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Q What will he say?

8-29-74

MR. TER HORST: We will try to give you a fill-in on as much of it as we can on that meeting.

Q Jerry, beyond what the President said yesterday on the matter of possible immunity for Mr. Nixon, does he have any feeling of the sense of time that should be involved, that there should be a cooling-off period, or it should move as quickly as possible to get it out of the way?

MR. TER HORST: I think I will have to refer you again to the President's news conference and I can give you no further guidance on that.

Q Was the President's switch on Rhodesian chrome a political or philosophical change of heart?

MR. TER HORST: I didn't ask the President. Whether it was philosophical, or however you care to describe it, the fact is there was a change and a significant one and so it is proceeding on that basis.

Q Has the President been in direct contact with any Congressmen to try to persuade them to vote for the ban?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know, Bill Timmons, who heads the Legislative Liaison Office, does most of that work for the President and I am sure that once the Administration has taken a position that Mr. Timmons' job is now to see that that position prevails, if possible, in the Congress.

I can give you a little bit of detail, Don Irwin, on the meeting with Simon and Morton and Administrator Sawhill yesterday. They met for about an hour in the Oval Office. They did review in quite a bit of detail the progress they believe they have made to stimulate domestic energy production and to review the progress for developing a long-range strategy for achieving energy independence.

The President urged the group to develop a package of "must" bills that Congress should pass this year before they adjourn and also he urged them, or directed them to develop a set of initiatives on energy conservation and have those for him next week.

MORE

#17

Q I am sorry.

Q Can you tell us what the President's position is on the Byrd amendment regarding the Rhodesian chrome situation?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, the Ford Administration favors repeal of the Byrd amendment which, as you know, would return the United States' position to that position of the United Nations.

Q May I follow that, please? Is the reasoning because chrome is no longer involved in national security? Do we have enough chrome? What is the rationale behind the switch in his position?

MR. TER HORST: I can't give you the details, Helen, but Secretary of State Kissinger testified for the repeal of the Byrd amendment and I am told that was a rather full appearance by the Secretary in great detail and perhaps you could find it in the testimony.

Q Can you tell us whether the Government has taken steps to prevent Rhodesian chrome from funneling out through South Africa into the United States?

MR. TER HORST: I can't tell you at the moment, but I am sure in taking this position that the Government of the United States will live up not only to the spirit of the repeal if indeed it is repealed, but also to the letter.

Q Jerry, the President having been a target of one of the most exhaustive probes in Congressional history as far as confirmation is concerned, does he have any reaction to Mr. Rockefeller's reticence in undergoing such a full disclosure?

MR. TER HORST: No, I would not think so. It is very unusual and I thought it was awfully generous of both the President and Nelson Rockefeller to agree on Mr. Rockefeller's appearance here in advance of his testimony on the Hill. The members, as we all know, of Congressional committees, are rather insistent on hearing it first from nominees rather than hearing it in the newspapers or on the air, and I think Governor Rockefeller's position was in answer to that point.

Q Has he agreed with the President, if I can follow up, to full disclosure? Was that discussed before he was nominated?

RHODESIA

Q. Would you comment on the stories alleging that Americans are being recruited to fight in Rhodesia.

A. We are aware that an organization called Phoenix Associates of Boulder, Colorado, and headed by a Mr. Robert K. Brown, has placed an advertisement in a number of magazines -- primarily outdoor and gun magazines -- describing opportunities for "adventurers" to serve in a number of countries, including Rhodesia. This whole operation is under investigation by the Departments of State and Justice to determine whether U. S. law has been violated.

FYI: (While we do not have the results of the investigation, the most applicable law is probably the Foreign Agents Registration Act -- i. e., whether, in their activities, Mr. Brown and Phoenix Associates are in fact acting as agents of a foreign government or regime without being properly registered with the Department of Justice.

Q. What is the U. S. position regarding Americans serving in the Rhodesian Armed Forces? Do we know whether any Americans are actually fighting in Rhodesia?

A. We have no knowledge of any Americans fighting there, and we would strongly discourage any such activity. ~~We, in fact,~~

~~Discourage any travel to southern Rhodesia by U. S. citizens.~~

[FYI: There is some question as to whether one could jeopardize his U. S. citizenship by serving in the armed forces of another country. The matter is being reviewed by the Justice Department].

Q. There was an allegation that Rhodesians, described as South Africans, were being trained at Quantico Marine Base in the U. S. Do you have any comment?

A. There are no Rhodesians receiving military training in the U. S. or, for that matter, there are no South Africans receiving military training here.

NOTE: The substance of the above guidance will be used by State. For detailed questions on specific laws or provisions you should refer to the State Department.

March 3, 1976'

MOZAMBIQUE CLOSES ITS BORDER TO RHODESIA

Q. Is the President concerned by recent developments in Mozambique? Is this another indication of increasing tension in Southern Africa in general, and if so, what is the U. S. position on possible guerrilla movements and other indications of unrest?

A. Of course, the President is concerned about the situation in Southern Africa, in general, and is watching the situation there closely. We are still hopeful that political change can be brought about peacefully without resorting to violence.

(Yesterday's State Guidance is attached).

March 23, 1976

KISSINGER ON U.S. INTENTIONS ON RHODESIA AND
CUBA

The following excerpt from Secretary Kissinger's speech in Dallas March 22 maybe useful during the briefing or in response to individual queries on our policy on majority rule in Rhodesia while at the same time spelling out our unwillingness to brook further Cuban intervention.

You may wish to say that we have made our position toward Cuban adventurism quite clear, and while we are not prepared to spell out what specific steps we might take, we would consider any new expansionist moves by Cuba unacceptable.

"The United States has made clear its strong support for majority rule and minority rights in Southern Africa. We have no stake in and we will give no encouragement to illegal regimes there. The President and I have made clear that rapid change is required and that the opportunity for negotiated solutions must be seized. We will make major efforts to promote these objectives and to help all parties to return to the negotiating table. The proposals made today by Foreign Secretary Callaghan in the House of Commons seem to us a most constructive approach. We welcome them.

"But let no one believe that American support can be extorted by the threat of Cuban troops or Soviet arms. Our cooperation is not available to those who rely on Cuban troops. The United States cannot acquiesce indefinitely in the presence of Cuban expeditionary forces in distant lands for the purpose of pressure and to determine the political evolution by force of arms.

"We have issued these warnings before. I repeat them today. The United States will not accept further Cuban military interventions abroad."

April 7, 1976

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON RHODESIA

As reported in The New York Times, the Security Council yesterday unanimously broadened the international sanctions against the Rhodesian government by barring insurance and commercial licensing operations benefitting that country. William Scranton spoke on the occasion of the resolution debate, ^{in support} of the new sanctions (text will be available at State).

Q. Does our vote on this resolution at the Security Council indicate that the Administration will once more make a push for repeal of the Byrd Amendment?

A. Our views on repeal of the Byrd Amendment are well known; they have not changed. We favor repeal of the Amendment.

ONLY IF PRESSED: This is a matter for Congress to bring up according to its own legislative schedule.

REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT

Q: Is there an Administration-sponsored bill to repeal the Byrd Amendment?

A: No, there is not an Administration-sponsored bill to repeal the Byrd Amendment. Since the very first days of the Administration the President has expressed his opposition to the Byrd Amendment. Congress thus far has not put the United States back in compliance with its international obligations, and we will continue to urge Congress -- and to work with Congress -- to press for repeal.

F.Y.I.: Since Congress passed the Byrd Amendment, Congress should repeal it.

HAK -VORSTER MEETING

Q: Now that the Kissinger-Vorster meeting have concluded, what can you tell us about any of the content of the discussions? Did Kissinger talk to Vorster about putting pressure on Rhodesia?

A: As you may know Secretary Kissinger held a press conference in Munich following the conclusion of his meetings with Prime Minister Vorster. At that conference, Kissinger said that all aspects of the problems of Southern Africa were discussed; he said that the process for solutions was in motion, and that we hope as we have hoped from the beginning to contribute to a resolution that is achieved by negotiation and not by violence and which respects the dignity of all the peoples in the area.

Q: How do these talks relate to the Administration's intention to seek repeal of the Byrd Amendment? Didn't Kissinger back away from the Administration position in favor of repeal.

A: The Administration position on repeal of the Byrd Amendment has not changed nor did the Secretary imply any change in his press conference if you read the text. He did make the point, however, that the broad discussions with Vorster were essentially not relevant to our decisions with respect to the Byrd Amendment.

July 20, 1976

AMERICAN - BRITISH PLAN FOR RHODESIA

Q: Is it true that the United States and Britain are trying to persuade the white Rhodesian Government to negotiate a transfer of power to the blacks? Is it also true that the U.S. and UK would assure financial aid and property guarantees to thw white minority?

A: Prime Minister Callaghan proposed a guarantee scheme at the end of March. We publicly supported that proposal. Since then we have held exploratory talks with the British on what concrete meaning such a scheme could have.

11 August 1976

Mozambique/Rhodesia

Q: What is the United States position on the skirmishes between Mozambique and Rhodesia?

A: These latest raids ~~are another indication of the problems this area will face unless something is done to change the present~~ *and the increasing resort to violence are symptomatic of the critical situation in South Africa and it is with that situation that we are attempting to deal with* ~~direction of the situation.~~ *by our African initiatives to avert the continuing cycle of violence.*

What is our policy toward



FOLLOW-UP

President's Position on Byrd Amendment

Q. Yesterday you were asked about the President's position on repeal of the Byrd Amendment. Can you give us his views on this issue?

A. The President's position as reflected in earlier statements favoring repeal of the Byrd Amendment has not changed.

Q. What is the Byrd Amendment? -- (ONLY IF ASKED)

A. The Byrd Amendment requires the U. S. to admit imports of strategic materials from Rhodesia, an action inconsistent with U. N. mandatory sanctions for which the U. S. voted.

FYI: The President expressed support for repeal of the Byrd Amendment through Press Secretary terHorst at a daily briefing August 20, and 29, 1974). The President met with the Black Caucus August 21, 1974 during which the subject was discussed. Secretary Kissinger has publicly expressed Administration support for repeal as well. (See attached wire copy of February, 1974).

(CHROME)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TODAY ENDORSED A BILL WHICH WOULD REIMPOSE FULL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

IMPORTS OF CHROME FROM RHODESIA HAVE DAMAGED U.S. RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

KISSINGER'S COMMENTS WERE CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO REP. CHARLES C. DIGGS JR., AND HIS CO-CHAIRMAN DONALD FRASER OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS HOLDING HEARINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF CHROME IMPORTS.

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ALREADY HAS APPROVED A BILL WHICH WOULD REPEAL THE SO-CALLED BYRD AMENDMENT LIFTING SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF CHROME ORE AND PRODUCTS. SIMILAR BILLS -- ENDORSED BY MORE THAN 100 SPONSORS -- ALSO ARE PENDING IN THE HOUSE.

"I AM CONVINCED ... THAT THE BYRD PROVISION IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, BRINGS US NO REAL ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, AND IS DETRIMENTAL TO OUR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS," KISSINGER WROTE.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BYRD PROVISION HAS IMPAIRED OUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SUCH IMPORTANT AFRICAN NATIONS AS NIGERIA, A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF PETROLEUM AND A COUNTRY WHERE WE HAVE INVESTMENTS OF NEARLY \$1-BILLION."

WILLIS C. ARMSTRONG, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS, TESTIFIED IN THE HEARING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEMS.

HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE FIRST OPPOSED CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO EXEMPT STRATEGIC MATERIALS FROM THE EMBARGO.

"WHEN THE LEGISLATION WAS PASSED, THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTED IT AND DEFENDED IN OUR COURTS THE RIGHT OF THE CONGRESS TO MODIFY OR SUPERCEDE PRIOR TREATY OBLIGATIONS," HE SAID.

"WE STILL BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXEMPTIONS ARE UNWARRANTED AND CONTRARY TO OUR BEST INTERESTS, AND WE SUPPORT THE BILL NOW PROPOSED WHICH WOULD REINSTITUTE FULL U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE U.N. CHARTER."

UPI 10-25 02:05 PED

1. Air Force Academy Scandal

Guidance: It is my understanding that the Superintendent of the Air Force Academy is investigating these reports, and in light of his investigation, I don't think it would be appropriate to comment on those reports from here.

The President, of course, if concerned about these reports and expects that the Air Force Academy and the Department of Defense will undertake a thorough investigation.

2. U. S. Dollars to Rhodesia

Q. Can you confirm the Washington Post report that Secretary Kissinger will offer \$2 Billion worth of assistance to assist the white population of Rhodesia?

A. I do not want to comment on these ~~premature and~~ speculative reports, ~~when~~, as you know, Secretary Kissinger will be meeting this weekend in Zurich with Prime Minister Vorster to explore ways in which the United States might be helpful in averting the increasing violence in South Africa.

I think it is reasonable to assume that ^{some} assistance ^{would} ~~will~~ be required during a difficult transition period, ^{and} to maintain and foster the development of African economies of the newly independent states. ^{Any} ~~The~~ assistance ^{would} ~~will~~ obviously have to be an international effort, and one in which the U. S. ^{would} ~~will~~ want to play a constructive role. At this point, however, ^{this is} no commitment for any U. S.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: LES JANKA *LJ*
SUBJECT: Morning Press Guidance

You asked for guidance on two big items today -- the stories on Rhodesia and the Air Force Academy scandal.

I propose we take the following line on each of these subjects:

(1) Air Force Academy

Alan Woods recommends that we leave this story to the Air Force Academy. The Superintendent is investigating and there is no need at this time for the White House or DOD to get involved except to express assurances that the problem is being investigated.

(2) Rhodesia

Despite the fact that both the press and Congress will hit us hard on plans to spend \$2 billion, we should describe those stories as premature and speculative, pointing out that Secretary Kissinger will be meeting this weekend in Zurich with Prime Minister Vorster to explore ways in which the United States might be helpful in averting the increasing violence in Southern Africa. (I will have some honed words for you by briefing time on this.)

financial contributions or assistance, and the extent of
any U. S. participation in ~~such~~^{any} international assistance
~~will~~^{would}, of course, be a subject of close consultation with
the Congress.

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RHODESIAN EMBARGO

FYI: Last night the House voted 209 to 187 to defeat the reimposition of the Rhodesian chrome embargo by rejecting a bill which would have repealed the Byrd Amendment. The Byrd Amendment allows Rhodesian chrome to be imported to the U.S. in violation of United Nations sanctions.

Q: What does the President think about the House action rejecting repeal of the Byrd amendment?

A: I think the President's views on this are well known. He favored the repeal of the amendment and hopes that eventually the situation can be remedied.

September 28, 1976

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON RHODESIA

GUIDANCE:

We consider that the statement of the front-line Presidents constitutes an acceptance of the basic scheme that Secretary Kissinger negotiated in Africa. The only point of difference which they raised is that the detailed composition of the transitional government should be left to the Constitutional Conference. We do not believe that will constitute a serious problem.

FYI:

All detailed questions should be referred to State. UnderSecretary William Rogers gave an extensive briefing there yesterday.

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RHODESIA

Q: Yesterday, you were asked what the "next step" will be. Any answer yet?

A: You should really look at the transcript of the press briefing that was held at State on Monday. This was explained in great detail.

Briefly, what happens next is the organizing, by the British, of a conference to settle the details, the processes, the structure, of the interim government in Rhodesia.

The date and place of this conference is not yet set; a British Minister of State is in southern Africa now working out these details.

Also, there will be a series of tri-partite talks in Washington next week between the U.S., the UK and South Africa to discuss the details of the economic package which has been proposed to support the political settlement.

Q: What is your reaction to new stories out of Africa that the various white and black leaders have not accepted, or were even told about, certain details of the settlement package?

A: Secretary Kissinger spoke on this matter and I have nothing to add to his words:

"I believe that the negotiations will go forward, that right after these negotiations each party will state their conditions in a manner to give itself the greatest room for maneuver. We have been in touch with all of the parties repeatedly. And, in fact, I believe that progress toward negotiations has been made rather than the opposite. We believe that a breakthrough has been achieved, and the problem now is to settle the negotiations. And all parties have expressed their willingness, and indeed their eagerness, to get the negotiations going soon."

"We are really very hopeful that progress towards the negotiations is going to be made rapidly. By the end of the week I would think that within a week or so I would think that this would become evident."

REMARKS TO JEWISH LEADERS ON AID BOYCOTT

Q: Can you confirm the reports, attributed the White House officials, that the President is satisfied with the boycott language in the tax bill?

A: I have had an opportunity to look over the notes of that meeting and I do not find anything the President said to confirm those reports.

The President said that he had not seen the final language of the bill but that he had been told that the language worked out in the conference would permit the intent of the legislation to be carried out without a punitive impact on American Business. The President said he thought this might prove to be a responsible approach to solving problems we saw in the legislation and that Treasury experts would have to work out regulations to implement the provision.

We are still studying the many provisions of that complex bill, and I am not prepared to say whether we are satisfied with any particular language at this time.

MAVERICK SALES KILLED

Q: Is the President pleased that Congressional efforts to kill the sale of Maverick bombs to Saudi Arabia appear dead?

A: We are pleased that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has apparently decided not to proceed with its resolution to terminate this sale.

As Secretary Kissinger said yesterday following his meeting with the SFRC, our position has consistently been that to stop the sale of Mavericks to Saudi Arabia would have a severe impact on our relations out of proportion to the Technical Military issues involved.

Saudi Arabia has been a good friend of the U.S. It has played a stabilizing role in the Middle East and OPEC. It has been helpful in peace efforts and it is in our interest to retain the friendship and the moderate role Saudi Arabia has played. We also believe this is in the interest of Israel as the United States seeks to play a constructive role among all parties in bringing about a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

F.Y.I.: If Asked: There is no issue of blackmail or an oil embargo. HAK said he did not see arms cut off leading to an embargo decision; this issue is rather one of a confident, responsible relationship with Saudi Arabia.

F.Y.I. : Detailed questions should be referred to Asst. Secretary Atherton's superb testimony before the HIRC last Monday.

RHODESIA

Q: Any concern that Nationalists are raising new demands and rejecting the Kissinger Program?

A: I have nothing new to add on the matter of Rhodesia.

Progress is being made in the preliminary discussions leading up to the Conference the British have announced which is scheduled to begin in Geneva on October 25.

I am not going to comment on the statements of the various leaders as they prepare for this conference.

November 5, 1976

POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS ON RHODESIA

Q: Can you confirm reports that the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia has been postponed indefinitely with no agreement yet reached on the date for transition to majority rule?

A: It is my understanding that the Conference has merely adjourned and talks will resume next Monday.

[Refer questions on detail to State. FYI: It is true that the parties have not yet reached agreement on the precise date for transition to majority rule; however, this issue will undoubtedly be pursued further when negotiations resume next week.]

SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT
ON RHODESIA

Q: What is your reaction to the statement by South African Foreign Minister Muller that South Africa will support a peaceful evolution toward majority rule in Rhodesia?

A: I have seen initial press reports to that effect, but have not seen a full text of the Foreign Minister's speech. ~~We welcome~~ ^{the} statement. ~~It represents a constructive attitude within the South African Government which can contribute importantly to the peaceful evolution of Southern Africa. Although there are many obstacles still to be overcome in Southern Africa, we hope progress can be made toward the objectives we hold for Southern Africa.~~

U. S. Policy Towards African Minorities

Q: Mr. President, the Secretary of State has placed the Administration on record as firmly in support of majority rule in Rhodesia. It is unclear what this may involve for the white minority. What is the United States attitude toward the future of whites in Southern Africa?

A: The United States position in support of majority rule is predicated on the proposition that racial justice -- for whites as well as blacks -- is a necessity. Secretary Kissinger stated, and I want to emphasize personally, our firm conviction that whites as well as blacks should enjoy full civil rights and a secure future in Rhodesia. Our support of majority rule most assuredly carries with it the full protection of minority rights.

RHODESIAN DISPUTE

Q: Secretary Kissinger saw Mr. Nkomo of one of the factions of the Rhodesian Nationalists in Lusaka April 27. Does that signal the U.S. is taking sides in Rhodesia?

A: The United States under present circumstances has no intention of taking sides. We hope the Rhodesian majority can be united and I am encouraged by Secretary Kissinger's report to me that he finds this sentiment for unity among African leaders. This meeting with Nkomo has no significance outside the fact it is a part of the Secretary's fact-finding efforts during his trip.

RHODESIAN RECOGNITION

Q: / The Secretary indicated that when he returns to Washington the Administration will communicate clearly and directly with Smith so that he will understand our position. Since we do not recognize Rhodesia, how do you propose to do this?

A: We have a number of ways in which we can communicate our position to Mr. Smith. The important aspect is making clear our position to the Smith regime, not how we do it.

U.S. NATIONALS IN RHODESIA

Q: What did the Secretary mean in saying that the United States would not protect its nationals in Rhodesia?

A: The Secretary's remarks carried no inference that we would not protect US nationals; rather he was pointing out the obvious that we are in no position to provide protection to Americans travelling there due to the absence of diplomatic representation.

BYRD AMENDMENT

Q: Mr. President, the Secretary indicated in his Africa speech that the Administration would urge the Congress to repeal the Byrd Amendment. There has been some criticism by those who favor repeal that the White House has not been willing to play an active part in repeal efforts. Does the Secretary's speech mean that the attitude will change?

A: Since the very first days of my administration I have expressed my opposition to the Byrd Amendment. We have on several occasions urged the Congress and worked with them in order to get repeal legislation through the legislature and that will continue to be our posture.

Q: If the United States repeals the Byrd Amendment won't this mean we will have to rely on the Soviet Union for chrome?

A: The Soviet Union is a traditional supplier of chrome to the US and that relationship did not change with the Byrd Amendment. In addition there are other sources of chrome we can draw upon. In any event, the imposition of sanctions against Rhodesia by Mozambique shuts off Rhodesia's access to the Mozambique ports, thus raising a question as to the availability of Rhodesian chrome until the Rhodesian question is settled.