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April 21, 1976

AMBASSADOR CARTER

Background:

Ambassador Beverly Carter met with the President for a brief farewell call this morning. There was a White House photo only. Carter is leaving to be the new US Ambassador to Liberia.

Q. Wasn't Ambassador Carter fired from his post in Tanzania by the Secretary of State?

A. Comments such as these are purely speculative and were addressed thoroughly last summer by Secretary Kissinger and State Department spokesmen.

If you have any additional questions I suggest you address them to the State Department.

Q. Is the President seeing Ambassador Carter because of that situation last summer or to placate the Black Caucus?

A. The meeting affords the President an opportunity to meet Ambassador Carter and to discuss his new tasks as Ambassador to Liberia. The U.S. has always had especially strong ties with Liberia and attaches great importance to our relations. Also a meeting now was felt particularly appropriate inasmuch as Secretary Kissinger will be visiting Liberia during his trip to Africa.

Q. What are the dates of the Secretary's visit to Liberia?

A. According to the current schedule he will visit Liberia April 30-May 1. [Refer any detailed questions to State].



## PROPOSED US-LIBERIA ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gerald R. Ford has invited the President of Liberia, His Excellency William R. Tolbert, Jr., to make a State visit to the United States. President Tolbert has accepted and will arrive in Washington on September 22, accompanied by Mrs. Tolbert, and by other officials of government.

During his visit, President Tolbert will meet with President Ford, and will be the guest of honor at a dinner given by President and Mrs. Ford. Other details of President Tolbert's schedule are currently being arranged.

This will be President Tolbert's first State visit to the United States. His last private visit to the United States, in November 1974, included a meeting with President Ford.

President Tolbert's visit during the United States' Bicentennial is especially appropriate in view of the close and historic ties which have long linked Liberia and the United States in a spirit of mutual cooperation and friendship.

10 August 1976

PRESS GUIDANCE

Q: Will this be a ceremonial or a working visit?

A: Obviously, there will be ceremony befitting a visit of the President of the country which is our oldest friend in Africa. At the same time, however, President Ford and President Tolbert will meet for substantive discussions.

Q: Are there any outstanding issues between Liberia and the United States?

A: Relations between our two countries are excellent. There are no major contentious issues between us.

Q: Will the President discuss his southern African initiatives with President Tolbert?

A: President Ford values President Tolbert's knowledge and judgment, in particular, issues effecting Africa. I expect the two Presidents to cover the full range of African issues during their meeting.

Q: With what other African Chiefs of State has President Ford met during his Administration?

A: President Ford has had meetings with President Siad of Somalia, President Kaunda of Zambia, President Bokassa of the Central African Republic, President Nimeiri of the Sudan, President Stevens of Sierra Leone, and President Khama of Botswana. This will, however, be the first State visit by an African Chief of State in our Bicentennial year.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: LES JANKA *LJ*  
SUBJECT: Announcement of Tolbert Visit

We have agreed with the Liberian Government to post the following announcement today, before you leave for Los Angeles.

"President Ford will meet with President William R. Tolbert, Jr. of Liberia at the White House on Tuesday, November 5 at 11:00 a. m. President Tolbert is in the United States on a private visit, and the two presidents are taking advantage of his visit to become acquainted and exchange views."

*10/31/74*  
Some questions and answers for your use:

Question: Who requested the meeting?

Answer: There was a mutual desire for the meeting.

Question: What issues will be discussed?

Answer: This is a get-acquainted meeting and we expect the talks will cover a broad range of subjects.

Question: Is this their first meeting?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What is President Tolbert doing in the U. S. ?

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: Les Janka *for*

SUBJECT: Press queries on Liberian Constitution

Section 12, Article 5, of the Liberian Constitution restricts real estate ownership to citizens of Liberia.

Section 13 reads as follows:

"The great object of forming these colonies being to provide a home for the dispersed and oppressed children of Africa and to regenerate and enlighten this <sup>BENIGHTED</sup> ~~ignited~~ continent; none but negroes and persons of negro descent shall be eligible to citizenship in this Republic."

The President did not discuss with President Tolbert during their meeting November 5 the question of the internal affairs of Liberia.

Other nations restrict real estate ownership to their nationals.

Section 13 doubtless stems from Liberia's origin. In 1816 the American Colonization Society was given a Charter by the US Congress to send freed slaves to the West Coast of Africa. The country was first settled in 1822, with the US Government furnishing funds and assisting in the negotiations with the native chiefs for the accession of land. All this was done with the participation of white Americans who were seeking to assist some of our freed African slaves to return to the continent of their birth. In 1839 the settlers united to form the Commonwealth of Liberia under a Governor appointed by the American Colonization Society. In 1847 Liberia became the first independent republic in Africa with a constitution including the articles above cited.

The President opposes the Byrd Amendment not on considerations of race, but from a conviction our national laws should be consistent with our international agreements.

I strongly suggest that you not give Les Kinsolving the time of day on this matter, but if he bugs you again, you can use the above in a private <sup>\*</sup> conversation with him.

**\* WE SHOULD NOT HASH OVER ANOTHER COUNTRIES CONSTITUTION IN PUBLIC ON THE RECORD.**

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN  
FROM:                               LES JANKA  
SUBJECT:                           Morning Press Items

ITEMS TO BE ANNOUNCED OR VOLUNTEERED

- A. President Tolbert's Appointment with President Ford:  
President Ford met with Liberia's President Tolbert at 11:00 a.m. today. The meeting lasted \_\_\_\_\_ minutes. The two Presidents had not previously met and they took advantage of President Tolbert's presence in the United States on a private visit to become acquainted. They had a wide-ranging and cordial conversation on world issues of mutual concern and in particular on African issues. President Ford was particularly interested in receiving President Tolbert's views concerning recent events in the Portuguese African Territories and what these events mean for the future of Africa. The President reaffirmed to President Tolbert that African interests will be taken seriously in the foreign policy of his Administration and that his primary goal is to increase our understanding of the problems and aspirations of Africa and to find new ways in which we can be helpful. The meeting also included a review of our bilateral relations with Liberia, which are excellent. Attending the meeting with the two Presidents were Liberia's Foreign Minister C. Cecil Dennis and General Scowcroft.

FYI: If asked whether President Tolbert raised the issue of the UN veto of the South African expulsion resolution in the UN Security Council, you should reply you are not aware if the subject came up or not. If it did come up you could say that the President reiterated to President Tolbert that, as Ambassador Scali explained at the United Nations, the U. S. opposed expelling South Africa from the UN because we were convinced this action would not bring about the desired result and could weaken the UN itself. U. S. opposition to Apartheid remains unchanged.

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WASHINGTON

November 5, 1974

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White House Press Statement

PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA

Tuesday, September 21, 1976

President Ford and President William R. Tolbert, Jr., of Liberia met today for an exchange of views on African and world issues.

In keeping with the close relations between the U.S. and Liberia, the meeting between the two Presidents was extremely cordial. Their discussions covered a wide range of topics including the situation and current diplomacy in southern Africa and the state of Liberian-American relations. There was a review of American economic assistance to Liberia, and both Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the close ties existing between the United States and Liberia and pledged to work for their further strengthening.

Tonight, President and Mrs. Ford will give a State Dinner in honor of the Liberian President and First Lady. President and Mrs. Ford have also accepted an invitation extended by President and Mrs. Tolbert for a reception in their honor tomorrow evening.

President Tolbert will receive Vice President Rockefeller on Thursday. The Acting Secretary of State will host a luncheon in President Tolbert's honor on Friday.

President Tolbert will be in Washington, D. C. at Blair House for four days and then visit Atlanta, Philadelphia and New York City, before his departure October 2.

Q: Why has President Tolbert come to the United States at this time?

A: The United States and Liberia have a long history of close relations. Both countries have recognized the mutual benefit of frequent exchanges which serve to broaden our areas of cooperation and strengthen our ties. It is in this context that President Tolbert was invited, taking into account our particular wish that he share in the celebration of our Bicentennial. The invitation was delivered during Secretary Kissinger's visit to Monrovia last April.

Q: Is this President Ford's first meeting with President Tolbert?

A: No, the two Presidents met previously during President Tolbert's last visit to the United States in November 1974. This is President Tolbert's first State Visit to the United States, however.

Q: Other than the events today, what else does President Tolbert plan to do in the United States during this visit?

A: In Washington, one of the highlights of his stay will be an address to a joint meeting of Congress on Thursday. He will receive an honorary degree from Howard University. During the Atlanta portion of his visit the President, a Baptist minister, will preach at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Martin Luther King's pulpit, and be the guest of the Southern Council for International and Public Affairs whose Chairman is former Secretary of State Dean Rusk. His stop in Philadelphia is brief but will include a luncheon hosted by Mayor Rizzo and a large dinner with American investors in Liberia. In New York, President

Tolbert will address the UN General Assembly and receive an honorary degree from New York University.

Q: What is the present state of U.S. -Liberian relations?

A: Excellent. There are no outstanding issues between our two countries.

Q: Do we have an aid program in Liberia?

A: Yes. Liberia has been the recipient of about \$250 million in U.S. economic assistance since World War II. The present level of AID assistance is about \$15 million. [President Ford will propose a program to Congress for fiscal year 1978 that would double that amount.]

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Q: What did the two President discuss about southern Africa?

A: President Ford described the current state of discussions being undertaken in that area by Secretary Kissinger. President Tolbert expressed his support for peaceful initiatives to achieve what he has called a speedy, just and equitable solution to these problems.

Q: Does President Tolbert expect to see Governor Carter during his stay in Atlanta?

A: President Tolbert has no plans for such a meeting.