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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

31 JAN 1983 20

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WNS  
Date: JUN 21 2018

JCSM-11-83  
31 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Impact of Loss of Present and Proposed Facilities in Portugal (U)

1. (U) The Deputy Secretary of Defense has requested the Joint Chiefs of Staff to assess the impact of the loss of present and proposed facilities in Portugal in order to assist the OSD staff with preparations for United States-Portuguese mutual security negotiations.
2. ~~(S)~~ The impact assessment in the Annex:
  - a. Addresses only the bilateral functions currently being negotiated. It is assumed that the United States would still be able to operate under existing NATO infrastructure or Service-to-Service agreements such as use of the Ponta Delgada POL facility. Abrogation of the latter type of agreements would be an additional serious loss, which is not assessed.
  - b. Analyzes the effect of loss of facilities in two sections: loss of present facilities in the Azores and loss of proposed facilities on the mainland.
  - c. Is divided into principal missions, impact of loss, alternatives, and cost of alternatives. For all mission areas, the costs associated with departure are presented. For those mission areas that can be accomplished from another location, an attempt has been made to provide approximate costs of relocating. The costs of force projection alternatives were particularly difficult to present because of the many variables involved. While infrastructure costs to provide en route support capability at alternate locations can be reasonably estimated, the total costs are more difficult to quantify, since no single alternative base can duplicate all of the functions presently available or planned for the Azores. Although important, analyzing financial costs alone represents an incomplete and potentially misleading way of assessing the value of the Azores. When examined from the standpoint of value to US and allied war plans, the unique location makes the Azores critical to US security interests.

Portugal

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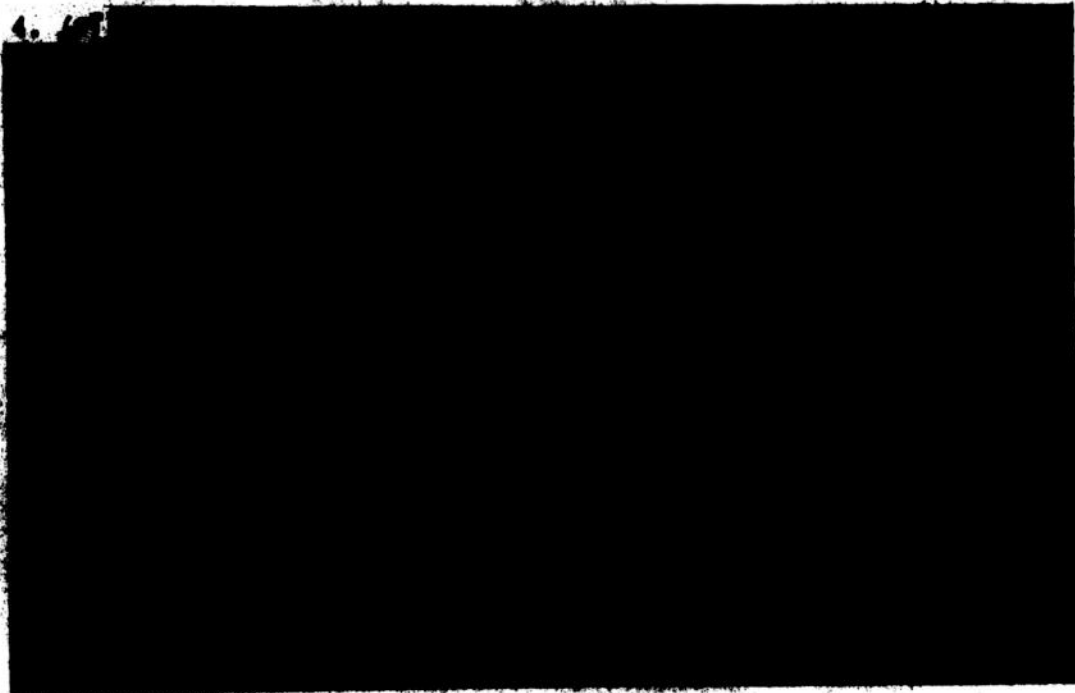
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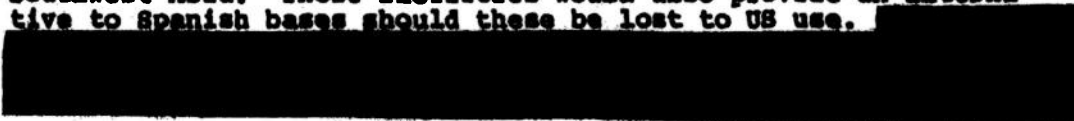
3. (S) Facilities in the Azores and mainland Portugal are valuable not only for the capabilities they can provide but also for the stability and consistency of access the United States has enjoyed. The assessment in the Annex does not attempt to weigh the political factors for and against alternative sites, such as potential for change of government, which may result in denial of en route access or even expulsion from the country. The Joint Chiefs of Staff continue to view Portugal as the best choice for reliable and consistent base rights.



OSD 3-3(b)(5)(6)

5. (S) The Azores occupy a unique and geostrategically important position along the east-west and north-south sea lanes in the Atlantic; the approaches to the Mediterranean; and the aerial routes to Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Base facilities in the Azores are a vital asset, the loss of which would drastically affect the ability of the United States to carry out its NATO commitments or to surge to Southwest Asia.

6. (S) The proposed facilities on mainland Portugal would provide increased capability for force projection to both NATO and Southwest Asia. Those facilities would also provide an alternative to Spanish bases should these be lost to US use.



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7. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that you forward a memorandum, substantially like that in the Appendix, with its Annex, to the Secretary of State.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

*James E. Dalton*  
JAMES E. DALTON  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Director, Joint Staff

Attachment

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUN 21 2018

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 21 JUN 2018 Authority: EO 13526 <sup>5 USC 552</sup>  
Declassify: \_\_\_\_\_ Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: X  
Reason: 3.3(b)(5)(6)  
MDR: 18 -M- 1082

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