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April 27, 1976

AID TO AFRICA

Q: In his speech Secretary Kissinger refers to such things as aid for refugees from Rhodesia, aid to countries like Mozambique and Zambia for closing their borders, and tripling our development programs in southern and central Africa over the next three years. Won't these programs have an adverse impact on your efforts to hold the budget?

A: Some of the assistance the Secretary refers to, such as the tripling of funds in southern and central Africa, are reflections of budget plans. Other initiatives will come out of appropriations already received from Congress but I expect that we will be looking at new proposals for future periods after the Secretary returns.

4/27/76

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP
TO AFRICA

Q: Mr. President, you have sent Secretary Kissinger to Africa for a visit to seven countries. Could you tell us what you hope to accomplish by this trip?

A: Both the Secretary and I have wanted him to visit Africa, for some time now. The trip is being made in response to my desire to improve our relations with Africa. I expect the Secretary's trip to make a major contribution to this objective.

Q: Some people are saying the Secretary is making this trip in response to the Soviet-Cuban victory in Angola.

A: His trip has no connection with any particular situation, certainly not the tragic one in Angola. It is in pursuit of our long standing interest in the improvement of our relations with the countries of Africa.

May 6, 1976

KISSINGER'S AFRICA TRIP AND ITS AFTERMATH

Q. Secretary Kissinger has made numerous public statements and what seems tantamount to pledges to African government representatives during his trip. Have all of these statements -- such as his declarations on the Byrd Amendment -- been cleared with the President, and is Kissinger conveying the President's new Africa policy?

A. This has been essentially a fact-finding trip. Everything the Secretary has said on his trip reflects Administration policy, including his statements on the Byrd Amendment which are, in fact, not new.

He will be returning to Washington sometime tomorrow and will be giving the President a report on Sunday or Monday. The President will then make the decisions on where we go from here.

RUMSFELD'S AFRICAN TRIP

Q: Why is the President sending Secretary Rumsfeld to Africa? Is it to discuss arms sales to these countries? Are we now planning to enter into a military supply relation ship with Africa?

A: The President is sending Secretary Rumsfeld to Africa in the over-all contest of our interest in the area and have high level discussions with the African leaders. We have ~~had~~^{an} ongoing FMS program with Zaire and we're discussing these issues with the Kenyans.

The President is sending Secretary Rumsfeld to Africa for high level discussions with the Kenyan and Zairian leaders. This visit is in the overall context of our interest in the area.

I would refer you to Defense for any detailed questions.

DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
RUMSFELD AFRICAN TRIP

(Defense will make this announcement at their briefing today.)

Donald Rumsfeld will make the first official visit to Africa by a US Secretary of Defense on June 16-18.

In Kenya, Sec. Rumsfeld will meet and exchange views with President Kenyatta and Sr. Kenya Government Officials. The discussions will involve security developments within East Africa.

During his visit to Zaire the Secretary will have discussions with President Mobutu and Zairian Government Officials. Secretary Rumsfeld hopes to obtain first hand knowledge of the security conditions in central Africa and African views of the evolving southern African situation. He will also be discussing matters of mutual US-Zairian interest, including possible requirements for future US security assistance.

The Secretary will depart Brussels on the morning of June 15. He will be visiting the Capital cities, - Nairobi, Kenya on June 16 and the morning of June 17 and Kinshasa, Zaire on the afternoon of June 17 and the morning of June 18.

(END)

KISSINGER'S AFRICA SPEECH

Q: What are the main points of Secretary's Kissinger's speech last night before the Urban League? Is this a new African policy? Was the President aware of Kissinger's intended remarks, and that Kissinger was speaking before the Urban League?

A: Last night before the Urban League Coalition in Boston, Secretary Kissinger reiterated our new Africa policy, first enunciated in his Lusaka Speech in April.

In summary, our Africa policy is based on a belief in racial equality and majority rule in Africa. Specifically, we support the British proposal for majority rule in Rhodesia within two years. We are ready to help a new majority - ruled Rhodesia in its peaceful transition to an independent Zimbabwe and after.

The U.S. is consulting closely with the leaders of black Africa, Western Europe and South Africa to promote equitable solutions, and while not wanting to impose an American plan, are doing our best to encourage the African parties involved to negotiate a settlement in which black and white can co-exist and cooperate for Africa's future on the basis of equality, dignity and peace. We also are ready to help the parties overcome the economic dislocations which will accompany the process of change in Southern Africa.

The President and Dr. Kissinger discussed his speech before
the Urban League and the President encouraged Dr. Kissinger
to reiterate our new African policy.

PESSIMISM ON KISSINGER TRIP?

Q: What is the President's reaction to the Pessimistic reports coming out of Africa concerning the progress of Secretary Kissinger's mission?

A: I am not going to comment on the various press reports as the Secretary's trip proceeds.

The Secretary is reporting regularly to the President by cable on his talks with African leaders. The President is following these reports and is in turn providing his views and guidance to the Secretary as his talks proceed.

FACT SHEETPRESIDENT FORD'S AFRICAN POLICY

President Ford's African Policy has to be seen in the perspective of the events of the past year. Not quite a year ago, a Cuban expeditionary force intervened in Angola and with heavy Soviet military assistance succeeded in installing a minority marxist-oriented government. The Administration made a determined effort to oppose the Soviet-Cuban intervention in Angola and would have succeeded if Congress had not unwisely voted to cut off funds for the anti-Communist parties.

The continued presence of 15,000 Cuban troops in Angola posed a major threat that Cuban interference in Angola would be repeated in Rhodesia with the result of major war and bloodshed there. Cuba sent advisers into Mozambique to train insurgents for action in Rhodesia. The implications for all of southern Africa were obvious.

Black Africa, which had observed events in Angola and the Congressional restraints on U.S. action, were looking to their options in a new superpower context. The trend was against us. There was a radicalization process accelerating in Africa, Soviet prestige was rising, violence was multiplying and fast action was necessary. That is why the President sent Secretary Kissinger to Africa, to try to reverse these trends. The President believed that Africa's future should be determined by Africans, not by Americans -- but not by Russians or Cubans either. He wanted Africa to know that America was prepared to respond to African initiatives and to help wherever possible.

Secretary Kissinger went with a message of cooperation and commitment and to make clear where we stand on such issues as majority rule, with strict guarantees of minority rights, peaceful settlement and economic development.

The President's determination has paid off. From Nairobi to Monrovia, to Salisbury, African leadership has welcomed and taken heart from this solid demonstration of U.S. support.

If we are to avert the continuing threat of violence in southern Africa and preserve whatever hope exists for a peaceful solution to the problem of Rhodesia and Namibia, we must do all we can to break the cycle of violence and to bring together the elements of a peaceful and a just solution. President Ford does not underestimate the difficulties ahead, but neither does he underestimate the consequences of doing nothing.

This is a policy that Americans support because of our deeply ingrained desire to prevent unnecessary bloodshed and suffering and the establishment of new foreign spheres of influence. Today we are the most prosperous nation on earth, and we have a tradition of helping people willing to help themselves. This help, our support of Africa's aspirations, is in our national interest because it is right and because it is in the interest of the world peace and security all Americans seek.

NEW AFRICAN POLICY

Q: Mr. President, the Secretary in his speech talked about letting bygones be bygones and ushering in a new era in our African policy. Would you care to comment?

A: As I stated earlier, I have wanted during my Administration to further U.S. relations with Africa. The Secretary's trip, the exchange of views he is having with African leaders, and his speech in Lusaka are a new beginning. The Secretary's trip is designed to help me in formulating a new integrated policy for Africa.

Future Soviet-Cuban moves in

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS -- ~~SOUTHERN AFRICA~~

future

Q: One of the broader questions of Angola is how we can stop Soviet/Cuban interventions in situations such as Angola. You have consistently refused to tell where you would draw the line. Doesn't this tempt them to keep on prodding and intervening and raise the stakes when we are forced to intervene? Wouldn't it be better to say where you draw the line?

future

A: Our response to Soviet/Cuban interventions, such as in Angola, would be tailored to the circumstances. It will be firm and prompt. I do not believe it would be wise to speculate on the specific character of our actions, or where we would draw the line.

Q: Another question about Angola. Do you believe you can conduct an effective foreign policy with your hands tied by Congress as they were in the Angolan situation? And if so, how?

A: As I said at the time, by cutting off funds for Angola, Congress put the United States on record as refusing the request for help for an African people who sought no more than to decide for themselves their own political future, free of outside intervention.

I believe Congress' action was a grave error that can only result in serious harm to the interests of the United States.

*I will encourage future
Soviet Cuban & possibly in
Africa.*

~~It~~ I will continue to take the Administration's case to the American public and will seek their support and that of Congress

for a strong foreign policy that enables the United States to play a responsible international role. I have no intention of shirking our responsibilities to our friends and allies around the world.

Q: There are reports of Cuban troops in Rhodesia. What do you intend to do about this new Cuban intervention?

A: We have no confirmation of these reports. The presence of Cuban military forces in that situation would present a grave problem. While I would not want to speculate about our response, Cuba must understand that it ~~should proceed~~ extreme caution and must not consider that what we did in Angola would be our response to another Cuban aggression.

Q. What is the Administration's policy toward the regimes of Rhodesia, South West Africa and South Africa? Can we afford to support racist regimes on the black continent?

A: I firmly support majority rule in Rhodesia, and my Administration will use its influence in that direction. The United States also supports a peaceful evolution in Rhodesia through negotiations. It would be a tragedy for all Africans if change had to be brought about by violence.

Concerning Namibia (South West Africa), the United States has urged the South African Government, in conjunction with the United Nations, to move rapidly to grant the people of Namibia the right to choose their own destiny.

Our policy toward South Africa has remained fundamentally unchanged for over a decade. We maintain relations with the Government of South Africa and a dialogue with all elements of the South African society. But we have made clear the inherent opposition of the American people to the South African Government's internal policies.