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AMERICAN
FOREIGN SERVICE
ASSOCIATION

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2101 E Street, Northwest

Washington, D. C. 20037 • 338-4045

June 9, 1976

*Original with
NSE for
Staffing*

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the American Foreign Service Association, which represents more than 9,000 Foreign Service employees, and pursuant to a vote of its Governing Board on June 8th, to deplore and protest your meeting this week with President Nimeiri of the Sudan.

In June 1974 President Nimeiri personally ordered the release, after they had been convicted and sentenced to jail terms, of the killers of the United States Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission in Khartoum. This was contrary to President Nimeiri's personal promise to the then President that they would be tried, and if convicted, imprisoned, for these murders. At no time has the Sudanese government expressed its regret for this irresponsible and unconscionable act.

The men and women of the American Foreign Service Association believe your reception of President Nimeiri as an honored guest does disservice to our colleagues brutally slain in Khartoum. We unalterably oppose the resumption of a full range of diplomatic and economic relations with the Sudan until its government apologizes for the release of the killers, and the governments of the Sudan and/or Egypt guarantee that these individuals will continue to be detained for the duration of the sentence imposed by the Sudanese Courts. AFSA intends to oppose any economic assistance to the Sudan, except that of a purely humanitarian nature, until these steps are taken.

Mr. President, your reception of President Nimeiri also clearly demonstrates the failure of the United States Government to act strongly enough against those governments which support, tolerate, or harbor terrorists who attack diplomats or other American citizens engaged in peaceful pursuits. The Association calls upon you either

The President

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to take effective actions against such governments, or to order a high-level review of our stated policy of never negotiating with terrorists, the policy which led to the deaths of the Foreign Service Officers whose killers Nimeiri released.

Respectfully yours,

Law H. Hyde, for

John D. Hemenway
President

FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION
LETTER

BACKGROUND:

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) sent President Ford a letter protesting his meeting with Sudanese President Nimeiri because of Sudanese handling of the terrorists who murdered Ambassador Cleo Noel and DCM Curt Moore in Khartoum in 1973. Letter Attached.

Q: What is the President's reaction to the strong letter from the AFSA protesting his meeting with the Sudanese President and urging that the US not have full relations with Sudan until it apologizes for its handling of the terrorists who murdered our diplomats?

A: The President has not yet seen the letter.

I would like to point out, however, that the President's position on terrorism is well known and has been repeated on many occasions. The Government of Sudan is also well aware of this position.

With respect to the attitude of the Government of Sudan, we should note that they were the determining factor in the release of five Americans recently detained for several months in Ethiopia. *Pres. Nimeiri was responsible for the safe release of 5 Americans who were forcibly detained in Ethiopia.*

Q: Will the President respond to the AFSA letter?

A: A response to the AFSA letter will be made directly to the organization.