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May 6, 1975

WHITE HOUSE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ELOPOLD S. SENGHOR OF SENEGAL
ON MAY 22, 1975

The President will meet with President Leopold S. Senghor at the White House on May 22. President Senghor will be in the United States on a visit following a State Visit to Mexico. After his visit to Washington President Senghor will visit other cities in the United States and will be the guest of Honor and speaker at the gala of the P. E. N. Club of New York City on May 27.

FYI ONLY: The P. E. N. is an independent world association of writers. The initials stand for poets, playwrights, essayists, editors, novelists, and, by implication, all writers.

Originally founded in 1921 in London by John Galsworthy and other distinguished writers, P. E. N. rapidly expanded all over the world. The American Center was established in 1922 in New York with Booth Tarkington as its first President. Among later Presidents and board members have been Carl Van Dorn, Robert Frost, Dorothy Thompson, Pearl Buck, Carl Carmer, Marchette Chute, B. J. Chute, Leon Edel, Norman Cousins, Arthur Miller, and Norman Mailer. END FYI.

BACK-UP Q's and A's -- Attached

Q. Is this a State, Official or Private Visit?

A. As I noted, President Senghor is coming to the United States to address the P. E. N. Club in New York City on May 27.

President Ford has indicated his Administration's desire to develop closer relationships with the nations of Africa and the two Presidents, who have not previously met, will take advantage of President Senghor's presence here to arrange a meeting.

[If pressed, you should say this is a private visit, but the Senegalese are a bit touchy about how visits are characterized].

Q. What is the agenda of the President's meeting with President Senghor?

A. There is no agenda, as such. The President doubtless will want to hear President Senghor's views on a wide range of African issues, and they can be expected to discuss other topics in international affairs of mutual interest.

Q. Is this President Senghor's first visit to the United States?

A. No. President Senghor has visited the United States three times since Senegalese independence, and has met with Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

Q. Is Mrs. Senghor coming to the United States as well?

A. My understanding is that Mrs. Senghor will accompany President Senghor on his State Visit to Mexico and will also accompany him to the United States, including Washington.