# The original documents are located in Box 35, folder "NSSM 221 - U.S. Security Interests in the Azores (1)" of the NSC Institutional Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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10 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 3-8-75 Col. Granger: For your comments and/or concurrence prior to dispatch and return to JWDavis. forsom FOR ALA W

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WITHDRAWAL ID 019314

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Memorandum
CREATOR'S NAME Mr. Clift RECEIVER'S NAME Secretary Kissinger
DESCRIPTION re Azores
CREATION DATE
VOLUME 1 page
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 039800428 COLLECTION TITLE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS
BOX NUMBER
DATE WITHDRAWN

WITHDRAWAL ID 019315

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#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

-SEGRET/EXDIS/XGDS

April 8, 1975

National Security Study Memorandum · 221

TO: The Secretary of Defense The Deputy Secretary of State The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U.S. Security Interests in the Azores

The President has directed a priority review of U.S. security interests in the Azores. The study should identify:

-- The political and military significance of U.S. base rights and facilities in the Azores in terms of their contributions to both U.S. and NATO security interests.

... U.S. policy and options under the range of possible conditions including: continuation of existing base arrangements, a Portuguese request for more limited U.S. access and use, a Portuguese demand for U.S. withdrawal from the Azores, or a U.S. decision to withdraw.

--- Alternative arrangements, if required, for the transfer of essential Azores operations to other locations, including an examination of the military and political implications of such relocation, and the pros and cons associated with various relocation sites.

The study should take into account, as appropriate, the work already carried out in response to NSSMs 189, 196 and 208.

The President has directed that the study be undertaken by an ad hoc NSC interagency group comprising representatives of the addressees of this memorandum and a representative of the NSC staff and under the

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chairmanship of the representative of the Department of State. The study should be forwarded no later than April 14, 1975, for consideration by the Senior Review Group.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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WITHDRAWAL ID 019316

WITHDRAWAL ID 019317

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL
CREATOR'S NAME AmConsul Jerusalem (Borg/Adams) RECEIVER'S NAME SecState Wash DC (Sonnenfeldt)
DESCRIPTION re Portugal
CREATION DATE
VOLUME 2 pages
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 039800428 COLLECTION TITLE
DATE WITHDRAWN

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#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

-SECRET/EXDIS/XGDS

April 8, 1975

National Security Study Memorandum 221

TO: The Secretary of Defense The Deputy Secretary of State \_ The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U.S. Security Interests in the Azores

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The study should take into account, as appropriate, the work already carried out in response to NSSMs 189, 196 and 208.

The President has directed that the study be undertaken by an <u>ad hoc</u> NSC interagency group comprising representatives of the addressees of this memorandum and a representative of the NSC staff and under the

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DECLASSIFIED AUTHORITY <u>Asc Status</u> Report <u>3/398</u> BY \_\_\_\_\_\_ NLF, DATE <u>10/25/04</u>



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chairmanship of the representative of the Department of State. The study should be forwarded no later than April 14, 1975, for consideration by the Senior Review Group.

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Henry A. 'Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

**<u>SECRET</u>/SENSITIVE** ATTACHMENT (XGDS) April 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of Defense The Deputy Secretary of State The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U.S. Security Interests in the Azores: NSSM 221

Attached is a copy of the study, <u>U.S. Security Interests in the Azores</u>, prepared by an Ad Hoc Interagency Group in response to NSSM 221.

May we please have your agency's formal concurrence and/or comments on the study no later than April 25, 1975.

Davis

Staff Secretary

Attachment

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff



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# WITHDRAWAL ID 019318

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction	
TYPE OF MATERIAL Report	
DESCRIPTION NSSM 221 Study	
CREATION DATE 04/1975	
VOLUME 20 pages	
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 039800428	
COLLECTION TITLE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL	
INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS	
BOX NUMBER	
FOLDER TITLE NSSM 221 - U.S. Security Intere	sts in
the Azores (1)	
DATE WITHDRAWN	
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## HISTORY OF AZORES BASE AGREEMENT

US military forces have been stationed in the Azores since November 1944 when an agreement was signed with the Portuguese Government for US rights to an airfield on Santa Maria Island. The Santa Maria facility was needed to facilitate the movement of US troops to the Pacific theatre. In return, the US supported Portugal's goal of regaining Portuguese Timor which was then occupied by Japan.

In 1946, the US returned Santa Maria to Portugal and obtained an 18-month agreement for transit rights at Lajes Field (a former RAF facility) on the island of Terceira. Another agreement -- this time for three years -- was signed in 1948.

Under the terms of a September 1951 agreement, wartime use of base facilities in the Azores was granted indefinitely, so long as the North Atlantic Treaty is in effect between Portugal and the US and provided that Portugal and the US are involved in that war within the framework of NATO.

Peacetime use of the Azores base was also authorized under the 1951 agreement, but such uses were authorized only for a five-year period. It is the US peacetime use of the base which has been the subject of periodic renegotiation.

In 1956, with the end of the first five-year period of peacetime use approaching, the US suggested to Portugal that the agreement be renewed for an additional five years. The Portuguese response was 9 months in coming; it was a suggestion that a oneyear extension be granted. Following protracted negotiations, a five-year agreement was signed in November 1957. In the renewal agreement and in the accompanying statements by Portuguese officials, it was clear that the GOP sought the termination of US base rights in the Azores when the agreement expired in 1962.

In June 1962, the US proposed a second five-year extension of the 1951 master agreement. By this time, however, the outbreak of insurgency in Angola and the rapidly progressing de-colonization in Africa by other European countries injected new issues into the base

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negotiations. The US placed an embargo on the shipment of arms and other military equipment to Portugal for use in its African territories. Additionally, public criticism in the US of Portugal's African policies and the Indian seizure of Portuguese enclaves on the sub-continent combined to increase Portuguese sensitivities vis-a-vis the world community. It was in this environment that the Portuguese concluded that the US had adopted a policy inimical to Portuguese national interests and declined to negotiate with the US on an extension of base rights. However, negotiations were not formally terminated and -from 1962 to 1971 -- US forces remained in the Azores under a de facto continuation of the agreement.

By 1969, a new government had come into office in Portugal and the GOP proposed that conversations be resumed with the US regarding the presence of American forces in the Azores. On December 9, 1971, the base agreement was extended through an exchange of notes and letters between the Secretary of State and the Portuguese Foreign Minister. The agreement was back-dated to 1969. It expired on February 2, 1974 and is currently being renegotiated.



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