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WAF073 EPD377

REPEAT

0828 : PORTUGAL -- AFRICA (NEWS FOCUS) :  
BY ALECO JOANNIDES

19-6-74

-- ~~PORTUGAL~~ ~~PREMIER~~ ~~DR.~~ ~~ALVES NEVES~~ ~~PREMIER~~ ~~DR.~~  
-- ~~PORTUGAL~~ ~~PREMIER~~ ~~DR.~~ ~~ALVES NEVES~~ ~~PREMIER~~ ~~DR.~~

MARIO SOARES, HAS STAKED HIS POLITICAL PRESTIGE ON SECURING A  
PEACEFUL DECOLONISATION OF PORTUGUESE AFRICA.

HE IS UNDETERRED BY AN APPARENT SETBACK OR BY DIFFERENCES AMONG  
THE NEW RULERS IN LISBON, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES HERE.

THE SOCIALIST LEADER, THROWN INTO JAIL 12 TIMES UNDER THE SALAZAR  
REGIME AND ONCE EXILED TO AN ATLANTIC ISLAND BY OUSTED PREMIER DR.  
MARCELLO CAETANO, DOES NOT GIVE UP EASILY.

HE PLANS TO PURSUE HIS PEACEMAKING EFFORTS BY ENLISTING SUPPORT  
FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND FROM THE ORGANISATION FOR AFRICAN  
UNITY (O.A.U.), DESPITE THE SETBACK IN TALKS IN ALGIERS LAST WEEK  
WITH AFRICAN NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA.

THE NEGOTIATIONS, AIMED AT SECURING A CEASEFIRE IN PORTUGUESE  
GUINEA (GUINEA-BISSAU) AND OPENING A WAY TO SIMILAR AGREEMENTS  
IN THE BIGGER TERRITORIES OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, OPENED PROMISINGLY  
IN LONDON LAST MONTH.

MORE AJ/JOGXBJW

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19-6-74

REPEAT

0832 : PORTUGAL -- FRICA 2 LISBON :

THE TALKS WITH THE P.A.I.G.C. (AFRICAN PARTY FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS) THEN TRANSFERRED TO ALGIERS, WHERE THEY GROUND TO A HALT WITH BOTH SIDES DECLARING THEY HAD MET WITH +DIFFICULTIES.+

NO DATE FOR A FURTHER MEETING WAS SET, AND THE ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN A +TOTAL COLLAPSE+ OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

BUT INFORMED SOURCES HERE SAID THAT, THROUGH THE REPORTED DIFFICULTIES EXISTED, THE SITUATION WAS NOT IN FACT AS CATASTROPHIC AS IT APPEARED.

WHEN DR. SOARES MET THE P.A.I.G.C. NATIONALISTS IN LONDON, LED BY THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GUINEA-BISSAU REPUBLIC'S REPRESENTATIVE MAJOR PEDRO PIRES, AGREEMENT APPEARED CLOSE.

A FORMULA HAD BEEN DEVISED PROVIDING FOR A CEASEFIRE, A FORMAL DECLARATION THAT PORTUGAL WOULD GIVE DE JURE RECOGNITION TO THE GUINEA-BISSAU REBEL REPUBLIC, AND AN AGREEMENT THAT THE FUTURE OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE ISLANDERS THROUGH A PLEBISCITE.

MORE AJ/JO/BJW

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WAF076 EPD379

REPEAT

0835 : PORTUGAL -- AFRICA 3 LISBON :

19-6-74

BEFORE RETURNING TO ALGIERS FOR THE TALKS WITH THE P.A.I.G.C. LAST THURSDAY, DR. SOARES HAD A CRUCIAL MEETING WITH PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT, GENERAL ANTONIO DE SPINOLA, AT WHICH HE MANAGED TO OBTAIN A BRIEF WHICH OFFERED STILL FURTHER LATITUDE IN DEALINGS WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID DR. SOARES WENT AS FAR AS OFFERING TO RESIGN IF PRESIDENT SPINOLA AND PORTUGAL'S PROVISIONAL COALITION CABINET DID NOT ENDORSE HIS PROPOSED LINE OF ACTION.

THE DECISIVE CABINET MEETING TOOK PLACE IN LISBON LAST WEDNESDAY AND DR. SOARES MET PRESIDENT SPINOLA, WHO GAVE HIM THE GREEN LIGHT, A FEW HOURS BEFORE FLYING TO ALGIERS.

THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY FOR THE SOCIALIST LEADER.

HIS MISSION HAD BEEN COMPLICATED BY A MAJOR SPEECH IN WHICH PRESIDENT SPINOLA, WHILE ADMITTING THAT THE DECOLONISATION PROGRAMME IMPLIED POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND GUINEA-BISSAU, INSISTED THAT SUCH A DECISION SHOULD ONLY FOLLOW DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORIES.

MORE AJ/JO/BJW

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WAF077 EPD380

REPEAT

19-6-74

0838 : PORTUGAL -- AFRICA 4 LISBON :

BUT A SECRET MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT SPINOLA AND THE GROUP OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO STAGED THE APRIL 25 COUP -- WHICH TOPPLED PORTUGAL'S COLONILIST AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIME -- CONFIRMED ANEW THE OFFICERS' RESOLVE TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN AFRICA.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PORTUGAL'S NEW RULERS WERE PAPERED OVER AT THE MEETING, THE SOURCES SAID, AND THE THREATENED RESIGNATION OF THE SOCIALISTS FROM THE COALITION WAS AVERTED.

WHY THEN DID THE ALGIERS TALKS FAIL WHEN IT WAS APPARENT THAT DR. SOARER, WITH A STRENGTHENED HAND, MIGHT HAVE REACHED A DEAL ON THE PREMISES AGREED IN LONDON OR EVEN PERHAPS ON IMPROVED PROPOSALS

THE CLUE TO THE BREAKDOWN OF THE ALGIERS TALKS, THE SOURCES SAID, CAN BE FOUND IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AT THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (O.A.U.) SUMMIT, WHICH WAS MEETING AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME IN MOGADISHU, SOMALIA.

AFRICAN DELEGATIONS PUT PRESSURE ON THE GUINEAN NATIONALISTS TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION ON THE SOLUTION ENVISAGED FOR THE STRATEGIC CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, AND THEY INSISTED THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD AT THE OUTSET RECOGNISE THE ISLANDS' RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE TOO.

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AFRICA 33 EPD311

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19-6-74

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WAF079 EPD381

19-6-74

REPEAT

0844 : PORTUGAL -- AFRICA 5 LISBON :

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE ISLANDS, WHICH LIE ABOUT 400 MILES (640 KMS) OFF PORTUGUESE GUINEA, AND BOTH SIDES ORIGINALLY BELIEVED THE ISSUE OF THEIR FUTURE COULD HAVE BEEN DEFERRED.

PORTUGAL'S PREVIOUS AUTHORITARIAN RULERS HAD FOR YEARS CAMPAIGNED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR WESTERN SUPPORT IN THEIR WARS AGAINST AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS -- WHICH INCLUDE A STRATEGIC AIRPORT -- WERE VITAL TO WESTERN DEFENCE IN THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC.

TODAY, PORTUGAL'S NEW RULERS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE SEEKING A CLARIFICATION OF WESTERN IDEAS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISLANDS.

OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH PRESIDENT SPINOLA WILL PUT TO PRESIDENT NIXON WHEN THE LATTER STOPS OVER AT LAJES AIRBASE, IN THE AZORES, ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE U.S. FROM HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR.

DR. SOARES WAS ALSO EXPECTED TO SOUND U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER DURING THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AT OTTAWA, CANADA, THIS WEEK.

MORE AJ/JO/BJW

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WAF081 EPD382

REPEAT

19-6-74

0847 : PORTUGAL -- AFRIC 6 LISZON :

THE IMPACT OF THE O.A.U. SUMMIT ON THE ALGIERS TALKS HAS CONVINCED DR. SOARES THAT HE MUST URGENTLY RESPOND TO AN OPEN INVITATION BY THE ORGANISATION AND GO TO THEIR ADDIS ABABA HEAD-QUARTERS TO PUT PORTUGAL'S CASE TO THE NEWLY ELECTED O.A.U. SECRETARY GENERAL, ETEKO MBOUMOUA OF CAMEROUN.

DR. SOARES ALSO PLANS TO MEET SHORTLY WITH UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE UNSUCCESSFUL ALGIERS TELKS, UNABLE TO ANNOUNCE EVEN A LIMITED CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, DR. SOARES WAS ABLE HOWEVER TO REVEAL THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED AT LEAST ON ONE POINT -- THE NEED TO OBSERVE HENCEFORTH CONFIDENTIALITY IN THEIR TALKS UNTIL FINAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT PRESS LEAKS ON THE INTENDED AGREEMENTS PROVOKED THE O.A.U. REACTIONS AND LED TO THE CURRENT STALEMATE IN THE TALKS.

MEANWHILE, LEADERS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S AFRICAN NATIONALIST LIBERATION MOVEMENT FRELIMO, WHO HAD SCHEDULED A SECOND MEETING WITH DR. SOARES NEXT MONTH DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH THE P.A.I.G.C. HAVE REJECTED PRESIDENT SPINOLA'S PROPOSAL TO SUBJECT THEIR RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

MORE AJ/JO/BJW

19-6-74

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WAF083 EPD383

REPEAT

0854 : PORTUGAL -- AFRICA 7 LISBON :

MOVES FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ARE CLEARLY BOGGED DOWN, AND IN ANGOLA, PEACE FEELERS HAVE BEEN SO FAR ONLY TENTATIVE WITH THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (M.P.L.A., F.L.N.A., AND UNITA) ALL VYING FOR SUPREMACY IN THE HUGE WEST AFRICAN TERRITORY.

ONE OF THE MOTIVES WHICH TRIGGERED PORTUGAL'S COUP LAST APRIL WAS TO BRING THE COLONIAL WARS TO AN END AND SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

THIS RESOLVE BY THE YOUNG OFFICERS, WHO WITH THEIR COUP PUT AN END TO 48 YEARS OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE IN THE METROPOLIS, REMAINS TODAY THE PILLAR OF POLITICAL STABILITY IN PORTUGAL.

THE ARMY HAS INDICATED PLAINLY THAT IT DOES NOT WISH TO FIGHT ANY LONGER IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE WORLD'S LAST SURVIVING COLONIAL EMPIRE. AS LONG AS THIS DECISION STANDS - IN SPITE OF FRICTIONS - THE DEMOCRATIC COALITION IN PORTUGAL IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN UNBROKEN, TOGETHER WITH HOPE FOR A SOLUTION IN AFRICA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

REUTER AJ/JO/BJW