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Col Donovan

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

SECRET

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Colonel Buxton
 FROM: Captain Doering
 SUBJECT: Secret Angolan Report

DATE: Dec. 23, 1942

I cannot see in what way we could make use of the attached for OSS purposes. This seems to me a matter for BEW, although if BEW becomes active in this matter, it may be that we could use BEW for cover.

Enc.

*O. H. A., Jr.**Dear Colonel Donovan,*

Have talked with Coolidge - He says this was sent to you for information only. It came from a man whom we share with B.E.W. This information is for their action and not for ours.

Ned.

Top ↑



12/6/42

To Colonel Buxton:

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*cc: [unclear] [unclear]
x [unclear] [unclear]*

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

SECRET

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Colonel William J. Donovan
FROM: Reporting Board
SUBJECT: Secret Angolan Report

DATE: Dec. 2, 1942.

This secret report is only for limited internal dissemination and is not to be sent to C.I.D.

H. J. Coolidge, Jr.

Harold J. Coolidge, Jr.

*To Col. Rustin -
Dear [unclear]*

Attachment

*Will you
talk to Coolidge
about this and
make a recommendation
D.*

COPY

Dissemination to: WJD, DKB, AFR.SI,
AFR.S&A.

Source "Z"

Reliability A-2

Telegram
From:
To:
Date:
Number:

Topic 1. I have to report that Viera Machado, Portuguese Minister of Colonies, invited me to a two hour private and confidential meeting during the course of which he inquired whether the United States Government would be interested in using the Benguela railroad for the shipment of certain military supplies from Lobito across Angola into Belgium Congo and Central and East Africa.

Topic 2. I was reminded by the Minister that shipments from Matadi through the Congo result in considerable time being wasted and encounter many difficulties.

Topic 3. The Minister pointed out to me the fact that freight cars are now bringing us about 1,700 tons of minerals every week from the Congo to Lobito and returning almost empty.

Topic 4. I was told by the Minister that he believed that he could use this space effectively and thus save several weeks' transportation time between the coast and Sukama, Elisabethville and other points, not to mention a reduction in cost. Transshipments also could be extended across Africa by rail to Lourenco Marques or Beira. This would avoid several thousand miles of dangerous travel by water.

Topic 5. This space was offered to us by the Minister for the transshipment of everything except guns of every kind, tanks, and ammunition which he said could continue to go via Matadi. Specifically mentioned by the Minister as permissible items were the following:

1. All types of petroleum products including aviation gasoline. The Benguela railway has no tank cars and (*) an Congo; consequently, petroleum products would have to

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be shipped in drums as is now being done throughout Congo until such time as tank cars could be supplied.

2. Automotive vehicles and even airplanes - provided all are boxed (repeat boxed), not crated or uncrated and further provided that none of them carried guns.
3. Airplane and other engines and spare parts of all types.
4. All forms of machinery including mining, road building and repair.
5. Military service equipment including uniforms, kitchens, bedding, tents and other quartermaster stores.
6. All kinds of edibles, medicinals, and drinkables.
7. Moreover fifteen to twenty and perhaps double that number of officers and men in civilian clothing would be guaranteed transit visas through Angola on every combined goods and passenger train.
8. One or two officers in civilian clothing would be allowed to live in Lobito for the purpose of supervising transshipments.

Topic 6. I was further informed by the Minister that he would guarantee that Angola authorities would not open or inspect shipments and that no increase in existing port dues, landing charges, freight rates in transit would take place. No mention was made of the question of safeguarding shipments.

Topic 7. It was suggested by the Minister that operations would be simplified if shipments were made by, say, a private company (X) in the United States or elsewhere to, say, a private company (Y) in the Belgium Congo. However, this is not mandatory. Ostensibly the Supervisors at Lobito could pose as the representatives of one of these private companies.

Topic 8. I have the impression that we could obtain satisfactory written assurances of the above guarantees, if we so insisted, although the Minister indicated that he preferred that we accept informal guarantees covering the extension of the afore-mentioned privileges.

SECRET

Topic 9. The Minister remarked obliquely that no one would be in a position to complain justifiably of neutrality violations and that Portugal, herself, could not very well interfere if the remote and semi-autonomous Angolan Government permitted shipments over a privately owned railway engaged in internal commerce, provided that no tanks, ammunition or other weapons were being transported within the frontiers of Angola.

Topic 10. I asked the minister if it were necessary for us to comply with any conditions before the privileges mentioned above would be granted and just what our obligations would be under such an arrangement.

Topic 11. The Minister answered that he did not intend to exact any promises from us, but that he hoped that the United States would appreciate the spirit of sympathetic cooperation which motivated the offer and would reciprocate to the extent of immediately gratifying the most urgent needs of Angola for certain essentials the lack of which could certainly result in the collapse of the colony's economy.

Topic 12. These essentials, for which I can vouch there is an immediate need, include the following:

1. Of the greatest urgency is the need for 2,065 tires of assorted sizes which would be rationed under the joint supervision of ourselves and the Angola Government to idle non-Axis commercial vehicles which are badly needed for the transportation of produce.
2. Modest quantities of railway springs and wheels, medical supplies, electric wire and nails, telephone and telegraph equipment and supplies, bar steel and angle iron, galvanized water pipe and tubing.
3. Possible two or three secondhand commercial passenger planes having a seating capacity of between 8 and 14. If requested I will telegraph details.

Topic 13. The Minister promised that he would authorize the export of whatever Angola commodities we desired, including rubber, at fair prices in return for such essentials for which the Angolan Government was prepared to pay cash. The Ministry furthermore said that this arrangement would in no way conflict with the Anglo-American-Portuguese trade negotiations which are now under way in

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Lisbon and which he apparently believes are stated. It was also suggested by the Minister that we would find it advantageous to look into the trade situation in Mozambique. For this purpose he offered to facilitate our journey.

Topic 14. It was specifically stated by the Minister that if we were interested in principle (repeat principle) in the foregoing proposals, he would appreciate having us indicate such fact to him before October 31 at which time he expects to leave Luanda on an inspection tour which will last for two weeks. The Minister also voiced the hope that we could reach a definite understanding before the time comes for him to sail for Portugal (understood to be about November 20). When I inquired if the question had to be referred to Portugal (*) Angolan matter over which he has been given the authority to act.

Topic 15. I am now awaiting the Department's instruction. May I point out that the informal proposals of the Minister would appear to give us an opportunity for obtaining an advantageous position in this colony and may conceivably be a Portuguese gesture toward climbing aboard the Allied band-wagon.

Topic 16. In connection with the foregoing, attention is called to the modern bulk petroleum products tank installations at the land-locked deep water port of Lobito, owned and operated by Companhia de Combustiveis Isidolo Pvt, otherwise called Carbonang, local subsidiary of Petrofinac, the Belgian company whose storage tanks at Ango Ango, Belgian Congo, are being used by Vacuum, Texaco, Shell and our government.

Topic 17. Carbonang has 7 tanks with total capacity of 5950 cubic meters, which are filled by pumps directly from tankers alongside modern quay. Of these two 1500, one 500 and one 350 cubic meter tanks are now available for storage of gasoline or other petroleum products, while one 1500, one 500, and one 100 cubic meter tanks are reserved, respectively, for fuel oil, diesel oil and kerosene.

Topic 18. You are informed that in May of 1940 the London representative of Petrofinac, Leopold Walford Shipping, Limited, signed a contract with Gueret, Llewellyn and Merret, Limited, London, sub rosa representative of the

SECRET

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British Admiralty which provided that the Admiralty could use the installations of Carbonang at Lobito whenever they wished. As yet the Admiralty has not availed itself of this privilege. However six weeks ago the Admiralty supplied 500 tons of Welsh coal to Carbonang under a similar separate agreement. A private company was used by the Admiralty as the contracting intermediary in order to avoid infringing upon Carbonang's contract with the Angolan Government. In this transaction Carbonang was to receive a per ton fee similar to that in effect at Anjo Anjo for receiving, storing and delivering.

Topic 19. I have been asked by Mr. P. A. Pittard, a British subject and the local director at Carbonang, whether the Government of the United States is interested in using the Lobito facilities. If we are interested, Pittard believes the Admiralty would cancel Carbonang's contract.

Topic 20. I am told by Pittard that ample room for the expansion of storage facilities at Lobito exists and that local wharf charges are three shillings eight pence per ton handled plus three quarters per mille ad valorem.

copy prepared by [unclear]
THE TEXAS COMPANY
135 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK

HARRY T KLEIN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL COUNSEL

New York, August 13th, 1942

Colonel William J. Donovan, Director,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Bill:

Replying to your letter of August 10th will say it is hardly necessary for me to assure you that The Texas Company is willing and anxious to cooperate in the important work on which you are now engaged. However, I have already made plans to leave here tomorrow and expect to be away about three weeks.

In the meantime, I suggest that you have your associate contact our Mr. C. E. Olmsted, Vice President in charge of export matters for The Texas Company, and explain to him the assistance you are seeking. Mr. Olmsted is located at our New York offices here, in Room 2525.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

HTL-AGM

Harry T. Klein

August 10, 1942

Colonel H. T. Klein,
Executive Vice-President and General Counsel,
The Texas Company,
135 East 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Harry:

There is a confidential matter in which the cooperation of your Export Department would be of considerable assistance to this office. You will understand that I cannot state its nature to you in writing, but I would greatly appreciate your receiving one of my associates at your office, who will explain to you the character of the help we would like to have.

I shall be very grateful for anything you feel able to do.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director.

DKEB

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

FROM: David Bruce
TO: Colonel Donovan
SUBJECT:

DATE: August 7, 1947

SECRET
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Mr. Shapiro has developed, in an informal conversation with one of his former associates in the Texas Company, that that firm is maintaining a salaried representative in Angola and that they contemplate replacing their man in Angola by another member of their West African Staff who is now vacationing in the United States.

We are having a certain amount of difficulty in getting observers into Angola and this would seem to be an excellent opportunity. The Texas Company will apparently have no difficulty in getting the necessary Angola visa, and their business in that Portuguese colony would provide a very satisfactory cover for one of our men. If satisfactory arrangements can be worked out with them, it is our intention to investigate the candidate and if he is found to be suitable for our purposes, to give him a few weeks of training and indoctrination after which the Texas Company would take him in hand and send him out as their employee.

- 2 -

In order for us to work out the details with the export manager of the Texas Company, it would be advisable for that person to receive an approval in principle from some higher official of the company and for this purpose there is attached hereto a proposed text of letter for your signature to Colonel H. T. Klein, Executive Vice President of the Texas Company.

DB

D. B.

SECRET
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Angola 78378
SECRET Tuna Fish Proj.
x database
Project

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES


INTEROFFICE MEMO

FROM: **Rudyard Boulton**
TO: **Mr. James R. Murphy**
SUBJECT: **Angola tuna fish - tin plate deal.**

DATE: **August 26, 1942**

I suggest that the attached letter be taken by Captain Doring to Mr. Byron Spence, Principal Food Liaison Officer, Lend-Lease Administration. The letter from B.E.W. with regard to the purchase of this tuna fish by Lend-Lease goes today, August 26th, to Mr. Spence.

I am informed that Lend-Lease approves the transaction but that it must be brought before a meeting of the Board. It is important that there be no hitch or delay in the negotiations at this stage.

R. Boulton 

Attachment

X Tuna Fish Project
SECRET
Lend Lease Project

August 27, 1942

Captain Doering
Mr. Rudyerd Boulton
Tuna Fish - Tin Plate

With reference to your memorandum of August 26, 1942, addressed to Mr. Murphy, regarding the tuna fish - tin plate arrangements, I have delivered today to Mr. Byron Spence at Lend-Lease a letter addressed by Colonel Donovan to Mr. Stettinius, copy of which is hereto annexed.

Mr. Spence informed me that the matter was being held up pending receipt of the papers from B. E. W. which have not yet been received.

I am returning herewith the file which was enclosed with your memorandum to Mr. Murphy.

Enclosures
Copy to Mr. Murphy

O. C. D., Jr.

Angola - 7837 B
 x Tuna fish Project
 x Lend Lease Adm.

August 26, 1942

Mr. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.
 Administrator
 Lend-Lease Administration
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stettinius:

I understand that there is before the Board of the Lend-Lease Administration a proposal to purchase tuna fish that is being packed in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Arrangements for the shipping of tin plate to Angola for the packing of the tuna fish have been made by Frazer and Company of New York, and I am informed that the Board of Economic Warfare and the State Department have approved these arrangements.

In your consideration of this matter and as a factor in the decision to be made, I think you should be advised that the consumation of these arrangements will be of substantial benefit to this office.

Yours very truly,

William J. Donovan
 Director

Copy sent Mrs. Keibent 9/4

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

FROM: WILLIAM A. KIMBEL

DATE: AUGUST 15 1947


TO: COLONEL DONOVAN

SUBJECT:

At Mr. Berle's request I met with him at the Department of State. Among other questions he raised that of conversations which had been held in regard to promoting activities in Angola. It was my understanding, resulting from conversations with Major Bruce, that we preferred to take no action in utilizing the services of Linton Wells as originally suggested by Mr. Berle, even though he and Sumner Welles had some interest in this man. Mr. Berle stated that he raised this question again solely because the Department of State had indications that activity in Angola and the surrounding area would be intensified in the near future, and that it would be advisable to lay the basis for our activities there as quickly as possible. I advised Mr. Berle that a project to this end is now being prepared and that he will be advised when and if Colonel Donovan approves it.

Mr. Berle again affirmed his desire to cooperate with us in this or any other projects of this nature.

This matter was discussed personally with Hugh Wilson and Boulton, and I have advised Mr. Berle as indicated in above statement.


W. A. K.

*Back
Thought you might
be interested in this*

7247
Shipping
SECRET

June 25, 1942

From: Frank Mauran, Jr.
To: Colonel H. P. Goodfellow
Subject: Angola - Mozambique

I have been informed that the Minister of Colonies of Portugal is now on the way to Mozambique via the Cape Verde Islands and Angola for the purpose of trying to find some solution for the economic problems confronting these colonies. At the same time the principal in the Olivia matter has been approached by the Portuguese Government with a view to having him establish a shipping service between the United States, Angola and Mozambique under the Portuguese flag. The basis of this service would be a mutual exchange of commodities, i.e., mostly consumer goods from the United States, in return for sisal, copra oils, coffee and copper.

In view of the situation surrounding the Olivia enterprise we have refused to intervene in any of Mr. B's difficulties for fear of giving the show away, and we are having as little as possible to do with all individuals connected with Mr. B or the Flomarcy Company. I have informed Mr. B that in view of our policy we did not wish to intervene in his behalf for the establishment of this new line.

The military situation in the Near East, and the resulting repercussions which may occur throughout Africa, might compel us to

take an increased interest in Angola and Mozambique. It is conceivable that Brazzaville or Leopoldville might become of increasing importance as an air terminal for a cross-African line. Angola is very close to these places. A neutral flag ship plying between the United States, Cape Verde Islands, and Angola, might turn out to be of inestimable value to us at a later date. I would suggest that the matter of whether or not we should in some way or other help this line get into operation be given serious consideration.

CC: Colonel Burton

