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CIA/OSR /MEMO RA 750616 CAPE VERDE ISLANDS JUN 75

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CIA/OSR /MEMO RA 750616

16 June 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Cape Verde Islands

REFERENCE: AF/INT Memorandum, same subject, dated 2 June 1975

1. Currently we know of no efforts on the part of the Soviets to gain control over the air and seaport facilities in the Cape Verde Islands, nor do we have indications that the PAIGC would offer the Soviets access to those facilities.

2. The Cape Verde Islands have a port, several natural harbors, and an airfield with a 10,000 foot runway. Access to such facilities by the Soviets, however, would be redundant to those available to them for current operations at Conakry, Guinea, which is located some 900 nautical miles from the Cape Verde Islands.

3. The Soviet Navy now maintains a continuous but low level surface presence on the extreme west coast of Africa near the Cape Verde Islands. One or two ships are normally in or near the port of Conakry. The presence of these ships is apparently politically motivated--the result of a request by the present Guinean Government to the Soviet Union for help in maintaining stability in the country. There appears to be no strategic advantage to the Soviets to seek similar access to Cape Verde port or anchorage areas.

MICRO ONLY

4. Since mid-1973, the Soviets have used Conakry airfield periodically to stage TU-95 long-range aircraft for naval reconnaissance which has included surveillance of US naval units entering and leaving the Mediterranean, as well as participation in Soviet naval exercises. Staging aircraft from Cape Verde would not appear to offer any advantage over Conakry.

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Note: Comments and queries regarding this memorandum may be directed to [redacted] *of the Office of Strategic Research, extension 4071.*

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