, however, a number of insurgent organizations cannot afford to have the actual amount

of territorial control and public support they command, which is much less than claimed, brought out into the open.

Rather than risk such exposure they may try to force Lisbon to the negotiating table, particularly in Portuguese Guinea and Mozambique, where the rebels have strong military positions. In Angola, however, rebel groups are internally divided and in sharp competition with each other. The level of insurgency has been low for several years, and the rebels may be forced by their own limitations, and by African pressure, to enter the political arena as their only hope.

Costa Gomes' press conference in Angola was in part an attempt to "show the flag" in Africa and calm fears of local whites in both Angola and Mozambique that Lisbon might abandon them. The liberal policies of the junta have sharpened misgivings long held by whites over the strength of Lisbon's commitment to stay in Africa.

White apprehension has been particularly noticeable recently in Mozambique. There, a single unified insurgent movement has been making slow but steady military gains, which have now brought them into areas of heavy white settler concentration, leading the whites in recent months to demonstrate for stronger military protection.

Costa Gomes' visit to Angola was marked by reassuring public speeches and was followed up by warnings from local officials that civil disorders would not be tolerated. In the present period of political euphoria, the junta is anxious to avoid clashes among social and political organizations that are certain to emerge in response to the junta's desire for political liberalization.

Just prior to Costa Gomes' arrival in Angola, the junta dispatched a special representative to Mozambique to serve as an adviser to the local administration. Costa Gomes is planning to visit Mozambique shortly. Lisbon announced on May 8 that General Spinoza will visit Angola in the near future. [REDACTED]