

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

March 16, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SANITIZED

THE PRESIDENT

Per, Rac Project

FROM:

ESDN; NLC-

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT:

BY ✓ NARA, DATE 10/3/05

Information Items

Soviet TU-95s in Conakry: Periodic flights of Soviet TU-95 Bear D aircraft out of Conakry add little to the Soviet strategic threat to the continental U.S., according to a State Department analysis, but do make it substantially easier for the Soviets to carry out surveillance of Western naval forces in the North Atlantic. Short of a guarantee of Guinean security, there appears to be no practicable way for the U.S. to induce or coerce Sekou Toure to stop the flights.

Toure's position continues to be that some sort of U.S. security guarantee protecting Guinea against attack is required before Guinea can do without Soviet TU-95s. Toure's initial request for Soviet naval protection followed a 1970 amphibious assault on Conakry by Guinean dissidents and Portuguese mercenaries. Since then the Soviets have maintained a small naval presence, usually an LST and an oiler, off Conakry.

It is not clear at whose initiative the Bear D deployments began in 1973, but the Guineans maintain it was at their own. The planes perform ocean surveillance, collect intelligence, fly search and rescue missions and provide support to the Soviet manned space flight program. The general disposition of Western naval surface forces in the Atlantic is monitored on a contingency basis so that the Soviets would have a reasonably accurate knowledge of the positions of Western surface forces at the inception of a crisis or hostilities.

If the Soviets should lose access to Guinea, they would probably seek to re-establish their capability in another African country. While some might be tempted to allow Soviet use of facilities in return for aid, a variety of factors -- political, logistic, technical and geographic -- would hamper or thwart a Soviet attempt to relocate.

State Department review completed

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

~~TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE~~
CONTAINS CODEWORD

-2-

25X1

Turkish Plans Anger Greeks: Embassy Athens reports that Turkey's plan to conduct combined air-sea military exercises in the Aegean March 21-27 has sparked sharp reaction in Greece. Although the news was treated soberly by the government-controlled TV and radio, it was characteristically sensationalized by the local press. The forthcoming exercises were also sharply criticized by leaders of the political opposition, who termed them violations of the Bern agreement and the Helsinki Final Act and demanded an immediate end to ongoing bilateral talks on Aegean issues.

The embassy comments that Athens recognizes Turkey's right to conduct such maneuvers in and over international waters, but is concerned about the scope and duration of the exercises, and the use of live ammunition. According to a foreign ministry official, the Greek ambassador in Ankara raised these concerns with Foreign Minister Caglayangil, but the Turks declined to modify their plans.

~~TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE~~
CONTAINS CODEWORD