

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador Henry Catto, Chief of Protocol
Setondji Thomas Boya, Appointed Ambassador
of the People's Republic of Benin (formerly
the Republic of Dahomey)
William E. Schaufele, Jr., Assistant Secretary
of State for African Affairs
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 23, 1976
2:30 - 3:05 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials



[The press was admitted for photos.]

President: Welcome to the United States. You will be very busy, with your UN job in addition to your ambassadorial responsibility.

Boya: We are a poor country and we would appreciate your assistance.

President: You will be President of the Security Council in March, I think.

Boya: Yes, I hope I am up to these heavy responsibilities. All I can do is try my best.

[The press leaves.]

President: We welcome you here and hope to improve our relations. We unfortunately have had some differences, but I hope we can resolve them.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY ldh NARA DATE 4/27/04

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Boya: We hope through discussion to be able to resolve them.

President: Have you been to the United States before?

Boya: No, never. I have been to Great Britain and France, but not to the United States.

President: I hope you will have a chance, when you are here, to see much of our country.

Boya: I am impressed with what I have seen. The tall buildings and many people in the New York . . .

President: It is a wonderful city but I wouldn't want to live there! The variety of the country is what I find interesting.

Boya: I hear Washington is very pretty in the Spring, with all the flowers.

President: Your country is entirely tropical?

Boya: Yes. We have only two seasons -- rainy and dry.



Since we don't know

P/ Arab Boya (Kres. ... of ✓
23 Jan 76, Credentials Ceremony
2:30 pm

Pers in

P Although a C.O.T. you will be very busy w/
your OIV job in addition to your ambassadorial
work.

B We ask a few questions and we would appreciate your

response. ^{aspects of}
P You will be Pres of S.C. in March, I think.
B Yes, I hope I am up to that heavy step. All I can do is try my best
(Pers out)

P We would like you to have a chance to improve our
relations. We unfortunately have had some
difficulties, but I hope we can resolve them

B We hope this discussion to reveal
needed to

P Have you been to US before

B No, never. I plan to go to B & F but not US.

P I hope you will have chance, when
you are here to see much of our country.

B I am impressed w/ what I have seen. The
tall buildings & many people in N.Y.

P It is a wonderful city but would not want
to live there. The variety of a country
is what I find interesting.

B I have Wash in my garden since spring,
w/ oak flowers.

P Your country is entirely typical?

B Yes. We have only 2 seasons - winter &
dry.

