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MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

TOP SECRET/UMBRA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION
December 28, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR :

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

SUBJECT: Demarche to the Portuguese on Raids in Africa

Anti-Portuguese sentiment is running very high in black Africa as a result of the raids on Guinea. Some of this has rubbed off on the US and NATO. Our unwillingness -- and that of Britain and France -- to support the anti-Portuguese resolution in the Security Council has contributed to this anti-western sentiment.

MORI/CDF
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We fear that a repetition of the Portuguese attack might put the situation out of control.

The Secretary of State on December 12 instructed Ambassador Knight to approach Portuguese Foreign Minister Patricio and, speaking as a friend, stress the difficulties that the Guinean raid had caused Portugal's friends, and urge against similar such activities in the future.

Knight carried out this approach on December 13. Patricio responded that the events of November 22-23 had been a "disaster" and contrary to Portuguese Government policy. He said that any recurrence would be a further disaster which, he assured us, the Portuguese Government would do its utmost to prevent. Ambassador Knight gained the impression that the Portuguese Government had been divided over the Conakry raid, and that the more reasonable elements -- including Patricio -- would now work to restrain their more activist colleagues.

There has been mounting Portuguese frustration over outside attacks against their African territories and what Lisbon feels as lack of support from Portugal's NATO allies.

State Dept. review completed

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From Knight's approach, the most that could be hoped for was to strengthen the hand of the moderates. I think that this objective has been furthered. If it nevertheless becomes obvious that new Portuguese attacks are imminent, we may have to make a stronger effort to persuade the Portuguese leaders that such actions will only do harm and that they should do all in their power to halt them.

MHLevine:mmm

December 14, 1970