MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
The Congressional Black Caucus Group
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday - August 21, 1974

PLACE: The Cabinet Room
The White House

Diggs: We need to refocus our priorities on the international front. We need a better insight into Third World international politics. The lack of this government's insight into the strategic importance of Africa was highlighted during the energy crisis. The U.S. must recognize the importance of Africa and assume a position of leadership.

Dr. Kissinger briefs you each day on two countries. So far there have been no African subjects and others things which are "peripheral." President: There was the feeling I had slighted Africa [in the address to the Congress] Monday. That is understandable, because Africa is really three parts -- North Africa, Black Africa and Southern Africa. To treat it as a unit would have showed a lack of conscious of Africa's real problems. To show my sense of its importance -- African Ambassadors were the second ones I met with when I took office. It wasn't possible to cover every item in my speech. My meetings with Kissinger don't have a structured agenda. We did talk about the Byrd Amendment. He reiterated the Administration's support of repeal, and my press secretary did for me. Africa is discussed, but not every day, because there are many important issues which require discussion in depth.

Diggs: During your time in office, Africa will change greatly. The Portuguese colonial change will transform the character of the African situation.

I want to compliment you on the Rockefeller appointment.
Diggs: The Byrd Amendment was pulled off the House calendar so you would have a chance to implement terHorst's statement, and the Vice President-designate will have a chance to weigh in on the issue.

Hawkins: I want to discuss economic and welfare needs. We need a poverty program, and something like the WPA for public service jobs.

President: I think public service employment is an essential tool. If you keep the DOD budget sacrosanct and cut the total, the social services must suffer. That should not happen.
Diggs

We need to frame paper on a wide front
and be the linchpin into a world with parties
hate of this great insight into state, resurgence
of Africa was highlighted during energy crisis.
US must rectify impact of Africa + assume
position of leadership.

Khanna's from each day on 2 countries, so far this
has been the African subject + other thing

which are negligible.

There was feeling I had that within Africa, America
That undeniably, because of unify factors,
New, Black, = Smith, to that an effect unit
would have showed lack of consciousness.
To show my vision for you - African
Ambo, won to 2nd, we, first w/. Weren't
possible to have any item in my speech,
My entire w/ K absent here. Structured agenda,
We did this by Grand. We restructured Admin
support major & my press very did for me.
Africa is changed, but not long ago were
there was many important issues which again
showdown in depth. Africa will change
greatly. The Portuguese colonial change
will transform the character of Africa.

Diggs landed the Rockefeller appointment.
Byrd amendment pulled off Senate calendar
to you would have chance to implement
Burke's statement and VP designate will
I think public service employment is useful too. If some people do the budget, account & cut that, a social service must suffer. That should not happen.

Hawkins: Economic welfare work - OEO (H Faith, Public Service jobs)