

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Amb. Francis A. W. Dennis, Republic of Liberia
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
Charles A. James, Deputy Assistant Secretary of
State for African Affairs
Hampton Davis, Assistant Chief of Protocol

DATE AND TIME: Monday, July 19, 1976
2:45 - 2:58 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials

[The press entered to take photos.]

President: I am delighted to have you here.

Dennis: I am pleased to be here. I bring you warm greetings from
President Tolbert.

President: I am looking forward to seeing him in September.

[The Press departed.]

Dennis: You are looking well, Mr. President.

President: Thank you. I am feeling good, looking forward to the
nomination and the campaign.

You have a large Peace Corps contingent in Liberia.

Dennis: A very large one. They do a very fine job.

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CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State v. S+ 3/13/04
BY: JLM MARRA DATE 7/28/04



President: What do they do, mainly?

Dennis: Mainly education, but they are also in the technological area.

President: How are your economic conditions?

Dennis: They could be better. We hope for better cooperation with the United States and other countries. President Tolbert will be interested in talking to you about this. He also is looking forward the United Nations and to addressing it. We were the first African state to do it, in the 1940's. I would hope he would have the opportunity to address the Congress.

President: As you know, we have separation of powers. I do hope it will work out.

Dennis: I hope we can get a Joint Society arrangement. We have a unique relationship and we think a US-Liberian society would bring our countries closer together.

President: How long have US-Liberian relations been going on?

Dennis: Since 1860.

President: How is your economy moving?

Dennis: It is starting to pick up. We are trying to instill self-help and self-reliance.

President: What is the population and is it growing or stable?

Dennis: It's about 1.5 million and growing at over 3⁷/₁₀₀ each year.

President: I am happy to have you here, and I'm looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night [at the White House reception for the Diplomatic Corps] and to receiving President Tolbert in September.

P/ Amb Dennis (Liberia)

19 July 76

Pass in

P Delighted to have you here

D Pleased to be here. I bring you warm greetings from C.P.

P I looking forward to seeing him in Sept.

Pass out

D You are looking well Am. P.

P I feeling good, looking forward to reconnection & company

You have a large peace camp in Liberia

D A very large one. They do a very fine job.

P What do they do mainly?

D Mainly education but also in Tech ^{area}

P How do you see uniting

D They could be better. We hope for better coop w/ US & others. P Tol. will be interested in talking to you about this. He also looking forward to UN & to addressing it - 1st ^{of year} done since 1940's I would hope he would have chance open to address Cong.

P as you know, we have separation of ^{powers} ~~power~~ I do hope it will work out.

D I hope we can get a joint society arrangement. We have - encourage voluntarism & we think a US-Liberian society would bring our countries closer together.

P How long have US-Liberian relations been going on

D Since 1840.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/08, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES State v. es 3/13/04
BY lala NARA DATE 7/22/04



P How is your morning coming

D It's starting to pick up. We are trying to instill self help + self reliance

P What is population + is it growing or stable

D About 1.5 mil + growing at over 3%/yr

P Happy to have you here, looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night and to receiving P. Tolbert in Sept.

