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December 2, 1974

ETHIOPIA

Q: What is the United States Government's reaction to recent executions in Ethiopia and rumored reports that former Emperor Haile Selassie may be executed?

A: We were deeply concerned over the executions that took place and our Embassy in Addis was instructed to express our concern to the Ethiopian authorities and to ask on humane grounds and in the context of the traditional friendship between Ethiopia and the United States that no further executions be carried out. In response we have received assurances from the Ethiopian Government that it has never contemplated executing the ex-Emperor, that he is receiving humane treatment, and that all necessary measures are being taken to assure his safety and security. The government has also informed us that there would be fair trial of other detainees under the law that exists in Ethiopia.

Q: Will the United States continue arms shipments and economic aid in light of recent events?

A: These questions are the subject of review along with our assessment of the situation.

4. Is the United States considering sending arms to the Ethiopian military government for use against the Rebel forces?

Guidance: Refer to State.

2/18/75

FYI: State has confirmed that we have received a request for ammunition as part of our continuing discussions with the Ethiopians on our long standing military supply relationship. The current request is now under study within the Administration.
END FYI.

5. Is the United States considering sending arms to the Ethiopian military government ~~for use against the Rebel forces?~~

GUIDANCE: Refer to the State Department.

2/24/75
FYI ONLY: State has confirmed that we have received a request for ammunition as part of our continuing discussions with the Ethiopians on our long-standing military supply relationship. The current request is now under study within the Administration. END FYI.

3. Has a decision been made on the Ethiopian emergency resupply request?

GUIDANCE: In our exchange with the Ethiopian Government, we have expressed our strong hope that the two sides in the Eritean conflict will soon enter into negotiations to end the fighting and reach a settlement of their differences. In keeping with our historically close relationship and policy of providing assistance to Ethiopia, we have also agreed to a limited replenishment of depleted ammunition inventories on a cash sale basis. 37 myu

3/18/75

July 16, 1975

CISCO KIDNAPPING

The following press guidance will be used on an If-Asked basis at the Department of State. We are advised to respond similarly, referring to the State Department for details.

Q. Can you confirm that some Americans have been kidnapped in Asmara, Ethiopia?

A. Yes, two American contract employees at the transmission site of the Kagnew Communications Station, along with four Ethiopians, were abducted at gunpoint on July 14. The two Americans, Steve Campbell and Jim Harrel, are employees of Collins International Service Company (Cisco).

Q. Who kidnapped them, and what is their objective?

A. We do not yet have any firm information on the identity of the kidnapers. There has as yet been no contact with them, and no messages have been received.

Q. What is the government doing to secure their release?

A. We have informed the Ethiopian Government of the incident and advised them that we consider that it is the primary responsibility of the Ethiopian Government to bring about the safe release of the hostages. We have, of course, offered to be helpful in any way possible. The Ethiopian Government has provided additional security

forces to protect U.S. installations and personnel remaining in Asmara. There are about fifty Americans there, including ten employees of the U.S. Consulate General.

Q. Is the Eritrean Liberation Front involved in this incident?

A. We have had no confirmed reports concerning the identity of the abductors.

Q. Will the U.S. Government pay ransom, if demanded?

A. Our policy in that regard is well known.