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INFO : Embassy LISBON

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FROM : Consul LUANDA

DATE: December 23, 1966

SUBJECT : Unidentified Flying Objects Reported Over Angola

REF :

Over the weekend of December 10, the Luanda press reported the possible sighting of two "flying saucers" by the passengers and crew of a Transportes Aereos Portuguese (TAP) flight from Beira, Mozambique to Luanda on December 7. The press accounts related that a passenger, noticing what seemed to be objects "secuting" the plane when it was about 20 minutes from Luanda, informed the plane's captain, Commandant MAIA DE LOURENCO, who looked for himself, and then reported the sighting to the Luanda Control Tower. The tower, according to Maia's statement to newsmen upon landing, informed him that there was no traffic in the area at the time. After the initial sighting, the plane's occupants reportedly continued to watch the objects until the aircraft was about one minute from touchdown in Luanda; at that point they (the objects) vanished.

The description of the objects as reported in the local press was admittedly vague, and several witnesses including Commandant Maia explained this by the high speed, maneuverability, and distance from the plane, of what they saw. Maia's only other reported comment was that he had indeed seen "two lights at the side of my aircraft." Other unattributed observations were that the objects radiated an orange glow, and that they continually maneuvered in swift dives and climbs while accompanying the plane.

As a sequel to this story, the local press reported on December 13, that TAP Headquarters in Lisbon had issued a statement on the incident. Citing the company's "preliminary investigation based on the captain's report," the statement concluded that "there is no reason to consider that the phenomena observed constitute demonstrable proof of flying objects."

SUMM

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