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"We, the People"
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MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY: REPORTS FROM THE FIELD-BOWMAN COMMITTEE (M PROJECT)

Herewith enclosed, please find two recent reports completed by the Bowman-Field Committee on Migration and Settlement ("M" Project) for inclusion in the President's file.

JFC
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No. M-42

Copy No. 1 of 3

STUDIES OF
MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT

Memorandum

Subject: *The Aspects of Portuguese Colonial Policy*

Date: *October 24, 1943*

Study Room 115
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Washington, D. C.

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October 24, 1943

ASPECTS OF PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY

The attached Memorandum has been excerpted from O.S.S. Free C.I.D. Document No. 43056 which was received from the Office of the Military Attaché, American Legation, Lisbon. This report was dated July 27, 1943.

No editorial revisions were made by the Staff of "M" Project.

Henry Field

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ASPECTS OF PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY

1. On July 7, 1943, an article by Mimoso Moreira was published in the Lisbon paper "Jornal do Comercio" regarding results of a questionnaire presented to 163 national and foreign colonists of Angola, following certain experiments of colonization of that region which were carried out by the Benguela Railroad Company. Forty-one (41) of those questioned were foreigners. Only 4 of the Portuguese colonists had been settled by official initiative, although 45 had received help from the State.

Among the colonists questioned, 57 were in definite possession of their properties, 35 possessed masonry or brick houses with tile roofs, 53 had adobe houses with tile or zinc roofs, 104 had farm animals, 66 sold oxen and 60 sold pigs, 63 sold fruit, 57 sold dairy products, 38 were in the milling business, the greater part had fruit trees, and almost all cultivated corn, wheat, beans, coffee, and potatoes. The 163 colonists questioned had 14,670 head of cattle. Twenty-six (26) colonists produced 36 or more tons of corn, and 27 produced 15 or more tons of wheat.

Twenty-one (21) were in a good position, 54 in a normal position, 62 were beset by difficulties, and 26 were in a miserable situation. Thus, only 21% were living without embarrassment, and this, it is explained, was not due to agricultural conditions but to the circumstance of negotiation with the natives. Sixty-seven (67) complained of lack of capital, 42 of the administrative authorities, 37 of the lack of laborers, 21 of the expensiveness of agricultural credit. Twenty (20) of the necessity of technical assistance, and 13 that the lands were bad and not suited to agriculture. Only one of the colonists had had agricultural experience previously.

The foreign colonists, in general, were of a social type superior to that of the Portuguese colonist. Little differentiated the Italian colonists, grouped in Cutato, Tunda do Biel, from the Portuguese colonists. Many of the German colonists brought capital to the colony and set up coffee plantations. However, the war created difficulties particularly affecting these, cutting off their markets, their sources of fertilizers, and turning their position more and more precarious.

From the inquiry it is concluded that Europeans can locate themselves and live as agriculturists in

Angola, at least in the region of the tableland, even without technical assistance and without public or private foreign help. However, the agricultural activity of the Europeans is not lucrative, and the majority are forced to resort to trading with the natives as well. Also, no European agriculturalist is able to maintain himself without exploiting a considerable area of land and employing native labor. It is also noted that European colonists tend to congregate and to form villages.

In general, the conclusion is reached from the above experiment that the cost of such a directed colonization is insupportable in relation to the economic benefits received from it. Considering 30,000\$00 escudos as the initial cost of a plantation, the expense of installing 5,000 colonists would not greatly affect the vast territory of Angola. The conclusion reached by many acquainted with the problem was stated by one expert as follows: "Agriculture in Africa must be essentially left to the native; the European must work in Africa only as a specialized operator - as director - orientor and inspector." Artificial colonization is not a success.

2. Interesting examples of certain Portuguese opinions regarding Portugal's colonies and her right to them are contained in a small pamphlet entitled "Portugal's Colonial Empire" published by the official propaganda office, from which the following are excerpted:

"Portugal's colonial empire is the fifth largest in world..."

Following the Berlin conference in 1884-85, and Prince Bismark's remarked hope that international conflicts regarding the conditions of effective possession of the territories on the coasts of Africa might be avoided, "The facts, however, proved that, so far as Portugal was concerned, such conflict could only be avoided by accepting the claims made by the Great Powers, claims founded for the most part on their armed might."

"During the last century it became necessary to defend Portuguese Guinea against the claims of Great Britain, who wished to obtain possession of the island of Bolama, and of France, who sought to extend her influence to the South of the river Casamansa." The Bolama question was settled in favor of Portugal by President Grant on April 21, 1870." The territory bordering the river Casamansa, including the fortress and region of Ziguicho,

was lost to France by the agreement reached in Paris on May 12, 1886.

"The recognition by the Berlin Conference of the International Congo Association....despoiled Portugal of inalienable historic rights" in Angola. "In the negotiations with Germany concerning the southern boundary in 1889, Portugal's rights were not recognized." Territory historically claimed by Portugal was incorporated in the territory of German South West Africa.

"The foundation of the Congo Free State and the negotiations with England which ended in 1892, prevented Angola from being joined to Mozambique." Portugal also feels that the southern and western boundaries of Mozambique were fixed by circumstances beyond her control. At the end of the last century, Portugal lost certain territory in the north of Mozambique to Germany, but this was restored by the Treaty of Versailles. "The legal position of Quionga cannot therefore be considered the same as that of the other former colonies of Germany. As Portuguese territory, which had been seized without any right by a stronger power, it was simply restored by the Peace Treaty to its 'original and legitimate possessor'."

"Portugal owes her Empire to no other nation; and we know of no other nation that can say the same, with regard to Portugal."

3. The first article of the Portuguese Constitution, after enumerating the component parts of the Portuguese empire, states: "The Nation does not renounce the rights which it has or may come to have over any other territory."