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## **Press Release - Muskie Opposes Jet Sales to Portugal**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

Maine

(202) 225-5344

FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY  
Thursday, May 6, 1971

## MUSKIE OPPOSES JET SALES TO PORTUGAL

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) yesterday called upon the Administration to reconsider and reverse its approval of the sale of Boeing 707's to the Portuguese government. He termed the sale "an act of consummate hypocrisy."

Muskie said that while stated Administration policy is to oppose "the denial of political self-determination" in Africa, its action in approving the sale of jets which can be used to transport Portuguese soldiers to the African colonies of Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea is an act "abhorrent to the intent of our declared policies."

Quoting a speech he delivered in March in Lagos, Nigeria, Muskie said:

"We have an obligation to try to persuade Portugal to see the wisdom and necessity of bringing to a prompt end her military activities in Africa and to grant the right of self-determination to all people in her overseas territories."

Senator Muskie made the charges in introducing into the Congressional Record an article on the subject by Pulitzer Prize winner Jim Hoagland, African correspondent for the Washington Post.

Muskie said that the sale of the jets is similar to action taken by the Administration last fall to clear the way for approval of "sales of small civilian aircraft to South Africa. This amounted to a reversal of the policy of the Johnson Administration, which held that such aircraft could easily be adapted to military purposes." Such approval, he said, was contrary to the intent of the arms embargo placed on South Africa in 1963.

Muskie also deplored the Administration's failure "to take a strong stand against Britain's violation of the arms embargo" in selling helicopters to the South African government.

"I believe we must both maintain the arms embargo ourselves and seek to persuade our allies to do likewise," Muskie said.

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