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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Q and A	Q and A with background on Portugal (2 pp.)	12/8/75	C(A)

FILE LOCATION

Nessen Papers; Foreign Guidance Series;
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2. Can you confirm reports from Libson that the President will meet with the President of Portugal this week?

Guidance: Yes, I can confirm that President Ford will meet with President Francisco da Costa Gomez this Friday, October 18th. Q's and A's attached.

FYI: If asked who initiated this meeting, you can say that President Ford invited President Gomez to come to Washington for an exchange of views on developments in Portugal and other matters of mutual interests to our two countries which are our NATO allies. End FYI.

10/15/74

4. In view of the statements made against Ambassador Carlucci in Portugal yesterday, does the President plan to retain him?

GUIDANCE: The President retains full confidence in Ambassador Carlucci and has no intention of recalling him.

3/12/75

FYI ~~ONLY~~. Yesterday, the State Department categorically denied that U. S. Embassy or government was in any way involved in the events in Lisbon. Refer to State for details.

September 8, 1975

PORTUGAL

UPDATE -- for your use only -- not for dissemination.

President Costa Gomes and Prime Minister - designate Azevedo discussed formation of a new government this weekend with representatives of six of the country's political parties.

According to Lisbon radio, present speculation is that a coalition comprising the Socialists, the center-left Popular Democrats, and the Communists will be expanded to include members of the anti-Communist Melo Antunes faction. In addition to these parties, talks have also been held with the hard-line pro-Communist Movement of the Socialist Left the Communist front Popular Democratic Movement, and the center-right Social Democratic Center. It is believed these parties will not participate in the government, but have only been consulted to secure multiparty support.

There has been very little reaction to Friday's rump session of the Armed Forces General Assembly and the ouster of former prime minister Goncalves. Goncalves' supporters appear to feel that they have suffered a reversal. On Saturday evening his entire pro-Communist cabinet resigned, stating that it could no longer continue because Friday's events had fundamentally altered the political situation. The resignations came despite an appeal by Costa Gomes to stay on until the new cabinet is formed.

According to one source, the Antunes group, which did not attend the general assembly session, saw the meeting as merely a holding action. The group is reported to feel that it has neither gained significantly nor lost ground. It is said to be seeking further to restructure the Revolutionary Council to bring council members more in line with the group's own anti-Communist thinking.

The first reaction from the parties came from a leading Popular Democrat who demanded that the ruling Armed Forces Movement be dissolved, that the Revolutionary Council be scrapped, and that the military be subordinated to a democratic, civilian administration.

Army Chief of Staff Fabiao said yesterday that the parties are incapable of leading Portugal out of its present crisis, and sources close to both Costa Gomes and Azevedo say the two are unlikely to relinquish power to an all-civilian government at this time.

Meanwhile, Central Military Region commander General Charais -- a strong Antunes supporter -- sought to forestall any Communist attempt to take advantage of the present uncertainty. He warned that an attempted coup by Goncalves' Communist supporters would be "suicidal." Furthermore, he said, it would lead not only to civil war but also to a right-wing dictatorship.

* * *

Q. What is the Administration reaction to the events in Portugal this weekend?

A. We would not wish to comment on the events in Portugal.

The President's own views about current events in Portugal are well known. (Address to the American Legion, Minneapolis, August 19 is the latest of statements on Portugal.)

U. S. ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL

Q. West German representative to NATO has urged NATO members to supply immediate economic aid to Portugal in light of recent political developments. How will the United States respond to this NATO appeal?

FYI: NATO, as a political and defense organization, does not provide economic assistance. What the Germans are urging is bilateral assistance or European Community Assistance to Portugal.

A. As you know, the U. S. ~~is already provides~~ ^{has already provided} economic assistance ^{to Portugal} in fiscal 1975 and ^{is} examining programs for fiscal 1976. The United States has expressed a desire and interest in encouraging democratic development in Portugal. ~~and continue to study developments there.~~

Q: What is the U.S. view on the Soviet UN proposal for a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons tests?

A: As you know, a comprehensive test ban has been under consideration since the early 1960s. The major impediment to conclusion of such a ban has always been the problem of verification. The U.S. position has been that comprehensive test ban would be unverifiable without some type of on-site inspection; however, the Soviets in the past have always opposed on-site inspection.

On the other hand, the Soviets have agreed to some limited on-site inspection procedures in the ongoing U.S. - Soviet negotiations on peaceful nuclear explosions. These negotiations are a followup to the 1974 U.S. - Soviet treaty banning underground weapons tests above 150 kilotons. ~~We do not know if the Soviets have modified their view of on-site inspection in the context of a comprehensive test ban.~~

Q: What is the U.S. view of the Soviet UN proposal for a ban on the development of new weapons of mass destruction?

A: We will, of course, study the Soviet proposal carefully, but we would have no comment at this time.

October 8, 1975

POSSIBLE MEETING WITH ANTUNES;
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

Q. We understand that Melo Antunes will be in the United States this week. Will he be meeting with the President?

A. We understand that Foreign Minister Antunes will be coming Thursday to address the UN General Assembly. He may have some appointments in Washington following his UN schedule and just as soon as we have anything firm on that, I'll let you know.

FYI: Tentatively, Friday is being proposed for a Ford-Antunes meeting.

Q. What is the President's reaction to recent events in Portugal? Would he be likely to express his concern to Antunes?

A. The President has expressed his views on several occasions on the rather complex situation in Portugal. Since a meeting between the President and the Foreign Minister has not yet been scheduled, I have no agenda to give you. In the event a meeting takes place, however, one would expect bilateral and NATO issues to be among the likely topics.

STATEMENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

President's Meeting with Portuguese Foreign Minister Melo Antunes
October 10, 1975

The President met this afternoon with Portuguese Foreign Minister Melo Antunes (ANN-tune-esch) who is in the United States for the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Portuguese Ambassador to the United States, Joao Hill Themido, accompanied the Foreign Minister; Secretary Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft also participated.

This afternoon's meeting, which lasted 45 minutes, afforded the President the welcome opportunity to continue consultations with high-level Portuguese government officials which he began last October with Portuguese President Costa Gomes' State Visit to Washington.

In addition to a general review of US-Portuguese relations, the meeting this afternoon focused in part on the current situation in Portugal, including Portuguese needs for economic aid and relief/resettlement assistance for Angolan refugees.

As a demonstration of U.S. concern for Portugal and the plight of the Angolan refugees, the President informed the Foreign Minister that the Administration is sending to Congress a proposed assistance program for Portugal amounting to approximately \$55 million in FY 1976 -- \$35 million for immediate relief and resettlement of Angolan refugees and \$20 million for long-term assistance. He also informed the Foreign Minister that we are willing to double our airlift of evacuees from Angola to Lisbon beginning October 14.

*Caroline
on background
only.
Refers
to*

* * * * *

October 10, 1975

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ANTUNES

The President will meet at 12:15 pm today with Portuguese Foreign Minister Melo Antunes, The Foreign Minister is here in connection with his October 9 address to the UN General Assembly. The purpose of the meeting will be to review U. S. -Portuguese relations, and to discuss the broader issues relating to NATO and the Atlantic Alliance. Among the subjects likely to be raised are U. S. aid levels to Portugal, including provisions for assistance to the Angolan refugees. We will have a read-out for you after the meeting.

Q. Do you have any comment on the Binder article on aid to Portugal? Are the figures correct?

A. The United States is contemplating new levels of aid for Portugal, and as I said, this subject is a likely topic of discussion at today's meeting. ~~Prior to the meeting and to the final decisions on specific aid levels, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the figures being discussed.~~

October 10, 1975

BACKFIRE BOMBER

Question: Can you comment on the October 10 New York Times article on the Backfire aircraft and SALT?

Answer: The Backfire aircraft has been under discussion in the SALT negotiations. This is a complex issue because of the ambiguous character of the aircraft. It has been addressed in SALT at the direction of the President, as is the case with all US positions in SALT. As this is a matter under active negotiation, it is not appropriate to comment further on specifics.

*State's guidance -
Keep with same line
as yesterday on SALT
per Scowcroft*

REACTION TO HOUSE VOTE ON H. R. 200

(Vote: 208 - 101)

Q. What is the President's reaction to the House vote on H. R. 200, the legislation establishing a 200-mile economics and fisheries zone?

A. The President favors, as you know, a multilateral approach to the 200-mile limit and feels the Law of the Sea Conference is the proper forum for resolving the issue. We do agree that there has to be management of our natural resources so we do not have problems with the objectives of the legislation but rather with the procedures and for how you go about establishing them. We will continue to work with the Congress on this issue.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: MARGI VANDERHYE
SUBJECT: Morning Press Items

The following is a text of the statement to be volunteered today at the Department of State (even though there will not be a briefing).

We have noticed a story in today's press that alleges a reported disagreement between Secretary Kissinger and our Ambassador to Portugal, Frank C. Carlucci. This is a vicious fabrication. The Secretary is highly pleased with the Ambassador's performance and considers him one of our most distinguished Ambassadors. He recommended Ambassador Carlucci to the President as his personal choice as our envoy to Portugal. The President and the Secretary have total confidence in Ambassador Carlucci.

Attached is a copy of General Haig's statement on his supposed mention of the existence of secret agreements.

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4/21/75

PORTUGAL

Q: Mr. President, you failed to mention Portugal in your recent foreign policy address to Congress. How will recent developments in Portugal -- additional Communist representation in the cabinet and increased military control over government affairs, for instance -- affect U.S. and NATO policy toward that country?

A: As you will recall, I commented very recently on this matter when I was in California. The situation in Portugal that has evolved over the past few months raises questions for the United States in relation to our NATO policy and our policy toward Portugal. With respect to NATO, this is an Alliance matter to be discussed with all our allies, and we are in close consultation with them on this issue. It is an extremely delicate situation.

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Sheet) at the front of the folder.

December 8, 1975

UNITED STATES VOTE ON SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION RENEWING PEACE
KEEPING FORCES ON SYRIAN
FRONT

Q: Does the US vote in the Security Council mean that our position on negotiations has changed or that we are about to recognize the PLO? Has it created a rift between the US and Israel?

A: Let me make very clear what was involved. The resolution extended the peace-keeping forces on the Syrian front and called for a debate of the Middle East question, including mention of the Palestinian problem. There was absolutely no mention in the resolution of the PLO. A separate statement read by the Security Council President, not subject to a veto, said that a majority of the members of the Council wanted the PLO to participate in the Middle East debate. As Ambassador Moynihan stated, the US was not associated with that majority and did not support the statement. There was absolutely no question of the US affirmative vote for the peacekeeping forces--which we believe are essential to the maintenance of peace in the area--amounting to US recognition of the PLO.

Our position on the PLO remains unchanged, as we have stated repeatedly. The ~~question of PLO participation in the negotiations remains academic as long as the PLO does not recognize Israel's right to exist or accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for a Middle East settlement.~~

**U.S. Vote on Security Council Resolution
Renewing Peacekeeping Forces on Syrian Front**

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Q: Will the US participate in the debate in January on the Middle East, at which the PLO will be?

A: The holding of the Security Council debate is in keeping with the UN Charter. We will participate. Our views on the substance of the issue are well known and will be made clear at the time of the debate. But Ambassador Moynihan has already made it clear our firm position that only Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the relevant resolutions for the debate.

Q: In view of the recent activity by the Security Council, do you envisage the peace negotiations moving from the Geneva framework to the Security Council?

A: The action of the Security Council in no way excludes progress toward peace at Geneva or by any other suitable means. We support the Geneva framework and a settlement based on Resolutions 242 and 338.

Q: The Israelis were upset by the Security Council action which invites the PLO to a debate in January. Were there messages from the President to Prime Minister Rabin attempting to clarify our position, as reported in the press?

A: I am not going to discuss diplomatic exchanges between the President and heads of government involved in the Middle East negotiations. In view of our close ties with Israel, we were naturally in touch with them during the Security Council proceedings. We will also be in

U.S. Vote on Security Council Resolution
Renewing Peacekeeping Forces on Syrian Front

- 3 -

touch with them on how best to maintain the momentum of the negotiating process. ~~I am not going to get into a discussion of our exchanges, but our position was clearly explained to Israel both before and after the vote.~~

- Q. The Security Council (as of December 8) is also continuing to debate Israel's raids on Lebanon last week and, in another defeat for Israel, the PLO was invited to attend this debate. How does the US intend to vote on the SC resolution that will come out of this debate.
- A. Obviously we will have to see what draft resolutions emerge from the debate so I cannot speculate in advance on our vote except to reaffirm that it will be consistent with our policy.

ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

Q. Wire reports indicate that the Israelis remain adamant that Israeli would boycott a forthcoming UN Security Council debate on the Middle East, despite appeals from Washington to attend. Have we, in fact, been urging the Israelis not to boycott the debate, but rather to reconsider their position?

A. As always during periods of rather intensive activity involving the Middle East situation, we have had frequent exchanges with the Israelis on policy direction and courses of action, but I am not prepared to divulge the nature or content of those exchanges.

December 8, 1975

FORD VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

BACKGROUND - FYI

President Marcos' Comments on Ford Visit: Shortly after the President departed Manila, President Marcos told reporters that the visit symbolized the close relationship between the US and the Philippines and the undiminished US interest in Asia. Marcos said the Vietnam war had challenged the US commitment to the region, but the visit allayed the fears that had been raised in the minds of Asian leaders. He also said that we would establish "panels" to discuss economic and military matters and that Secretary of Foreign Affairs Romulo would soon come to the US to discuss the base question. When asked his opinion of Ford, Marcos said, "I trust him" and added he is "frank", "candid", and "generous in both mind and spirit."

U. S. - SOVIET RELATIONS IN VIEW OF ANGOLA

Q. A senior U. S. official said in Tokyo yesterday that Russian actions in Angola are sure to have a bad effect on American relations with Moscow. How does that statement square with the decision to send Secretary Kissinger to Moscow to work out our differences on SALT? Why should we send the Secretary to resolve our differences on strategic arms at a time when the Soviets are being so unhelpful on detente?

A. The Soviets are aware of our position on Angola and we have had some preliminary exchanges with them on this. The U. S. position on Angola has been clearly stated by the President and Secretary Kissinger, as has our attitude about a SALT agreement and the circumstances under which we would be willing to proceed with negotiations. We have said that we would be willing to discuss the SALT negotiations further if the Soviets show a similar inclination. We feel that the conclusion of a good agreement would be in our interest as well as in the interest of the Soviet Union. Should Secretary Kissinger undertake a trip to Moscow, it would be with this purpose in mind.

November 17, 1976

ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL

Q Can you confirm that the President last week approved a new aid package for Portugal which could amount to some \$800 million.

A A substantially increased economic assistance program for Portugal has been approved in principle. The implementation of this decision and the precise nature of the program proposed will require further consultations with the Portuguese Government and the U. S. Congress. Since the details of the program are the subject of current consultations I have nothing further for you at this time

for the emergency loan

[FYI: While the \$300 million figure/is basically accurate we are not confirming precise amounts. The Times report that we will be seeking congressional approval for participation in a \$1.5 billion consortium is also basically correct but again we are not confirming precise amounts given the ongoing consultations with the Congress and the Portuguese.

Q. Why does the United States want to provide assistance to Portugal?

A.

The authorization of \$40 million for aid to Portugal and its former territories in Africa (Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau) was initiated by the Congress with Administration support.

This aid will be important to our relationship with the government of Portugal, to the development of those African territories, and to Portugal's continuing and important role as a member of NATO in a free Western Europe.

STATE STATEMENT - 5:30-6:00 P. M. - IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION
BASED ON PORTUGUESE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE U. S. WAS INVOLVED
IN THE COUP:

"We have seen press reports but we have nothing official from Portugal -
therefore we have no comment at this time.

Later in response to such allegations, State "categorically denied that
the United States Government or the Embassy in Lisbon was in any way
involved. "

PORTUGUESE BASES

Q. Are the reports true that the Portuguese government has informally advised the United States that it could not use a base on the Azores to resupply Israel in the event of another Middle East conflict?

A. The use of Azores bases by the United States is the subject of continuing talks between our governments. The desires and concerns of how the bases are to be used is a part of our negotiations and will, of course, be respected by the United States.

Q. Have we received an official communique on this from the Portuguese?

A. It is my understanding that there has not been notification by the Portuguese, but I would refer you to State Department for details on this.

14. Why didn't the President mention the critical situation in Portugal at any point in this major speech on foreign affairs?

Portugal - The President made clear the high importance he attaches to maintaining the strength of the Western Alliance.

As you know, the President gave his views on Portugal in California earlier this month. These remain his views. The topics addressed in his speech last night were chosen by the President as those requiring the attention of Congress and the American people.

FYI: Refer details to State.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ OF PORTUGAL

* * * * *

Confirmation of Portuguese Announcement

I want to confirm the announcement made in Lisbon that President Ford will meet with President Costa Gomez of Portugal this Friday, October 18.

* * * * *

Q. When did Costa Gomez become President of Portugal?

A. President Costa Gomez took office following the resignation of President Spinoza on September 30, 1974.

Q. What position did he occupy before he became President?

A. He was Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, a position which he retains as President.

Q. Do you expect the Azores negotiations to come up in their talks?

A. I do not have an agenda for the meeting, but the President is looking forward to the meeting for a review of the full range of US-Portuguese relations.

Q. Is the President worried about the Leftward trend in Portugal; has this prompted the request for a meeting?

A. The Portuguese President is coming to the United States to address the U.N. General Assembly. The President is looking forward to meeting with him while he is here -- to meeting with the leader of a nation that is a friend of the United States and a NATO ally. The meeting should be seen in that context.

PORTUGAL

Q: Mr. President, did your meeting in Brussels with the Portuguese Prime Minister alter your views on developments in that country?

A: The Portuguese Prime Minister and I had a useful and forthright exchange of views on developments in his country. I believe that there is a consensus among the NATO allies that the situation in Portugal should be watched with care and concern, and also with deep sympathy and friendship for the people of Portugal. We will continue our close consultations with our allies on this issue. We have stated that in our view Communist domination of Portugal is incompatible with NATO membership. We do not believe that this point has as yet been reached.

PORTUGAL

Q: Mr. President, are you concerned over current developments in Portugal, particularly the indications of political unrest?

A: After the change of government in Portugal in 1974, I met with the new Portuguese President in October and expressed our admiration for the steps taken to restore democracy. We welcomed his reaffirmation of Portugal's commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty and Portugal's desire for closer ties to the United States.

We look forward to a continued US-Portuguese relationship based on this friendship alliance. In this regard, we have developed with Congress an economic program that should prove of assistance to Portugal. I am hopeful that this demonstration of U.S. interest and confidence in Portugal's future will be helpful.

PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

Q: Mr. President, have the results of the April 25 elections in Portugal changed your view on developments in that country?

A: The April 25 elections are, of course, an internal Portuguese matter. I will simply say that we welcome any and all steps toward representative government in Portugal. However, the situation in Portugal continues to raise questions for the United States in relation to our NATO policy and our policy toward Portugal. The elections did not change any of the existing political forces or the strong influence of the Communists in the government. With respect to NATO, this is an Alliance matter to be discussed with our allies, and we are in close consultations with them on this issue.

Proposed Text of Portuguese Announcement

Following his visit to New York where he will address the United Nations General Assembly, Portuguese President Francisco da Costa Gomez will visit Washington for a meeting with President Ford at noon on October 18.

After the meeting, Secretary of State Kissinger will offer a luncheon in honor of President Costa Gomez at the State Department. President Costa Gomez, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr. Mario Soares, arrives in Washington late in the afternoon of October 17. Portuguese Ambassador Joao Hall Themido will offer a dinner in his honor that same evening. The Portuguese President will return to Lisbon after his lunch with Secretary Kissinger.

* * * * *

U.S. AID TO PORTUGAL

Bernard Nassiter reports today that the United States is withholding any aid to Portugal to help resettle the 300,000 refugees expected from Angola pending resolution of the governmental crisis in Lisbon.

Q: Is it true that we are withholding aid to Portugal pending resolution of the governmental crisis in Lisbon?

A: We have expressed our willingness to help in the refugee problem *on a humanitarian basis. We have received* ~~and discussions of how best to proceed are now in progress.~~ I would *an informal request, no formal request. May matter to be* suggest, however, that you check with State for further information. *assured.*

FYI Only: Ambassador Carlucci has indicated to President Costa Gomes that the U. S. will discuss aid propositions with anyone from the President's office but will not entertain requests from Prime Minister Goncalves. Assistance for the Angolan refugees would be drawn from several funds, among them Refugee Assistance and Supporting Assistance.

