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**Interagency
Intelligence
Memorandum**

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

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

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26 March 1976

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

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

Key Points

The value of support provided the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) by the Soviet Union and Cuba in February 1976 [

] brings total estimated Soviet and Cuban aid to the MPLA for the year beginning 1 March 1975 to over \$400 million.

-- [

] we be-

lieve that the amount of military goods shipped declined. Arms deliveries, however, included the first confirmed shipments of MIG-21 aircraft.

-- A large portion of the February deliveries was foodstuff.

* This memorandum supplements and brings up to date two earlier Interagency Intelligence Memoranda entitled, "Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola from March through December 1975," published on 24 January 1976, and "Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola During January 1976," published on 10 February 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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- We believe an additional 1,500 Cubans were sent to Angola in February, raising the total number of Cuban military personnel in-country to about 13,500. Since late February the number has probably remained at this level, as further arrivals have been offset by an equal number of troops, including some wounded, returning to Cuba.

- The airlift from the Soviet Union during February was limited [] and passenger flights from Cuba were put on a regular every-other-day schedule beginning in mid-month.

- Sealift operations between Cuba and Angola were increasingly integrated into the Cuban merchant fleet's worldwide schedules.

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The Details

1. Soviet and Cuban aid to Angola in February was at a record level. [

]

Sea and Air Deliveries

[

]

3. [] Soviet ships [

from the Soviet Union to Angola; [] sailed nonstop
Sea and [] from the Black
[] from the Baltic port of Tallin.

4. The most significant new equipment noted was
MIG-21 aircraft. [

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5. []
livered []
ruary [] [] Cuban-owned or controlled ships de-
[] goods to Angola in Feb-

6. Besides hauling larger quantities of non-military goods in February, Cuban ships changed their voyage pattern. Rather than waiting for ships to return from Angola to Cuba to take on more Angola-bound cargo, the Cubans assigned more ships to Angolan voyages as they became available in Cuba. These changes enabled more of the ships to resume regular commercial operations after leaving the Angolan region.

7. Airlift activity from the Soviet Union to the Angolan area declined sharply in February. []

[]
Cuban Personnel Movements

8. Cuban ships arriving in the Angolan region in February may have carried as many as 1,500 troops in addition to cargo. []

[]

[]

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