

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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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 consciou sness 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.

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/88, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State views 3/9/04
BY: [initials], NARA, DATE 3/25/04

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.



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Black Caucus 21 Aug 74 ✓

Diggs We need to reform priorities on a world front. Need better insight into 3rd world int'l politics. Lack of this sort insight into that. Importance of Africa was highlighted during energy crisis. US must recog. impact of Africa & assume a position of leadership.

K keeps you each day on 2 countries. So far there has been no African subjects & other things

which are peripheral.

P There was feeling I had slighted Africa Monday. That understandable, because Afr. really 3 parts - North, Black, & South. To treat as a ~~the~~ unit would have showed a lack of consciousness.

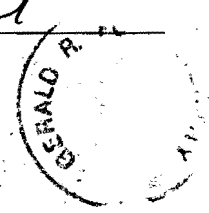
To show my sense of regret - African Amb. was to 2nd me I met w/ him. Wasn't possible to cover every item in my speech.

My outsp w/ K about home structured agenda. We did talk Byrd Amendment. He reiterated Admin support of repeal & my press secy did for me.

Africa is discussed, but not every day, cause there are many important issues which require discussion in depth.

Diggs Over my years, Africa will change greatly. The Portuguese colonial change will transfer the character of African situation.

→ Diggs landed the Rockefeller appointment. Byrd Amendment pulled off House calendar so you would have a chance to implement Telford's statement and VP designation will



has a chance to weigh in on a number

Hickins - Economic + welfare needs - OEO, (WPA ~~at~~ - Public service jobs)

I think public service employment is useful tool.

If you keep DOJ budget sacrosanct & cut TAM, social service must suffer. That should not happen.

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