MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: 

President Ford

Foreign Minister Nguza of Zaire

Andre Coulibary, Ambassador of Republic of Senegal

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the

President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: 

Wednesday, February 11, 1976

1:45 p.m.

PLACE: 

The Oval Office

President: Please give to President Mobutu my personal regards. I hope you have been successful in getting this group to understand what we are trying to do. You saw the headline in the paper last night. I assure you that we will do everything within our power to assure that no repetition of this can take place. We are determined and I think the mood is changing.

Kissinger: I agree. I told the Minister we were determined and we will do whatever we can to strengthen our friends.

President: I would appreciate your observations.

Nguza: Here are letters from President Mobutu and President Senghor. It is our feeling that the only country which can really resist Soviet encroachments in Africa is the United States. I know that more countries have recognized the MPLA, but that is just so they won't be the last.

President: I noticed the OAU did also. Is that the reason?
Nguza: That is the military situation, which they think is finished. But Amin's action was a surprise. They have taken the territory but it will be difficult to hold it. The Ovibundu hold the biggest part of the country. In the north, there are a lot of refugees in Zaire.

Savimbi has decided on guerrilla war. If that happens, the MPLA will have to keep the Soviets and Cubans there for years.

If Presidents Mobutu and Kaunda don't recognize the MPLA until proper arrangements can be made, then it can be worked out.

The Soviets have won some diplomatic success in Africa while the U.S. appears to be backing out. We may have some trouble with some of our neighbors. Like Guinea with Senegal.

President: I am delighted that the Secretary is going to visit. We hope to develop interest in helping those who help themselves. We think the Africans should make their own decision. If we can help militarily and economically, that is what I want to do.

Kissinger: If we can just keep calm, we can create conditions where this can never happen again. If they have the will, we have the resources and we can prevent any expansion of the Soviets and Cubans.

Nguza: The Cubans have been doing the fighting. There is no MPLA Army.

Kissinger: Most of the fighting is done by Cubans with sophisticated weapons.

President: Is there any tendency for the Cubans to cross the frontier?

Nguza: We had our own civil war and some of the rebel Katangese are now fighting in Angola alongside the MPLA.

Coulbary: The Cuban intervention creates a new kind of threat. They are starting to spread out to the northern states.

President: We are dedicated to be helpful. When Secretary Kissinger returns, we will see what we can do. Please give President Mobutu and Senghor my regards.
Ngusu: We appreciate the visit by the Secretary of State in Africa. He is arriving at the very best moment.

President: Are the European countries helping?

Ngusu: I was going to visit some of them to discuss what may be wrong.
P: Please give to J. Mototin my personal regard. (Amid letters)

Hope you have all been successful in getting the papers to understand what we are trying to say. You may understand in future draft reports, I assume you that we will try to explain everything. I am quite serious that the assumption of this can take place. We are determined and I think the mood is changing.

K: Denmark. Still a problem, we now determined and we will do whatever we can to salvage the credibility from this.

P: I would appreciate your observation.

N: Here are letters from J. Mototin asking that we may consider this. Am sure that within weeks we can really start for independence in Africa as a whole. I know that there are some worries over A.K, but that just so they won't be a threat.

P: I wouldn't call them a threat. So that under

N: That's a mystery. It may look to them, but DRM are sure they have taken a treaty that will not be able to build it. The Commonwealth will still the largest part of a treaty. So in short, there are a lot of refugees and regime.

Somali has decided on guerrilla war. If that happens, DRM will have to break most of the ties for years.

If I understand it correctly, DRM

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until proper arrangements can be made, then it can be worked out.

The same have some ships, besides in Africa where it appears to be less in need. We may have some trouble if some of our weapons, like German, get shared.

I think the Sena is going to work. We have dry interest in helping those who help us move. What African should make their own decision if we can help and please, that is what I want to do.

I think we can start by calm, we can create some conditions where they can work bigger again. If they have a will, we have a responsibility and can prevent any X person.

In Sena + Carbons.

N They cannot have been doing a fight. There is no hope of any.

K I think a fight is by Carbons, or African.

I If there are conditions for Carbons to come across country.

N We believe on such work and engage what Kalumide are these fights in any other alongside.

C The carbon utilization unit is a new kind of event. They are already in test and in training.

P We are underestimating the country. When Kalumide, we will see what will come B. Please send.

P We are sending in regards.

N We appreciate your aid by the State in Africa.
He is coming at the very last moment.

If any European countries help

It would joint a great many of them to discuss what we will do next.