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TANZANIA

Q: What is the Administration going to do to secure the release of the American students kidnapped in Tanzania by members of the Partie de la Revolution Populaire (PRP)?

A: The Administration is in continuous contact with our Ambassadors in Tanzania (W. Beverly Carter) and Zaire (Deane Hinton) who are working with their host governments to secure the release of the students.

Q: What exactly is the PRP?

A: The PRP describe themselves as an opposition group to the Government of Zaire.

Q: How does the Administration intend to respond to the demands of the kidnapers?

A: The kidnapers' demands were made to the Tanzanian Government, which, as I said, is working to secure the release of the students. The U. S. position on the acts of terrorism where hostages are concerned is well known.

FYI: State information and guidance attached.

PRESS BRIEFING PAPER  
MAY 26, 1975

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SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT -- KIDNAPPED STUDENTS IN TANZANIA

Barbara Smuts, who was kidnapped and subsequently released, has indicated that her captors, who still hold three other students, described themselves as the PARTI de la REVOLUTION POPULAIRE (PRP), in opposition to the Government of Zaire. The PRP is headed by Laurent Kabila. Miss Smuts, who met with President Julius Nyerere in Dar es Salaam today (Monday), made her comment in a press conference.

The Tanzanian Government issued a statement today which outlined the conditions demanded by the PRP for the release of the three students -- Carrie Hunter of Atherton, California; Kenneth S. Smith of Garden Grove, California, and Emilie Bergman of the Netherlands. (The four students were kidnapped on May 19 from an animal research station near Kigoma, a port on Lake Tanganyika.) The demands included:

- Either 200,000 pounds sterling or \$500,000.
- Release of the PRP Secretary General, Yunbu Gabriel, and release of Kalenga Salch and his staff.
- Arms, specifically, 500 light machine guns; 10 75mm cannons; 10 heavy machine guns, and 500 FAL Belgian or American (NATO Standard) rifles.

-- Ammunition, specifically, 500,000 rounds for light machine guns; 100,000 rounds for 75 mm cannons; 200,000 rounds for heavy machine guns, and 200,000 rounds of rifle ammunition.

The Tanzanian Government statement indicates that it refuses all demands of what were described as "the bandits."

The State Department is in continuing contact with the American Ambassadors in Zaire (Doane Hinton) and Tanzania (W. Beverly Carter), and through them the Governments of Zaire and Tanzania, in order to assure that everything possible is done to secure the release of the students.

Ambassador Carter, who also met with President Nyerere today, has emphasized that the situation is delicate as long as the three students are held.

John A. Linehan AF/P

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