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**Interagency
Intelligence
Memorandum**

*Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola
During January 1976*

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

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February 1976

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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10 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Assistant to the President
(National Security Affairs)

SUBJECT : Soviet and Cuban Military Aid to the MPLA in Angola
During January 1976

1. The attached Interagency Intelligence Memorandum contains the intelligence community's assessment of the amounts of military aid sent to Angola by the Soviet Union and Cuba in January 1976. This report supplements an earlier report on the same subject, covering the period from March through December 1975. As the attached memorandum makes clear, Soviet and Cuban aid to the MPLA -- already at a high level in December -- increased markedly in January.

2. This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and the National Security Agency.


George Bush

Attachment
[]

cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

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exemption category 58(1),(2),(3)
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10 February 1976

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

SUBJECT: Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola During
January 1976

Key Points

The amount of military support provided the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) by the Soviet Union and Cuba increased markedly in January 1976.

-- It is conservatively estimated that such military support delivered in January alone totaled [

] The January total is more than double the December 1975 level [

]]
-- The bulk of the increased outlays reflected Cuba's vastly expanded effort to support its troops in Angola. During January, as many as 4,500 additional Cubans were sent to Angola, raising the total number of Cuban troops sent there to an estimated 12,000.

* This memorandum supplements and brings up to date an earlier Interagency Intelligence Memorandum entitled, "Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola from March through December 1975," published on January 24, 1976. It has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and the National Security Agency.

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- Soviet military shipments in January increased somewhat over the late 1975 level. Since January 1, we have confirmed for the first time in Angola such equipment as T-54 tanks, amphibious vehicles, and pontoon bridges.
- We have continued to receive reports that MIG-type jet fighters are in Angola. There is still a division of views within the US intelligence community, however, as to whether MIGs are actually present in-country.

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The Details

1. The pace of both Soviet and Cuban military aid to Angola has steadily increased since September. [

We estimate that during January, their combined sea and airlift moved [] equipment into the Angolan area. In addition, as many as 4,500 Cuban troops were moved to Angola in that month. This is twice the amount of cargo and about a third more troops than were moved in December.]

Sealift Operations

2. [] communist ships -- [] Soviet and [] Cuban -- are estimated to have arrived in the area and delivered military equipment and/or personnel for Angola in January. [

] the Cuban ships also carried some 2,000 Cuban military personnel.

3. The voyage patterns of Soviet arms carriers calling at Angola in January were markedly different from earlier arrivals. Most ships in January sailed non-stop from the USSR, to the Angolan region. In contrast, most arrivals in 1975 included as many as five different ports, some before reaching the Angolan region and some after, on one voyage itinerary.

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Thus, although January ship arrivals did not top earlier months, the amount of goods off-loaded in Angola or Congo is estimated to have been larger.

4. During January and early February, we confirmed the presence in Angola of several new types of Soviet-manufactured military equipment. T-54 tanks were clearly identified through newsreel photography in early February, and were probably brought into the country in December or January. Also identified for the first time were Soviet amphibious vehicles and pontoon bridges. We have continued to receive reports that MIG-type jet aircraft are in Angola. There is still a division of views within the US intelligence community, however, as to whether MIGs are actually present in-country. []

5. Cuban voyages to Angola in January were double the December level. Part of the increase was probably attributable to deliveries of military support items such as medical supplies and foodstuffs for Cuban troops in Angola, but we estimate that military hardware and ammunition still accounted for most [] delivered in Cuban bottoms in January.*

Airlift Operations

6. For both the USSR and Cuba, airlift operations continued to play an important part in augmenting seaborne deliveries of equipment. Flights from Cuba were also important in moving Cuban troops to Angola. The level of air activities was comparable to the monthly level of flights between September and December 1975.

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7. In January, the Soviets flew [] flights
from the USSR to the Angola region []
are estimated to have carried [] These flights
Airlift operations from Cuba to the Angola region [] military equipment.
[] are estimated
to have carried 2,500 troops (in addition to the 2,000 Cuban
troops sent by ship) and a small amount of cargo.

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