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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 1976

8:00 A. M.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1976

MEETING WITH BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Wednesday, May 12, 1976
8:00-9:00 a.m. (60 minutes)
The Cabinet Room

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *mf.*

I. PURPOSE

To discuss Secretary Kissinger's recent trip to Africa.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Secretary Kissinger has returned from a two week trip to Africa and will be reporting to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday.

B. Participants: See TAB A

C. Press Plan:

Announce the meeting to the Press, White House photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

See TAB B

PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Secretary of State

HOUSE

Carl Albert
Tip O'Neill
John Rhodes
Jack McFall
Bob Michel
Phil Burton
John Anderson
Doc Morgan
Bill Broomfield

SENATE

Hugh Scott
Bob Griffin
Carl Curtis
Frank Moss
John Sparkman
Cliff Case
Mike Mansfield

STAFF

Bob Hartmann
Jack Marsh
Dick Cheney
Rog Morton
Alan Greenspan
Bill Seidman
Brent Scowcroft
Bill Baroody
Ron Nessen
Phil Buchen
Max Friedersdorf
Jim Cannon
Jim Lynn
Doug Bennett
Bill Kendall
Charlie Leppert
Tom Loeffler
Joe Jenckes
Pat Rowland
Bob Wolthuis
Russ Rourke

REGRETS

The Vice President
Sen. Robert Byrd

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AFRICAN TRIP

BACKGROUND

Secretary Kissinger's trip to black Africa included stops in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zaire, Liberia and Senegal. The Secretary made a second visit to Kenya to address the UNCTAD IV meeting in Nairobi. During the trip he had extensive conversations with Presidents of the countries visited: Kenyatta, Nyerere, Kaunda, Mobutu, Tolbert and Senghor, and made three major speeches at Lusaka, Monrovia and Nairobi.

This meeting will give you the opportunity to underscore the outlines of your Africa policy and to review with the Congressional Leadership the accomplishments and perceptions gained from the Secretary's trip.

Thus far, Congressional reaction to the trip and the policy pronouncements Secretary Kissinger made in the three major addresses has been extremely supportive. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reported a resolution introduced by Senator Percy expressing full support of the Secretary's address at Lusaka.

Talking Points

1. I have asked Secretary Kissinger to join us this morning and to brief us on his trip to Africa.
2. But beforehand, I want to express my personal gratitude to the Secretary for undertaking this trip. He is to be congratulated for making a major contribution to improved US/African relations. In addition, he has regained prestige in Africa for the United States at the expense of the Soviet Union. In the wake of Angola, Africa once again is looking to the West, and I believe the Secretary's trip has given us new leverage to prevent Soviet/Cuban meddling in southern Africa.
3. Some have claimed that the timing was wrong for me politically. But I had to do what I felt was right. It was amply apparent that Africa was sliding toward radicalism. That slide was greatly accelerated by the recent events in Angola. That was followed by the closure of Rhodesia's border with Mozambique. Tensions in the area were rising. The opportunity for Soviet/Cuban subversion and overt intervention was increasing. As President I could not wait or be influenced by politics in this country.

We had to move, and move fast, if we were to give the African moderates any chance to stem the tide and, incidentally, to buy time for one more chance at a peaceful solution in Rhodesia. I did what I thought the national interest required, and I would rather pay whatever price the timing extracted--if any--than lose Africa to the Communists. Henry, why don't you tell us what you found there.

[Following Kissinger]

4. I believe the American people support our broad policy of cooperation with Africa in achieving its aspirations, but cooperation has to be a two-way street. During his trip the Secretary made clear to African officials that they must improve the tone with which they treat the U.S. in public statements and international organizations. The Administration will continue to follow up on the Secretary's progress to obtain this cooperation as an essential element of our African policy.