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FROM WARREN RUSTAND

The President cannot get involved right now because it would escalate the demands by the guerillas who have kidnapped them. It would also offend the relationships between our President and the President of Zayre who is trying to assist them in the negotiations.

Mrs. Smith is getting a telephone call today from the Assistant Sec. of State who handles terrorism to assure her everything is being done.

GARDEN GROVE, CALIF. (UPI) -- MRS. MITTIE SMITH WEDNESDAY ASKED PRESIDENT FORD TO GIVE HER A TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT SO THAT SHE CAN TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HER SON, STEVEN, WHO HAS BEEN HELD CAPTIVE BY MARXIST GUERILLAS IN ZAIRE SINCE MAY 19.

MRS. SMITH ATTEMPTED TO CALL THE WHITE HOUSE TUESDAY BUT WAS TOLD TO WRITE A LETTER REQUESTING A TELEPHONE TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT.

INSTEAD, SHE SENT A TELEGRAM READING, "MR. PRESIDENT: IN REFERENCE TO MY SON, KENNETH SMITH, STILL BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY MARXIST GUERILLAS FOR TWO MONTHS IN AFRICA, REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY FOR PHONE CONVERSATION WITH YOU."

"I KNOW THE PRESIDENT IS A BUSY MAN BUT HE COULD CALL A MOTHER WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY HER SON MIGHT DIE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN A FAR AWAY LAND," SHE TOLD NEWSMEN.

SMITH, 22, A RECENT STANFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, AND THREE OTHERS WERE KIDNAPED MAY 19 FROM A TANZANIAN WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER RUN BY STANFORD. THE OTHER THREE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED.

SMITH'S FATHER, JOSEPH, HAS BEEN IN AFRICA FOR TWO MONTHS, AWAITING THE YOUTH'S RELEASE.

UPI 07-23 05:23 PED

*DOS* ASST Sec. For Ter: WILL call  
Pres. NOT TO call 1) NEG. ON GOING  
2) DEMANDS ESCALATE



July 24, 1975

MRS. SMITH'S TELEGRAM TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Q. On Wednesday, Mrs. Mittie Smith sent a telegram to the White House asking President Ford to call her so she can talk to him about her son, Steven, a student detained in Zaire by guerillas since May 9.

Has the telegram been received at the White House? Does the President intend to call Mrs. Smith?

A. The telegram has been received at the White House and has been brought to the President's attention.

June 22, 1975

AFRICA -- ZAIRE GOVERNMENT DECLARES  
US AMBASSADOR PERSONA NON GRATA

Q: The Zaire Government requested the US Ambassador there, Dean Hinton, to leave recently following charges of US involvement in a plot to overthrow the Zaire Government. The State Department has said the charges are without foundation, yet Secretary Kissinger has sent a former Ambassador to Zaire to Kinshasa to consult with President Mobutu. Did you concur in Secretary Kissinger's decision?

A: We believe the action against Ambassador Hinton was most unfortunate. Secretary Kissinger and I discussed the matter and thought it would be useful to send Ambassador Vance to Kinshasa in an effort to minimize the effects of this unfortunate episode. We have longstanding good relations with Zaire which we wish to maintain.

## ZAIRE

On if-asked basis only -

Q: Why the big increase in military aid for Zaire?

A: We are proposing a \$19 million FMS credit to help Zaire modernize its forces and meet its legitimate defense needs. Our aid will help meet Zaire's needs as recommended by an American Military Technical Advisory Team after careful study and consultation in Zaire.

Q: Are you sure this equipment will not go to Angola?

A: The equipment financed with this credit is for the Zairian military, and the normal prohibition against transferring any items to a third country without USG approval will apply.