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NATO CONFIDENTIAL  
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AC/119-WP(63)9/1

COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

SOVIET BLOC CIVIL AVIATION EXPANSION IN AFRICA

Note by Canadian Delegation

National authorities were asked in AC/119-WP(62)30/3 to provide information, if possible, on Soviet penetration in Africa by means of air agreements. In accordance with this suggestion, which was revived in the Political Advisers Committee at its meeting on 17th June<sup>(1)</sup>, we submit below the latest information which has come to our knowledge.

2. The Soviet bloc were operating the following civil air routes to Africa in June, 1963:

Moscow-Cairo	(Russian)
Moscow-Cairo-Khartoum	(Russian)
Moscow-Belgrade-Rabat-Conakry-Accra	(Russian)
Prague-Zurich-Rabat-Dakar-Bamako	(Czechoslovak)
Prague-Marseille-Rabat-Dakar-Conakry	(Czechoslovak)
Prague-Cairo	(Czechoslovak)
Warsaw-Cairo	(Polish)

3. Recently the USSR and Czechoslovakia have renewed their efforts to expand civil air routes in Africa, apparently with the ultimate goal of establishing a route across Africa linking the current routes in the east and west and using the west coast route for an extension to Cuba and possibly Brazil. The USSR has requested overflight rights from Chad and Nigeria which if granted would enable a route linking Moscow-Cairo-Khartoum-Accra-Conakry-Rabat-Moscow to be flown. In addition the USSR has approached Ethiopia and probably other countries for overflight and/or landing rights.

4. Late in June, 1963, the USSR announced that it was starting TU-114 flights to Cuba via Conakry. If this is confirmed by the Government of Guinea, it represents a change in policy as previously both Guinea and Senegal had denied the Russians the necessary rights.

(1) AC/119-R(63)22, Item V.

5. The USSR concluded air agreements in 1962 with Guinea, Mali, Ghana, Morocco and Sudan and has recently been granted landing rights in the Somali Republic, while Czechoslovakia concluded air agreements with Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Morocco in 1961, with Senegal in 1962 and with Tunisia and the Sudan in 1963. Poland commenced service to Cairo in June, 1963, and Hungary will probably attempt to gain entrance to Africa in the future.

6. In May, 1963, a new service between Bulgaria and Algeria connecting with flights to Moscow was referred to in the press.

OTAN/NATO,  
Paris, XVIe.