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December 13, 1976

HAK TRIP

Q: Did the President meet with Secretary Kissinger this morning, and if so, what was the topic of discussion?

A: Yes, the President did meet with Secretary Kissinger this morning. While I was not in the meeting, I presume the Secretary briefed the President on his recent trip to Europe where he attended the NATO Ministerial meeting and held discussions in London.

Q: Did the Secretary meet with African Nationalist leader Nkomo to discuss the Rhodesia Conference while he was in London?

A: No. However, I understand the Secretary did have meetings with British Chairman of the Conference Ivor Richards as well as Foreign Secretary Crossland.

Q: Did the Secretary hold further discussions in London on proposals that the U. S. provide emergency assistance to the United Kingdom?

A: As I think I have said before, we have been watching economic developments in the United Kingdom very closely and have been encouraged by the approach taken by the Callaghan Government. We have and will continue to engage in discussions on the matter and are hopeful that the current negotiations between the UK and the IMF, to which the United States is not a party, are concluded successfully.

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH ON THE UN

Q. Does the President share the views expressed by Secretary Kissinger in his speech last evening issuing a warning to the Third World about US continued support of the United Nations?

A. The President and Secretary Kissinger have had numerous discussions concerning the United Nations, and the Secretary's remarks, of course, reflect Administration policy. The President believes a strong viable United Nations, whose members work in a spirit of cooperation, is essential to world peace and prosperity. He believes it is important in advancing that goal for the United States to speak out when it feels the proper functioning of the United Nations is impaired. He is concerned by trends in the United Nations system over the past year or so.

It is important for the UN body to give appropriate weight to the views of its members and to seek to work in a spirit of consensus, and not through mechanical voting majorities.