The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/8/76 - Opening Statement at President's News Conference Expressing Concern for problems in South Africa” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I met this morning with Secretary Kissinger to discuss his report on his meetings with Prime Minister Vorster and with European leaders. On the basis of this report I believe that good progress has been made on the problems concerning Southern Africa.

It is important to understand that in this diplomatic process now unfolding the United States is offering its good offices as an intermediary. We are willing to present certain ideas on how progress can be achieved, but we are
NOT TRYING TO DEVELOP A SPECIFIC AMERICAN PLAN.

WE HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES:

-- FIRST, TO PREVENT AN ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE WHICH IN TIME COULD THREATEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

-- SECOND, TO REALIZE POPULAR ASPIRATIONS WHILE GUARANTEING MINORITY RIGHTS AND INSURING ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

-- THIRD, TO RESIST THE INTERVENTION IN THE AFRICAN SITUATION BY OUTSIDE POWERS.
IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, THE SECRETARY PUT FORWARD SOME IDEAS CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES BY BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS, AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER GAVE US HIS REACTIONS. AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM SCHAUFELE IS CURRENTLY IN AFRICA DISCUSSING THE SITUATION. ON THE BASIS OF HIS REPORT I WILL DECIDE WHETHER FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE THROUGH A VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO AFRICA, STARTING WITH THE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES MOST CONCERNED.
WE WANT TO CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL RACES TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE.

THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BY ITSELF SOLVE THESE COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. WE NEED THE CONTINUED GOOD-WILL AND DEDICATION OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

THE PROCESS THAT IS NOW BEGINNING IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE. IT IS ALSO EXTREMELY COMPLICATED. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS. BUT I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES MUST NOW MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING.
TO DO \ IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, \ AND IT IS IN THE

INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE.