

ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 VCI-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-00
 VCIE-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 NSCE-00 OMB-00 PA-00 PM-00
 PRS-00 P-00 ISNE-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00
 IIP-00 PMB-00 DRL-00 G-00 SAS-00 /000W

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P 201652Z OCT 06
 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5279
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

S E C R E T LISBON 002365

SIPDIS
 NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/19/2026
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MOPS, PO
 SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FM OFFERS TO RESIGN IF CIA FLIGHT
 ALLEGATIONS PROVE TRUE

REF: A. 2005 LISBON 1609
 B. LISBON 1921
 C. OCTOBER 12 DVC (WITH DOS DOD AND EMBASSY LISBON)

Classified By: POL CHIEF TROY FITRELL, REASONS 1.4 (B,D)

1. (S/NF) Summary: Portugal's Foreign Minister offered to resign if opposition forces can demonstrate any complicity on the part of the government regarding alleged illegal CIA rendition flights through Portuguese territory. While a government investigation has refuted these allegations, the saga continues due to continued opposition party and European Parliament pressure. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] End
 summary.

2. (U) Ongoing pressure from Portugal's Left Bloc and from the European Parliament led to a testy exchange in Portugal's Parliament on October 18, in which Foreign Minister Luis Amado offered to resign if the opposition could prove Government of Portugal (GOP) complicity with the USG regarding alleged illegal CIA flights violating Portuguese sovereignty.

3. (U) Amado's most recent testimony reflected that of his predecessor, Diogo Freitas do Amaral in December 2005 (Ref A) and his own earlier testimony on September 5 this year,

noting the GOP had completed an investigation that discovered no information to support allegations that CIA flights violated Portugal's territory or airspace to transport terrorism suspects. Amado told the Parliamentary Committee that "None of the explanations or data collected... constitutes a credible indication that the law may have been broken on Portuguese soil." He went on to tell reporters that a joint investigation by four government departments, also involving the country's intelligence agencies, immigration service and flight control authorities, conducted a review of plane movements but found no firm evidence." Amado admitted that the alleged CIA flights might have come through Portugal, but added that Portugal "has nothing to be ashamed of." According to the Minister, there is no evidence that the CIA committed illegal acts in Portuguese territory and even stated that he has had nothing but "total transparency and cooperation" from American authorities.

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4. (U) Freitas do Amaral had offered the government investigation as a way to address the allegations. The results, however, have not silenced the GOP's critics, especially in the Left Bloc or the European Parliament. Portugal's Parliament has established an ad hoc committee to continue hearings on the subject and a delegation from the European Parliament is scheduled to visit Portugal in December to interview Amado, who has declined to visit Brussels to meet with Euro Deputies.

B1

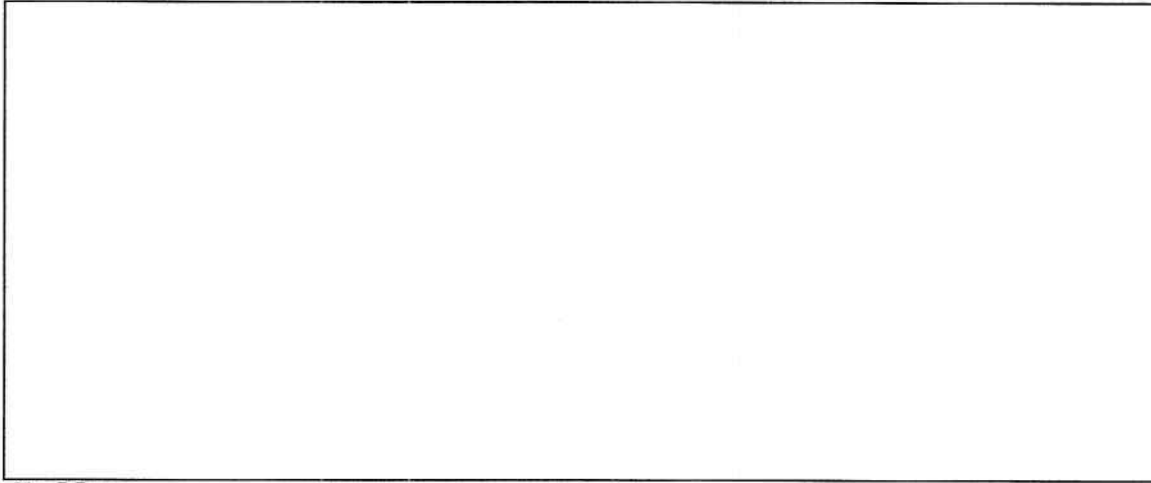
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The Media

7. (U) The local press eagerly reprints hearsay on this tantalizing subject as left wing politicians unveil "new facts" every few days to fan the political fires. Post believes the media will continue to sensationalize the issue as long as it has legs.

Comment



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Hoffman

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