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PRIORITY  
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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 21//

TO BARBIAN/COVEY FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

VIA BLACK PATCH WH60238

TOHAK 21

FEBRUARY 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT  
BRENT SCOWCROFT  
INFORMATION ITEMS

MORI/CDF C03204699

FRENCH FEAR TROUBLE IN MOROCCO: EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT CONVERSATIONS WITH STAFF OFFICERS WHO WORK WITH TOP FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS REFLECT A GROWING PREOCCUPATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WITH THE SPECTER OF ANOTHER ANGOLA CLOSER TO HOME. IN THEIR INVENTORY OF ACTUAL TROUBLE SPOTS WHICH THEY CONSIDER VULNERABLE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF CUBAN OR OTHER SOVIET-SPONSORED FORCES, THE FRENCH ARE WORRIED MOST ABOUT MOROCCO. FRENCH ANALYSIS IS THAT ALGERIA'S PRESTIGE IN THE THIRD WORLD, LIBYA'S MASSIVE ARMS BUILDUP, KING HASSAN'S FEUDALISTIC IMAGE, AND POLISARIID'S CLAIM TO SELF-DETERMINATION COMBINE TO GIVE THE SOVIETS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT THE ANGOLA EXPERIENCE IN THE SAHARA THROUGH SURROGATE FORCES DESCRIBED AS ASSISTANCE TO LEGITIMATE INSTITUTIONS.



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AMBASSADOR RUSH COMMENTS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE CLOSE DEFENSE AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS WITH MOROCCO, A COUNTRY HIGH IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL INTEREST CATEGORY. IN CONVERSATIONS OF THIS SUBJECT, THE FRENCH OFFICIALS TALK ABOUT FRANCE HAVING TO TAKE ACTION IF NEG-

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

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ESSARY, BUT THESE QUESTIONS ARE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE BIG QUESTION -- WILL THE U.S. ALSO STAND BY ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MOROCCO? THE FRENCH STILL HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT MOROCCO IS NEXT ON THE SOVIET LIST BUT AMBASSADOR RUSH NOTES THAT THEY ARE CLEARLY WORRIED THAT IT MIGHT BE.

25X1

IVORY COAST VIEWS ON ANGOLA: IN DISCUSSING THE IVORY COAST'S RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN ABIDJAN:

- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST HAD TO RETHINK ITS POSITION IN LIGHT OF THE FAILURE OF THE WEST IN GENERAL AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT TO FNLA/UNITA AND TO EXPAND THAT SUPPORT TO OFFSET SOVIET/CUBAN AID TO THE MPLA. THIS WAS A GRAVE DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE IVORY COAST AND TO OTHER MODERATES, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME" THE MODERATES HAD STUCK TOGETHER IN ADDIS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MATTERS TO COUNT ON THE DECLARED INTENTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE AN ACTION SINCE IT CAN SUBSEQUENTLY BE REVERSED BY ACTION OF THE CONGRESS.
- THE ANGOLAN SITUATION HAD GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF AFRICA WITH THE SOVIET/CUBAN FOOTHOLD THREATENING TO SPREAD QUICKLY TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. OF EVEN GREATER CONSEQUENCE WAS THE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT CUBAN TROOPS WOULD ADVANCE TOWARD AND INTO NAMIBIA, ENGAGE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, AND HAVE THE ARDENT SUPPORT OF PRACTICALLY ALL THE REST OF AFRICA FOR AN ACTION TO FREE NAMIBIA FROM ITS WHITE COLONIAL YOKE. ANY WESTERN COUNTERSUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA WOULD CLEARLY BE UNWELCOME.
- IN THE VIEW OF ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST WAS REASSESSING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. THE AM-

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BASSADOR COMMENTS THAT THE CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, WHICH THE IVORY COAST BROKE IN 1969 OVER ALLEGED SOVIET ACTIVITY IN STIRRING UP IVORIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, MIGHT BE IN THE OFFING.

-- THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE IVORY COAST WOULD BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE MPLA TO REDUCE SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. THE MPLA HAD WON A TREMENDOUS VICTORY WHICH IT WOULD WANT TO CONSOLIDATE. THE SOVIETS ALSO HAD THEIR FIRST REAL SUCCESS IN AFRICA AND HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INCENTIVE TO LEAVE, GIVEN THE OTHER EXCITING PROSPECTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

-- WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR A POSITIVE, MEANINGFUL U.S. STANCE, HE STILL HOPED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD VISIT AFRICA. HE BELIEVES THE U.S. STILL STANDS AS AN IMPORTANT POWER IN AFRICAN EYES, BUT THAT AFRICANS NEED ASSURANCES -- WHICH THEY HAVE NOT HAD RECENTLY -- THAT THE U.S. IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN POLITICAL ASPECTS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE.

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