

Report from Minister of Foreign Trade on the conditions of arms delivery to Angola,

Mozambique, Portugal Guinea, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt, 7 June 1967

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Secret

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REPORT*

From Ivan Budinov – Minister of foreign trade

REFERENCE: Transportation of military-technical equipment by sea

The Ministry of foreign trade, respectively “Kintex”, is obliged to implement the resolutions of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of BCP regarding deliveries of military and other equipment for the national liberation movements, as well as to implement official contracts for delivery to different countries.

Technical preparation and organization for transportation of equipment for Angola, Mozambique, Portugal Guinea and Guatemala was completed 2 months ago.

Equipment for Iraq is ready for transportation; the accreditation and term of this official delivery expire in the end of June.

The leadership of “Shipbuilding and sailing” refused to transport the above mentioned equipment, with no serious reason. Military technical equipment, treated in group “A” as “dangerous freight” is transported by ships all over the world, along with other more dangerous freight as petrol, chemicals, etc.

The fact that crossing the Suez Canal and Gibraltar requires a declaration, stating the category of freight and the part of the ship where it has been loaded,

* Handwritten resolution by Vice Prime Minister Gen. Ivan Mihailov: *It is ordered to “Shipbuilding and sailing” State Company to freight the equipment for Iraq. In order of crossing the Suez Canal, the equipment shall be freight through Deputy General Director Siderov in presense of Botyo Botev, Director of KINTEX State Company. 9 June 1967*

is not a reason to treat this kind of freight as “illegal”, and is not a threat for the ship owner. “Kintex” does not object to the ship owner declaring transportation of special equipment to the sea authorities, whereas extra fee is paid. The only obligation of the carrier is not to declare the final destination and the receiver. No foreign body is authorized to ask such a question, except in time of war, when the specific sea zone is under special sailing regime.

A report has been put forward in the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of BCP regarding the solution of the problem of sea transportation of special equipment.

Since every delay of delivery, mentioned in this report, as well as of potential deliveries to Egypt and Syria, could cause political compromise to our country, thus reducing the effect of assistance to the national liberation movements and non-implementation of plans for export of special equipment, I request, in case the Secretariat of the Central Committee of BCP considers appropriate, to order as follows:

- To oblige the Ministry of transport, respectively “Shipbuilding and sailing”, to freight by sea special equipment, as well as equipment for the national liberation movements.
- All damages and losses, borne by “Shipbuilding and sailing” due to deficiencies in contracts made by “Kintex”, shall be covered by the Ministry of foreign trade – “Kintex”.
- All damages and losses, caused by not obeying written instructions of “Kintex” for loading, transportation and unloading, as well as due to not following international sailing rules, shall be on their own account.

MINISTER: [Ivan Budinov]

[Translated by Greta Keremidchieva]