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PRESIDENT FORD'S AFRICA POLICY
FACT SHEET

In the wake of confusion created by Congress' decision to prohibit American assistance to Angolan majority groups resisting Soviet-Cuban intervention and the resulting likelihood of violence in Southern Africa, President Ford sent Secretary Kissinger to Africa to demonstrate the Ford Administration's commitment to racial justice, economic development, and freedom from outside interference in that important continent. The President felt that America had to move fast to counter Soviet/Cuban momentum following successes in Angola, increasing radicalism in Mozambique, increasing communist assistance to Rhodesian liberation groups and a corresponding weakening of moderate forces in the region.

After years of criticism charging Republican neglect of Africa, the Secretary's trip was intended to lay the foundation for a new era in American policy and explore new means for effective U. S. cooperation and support for moderate leaders in Africa's nation building effort.

President Ford deserves credit for:

-- The most extensive and significant trip to Africa of any American Secretary of State.

-- A series of proposals which strengthen the hand of African moderates and provide a basis for a negotiated settlement for majority rule, with protection of minority rights in Southern Africa.

-- Slowing the slide toward radicalism and violence in Southern Africa, a slide assisted by Congressional irresponsibility on Angola, thus providing time for one more chance at a peaceful solution in Rhodesia.

-- Initiatives for U. S. -African economic cooperation which, when coupled with our new political stance, have given the U. S. unprecedented prestige in Africa.

-- Increased expressions of genuine interest and readiness to contribute to African progress which have eclipsed the momentary advantage the Soviet Union gained in Angola, and have hampered Soviet ability for meddling in Southern Africa. Africans are again looking to the West and have made clear their desire to have no foreign military intervention in Africa. We have accordingly improved our worldwide position vis-a-vis the Soviets.



-- Deciding to act, even in the face of election year criticism, to meet the foreign policy imperatives of avoiding a potential bloodbath and countering Soviet influence in an important, resource-rich continent.

President Ford summarized his policy regarding self-determination in Southern Africa in Tyler, Texas on April 28:

Let me summarize the objectives of our program in Africa. Number one, we strongly believe today, as we have over the 200 year period of our history, in self-determination by people of a country. That is how we got our freedom -- self-determination.

Number two, our policy would guarantee minority rights for any individuals in any of those countries in Africa.

Number three, our policy is one of keeping major powers out of Africa and major powers dominating any one country in Africa.

We don't want to dominate the economy, the political system in any one of those countries, and we don't want any other nation to do it, including the Soviet Union....

We are not going to supply any arms to any insurgents. We don't think that is the way for the United States to project itself as a country that wants to help solve some of those controversial problems there. Under no circumstances are we going to provide arms to any of the insurgents. We simply believe in self-determination, guarantee of minority rights and the nondomination of any country by an outside force.