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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