

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/11/76 - Remarks to the Press on the Departure of Secretary of State Kissinger for South Africa” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

STATEMENT ON AFRICAN TRIP

As announced yesterday,

I have asked Secretary Kissinger to undertake another very important mission to southern Africa.

The situation there today is enormously complicated and holds great risks. Our efforts are designed to assist the parties toward a peaceful resolution of the many complex issues involved. There is no assurance of success. Far from it. But there is an opportunity and, I believe, a moral obligation for the United States to make every possible effort to assist in preventing bloodshed and in bringing about a peaceful settlement.

The United States cannot solve these problems. But I have asked Secretary Kissinger to do all we can to work with the parties in seeking the elements of an African solution -- a peaceful solution. Africa's future must be determined by Africans, not by Americans, Russians, Cubans or anyone else. We seek no special position. We do not underestimate the chances of failure. But we must try.

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