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6942

1A

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

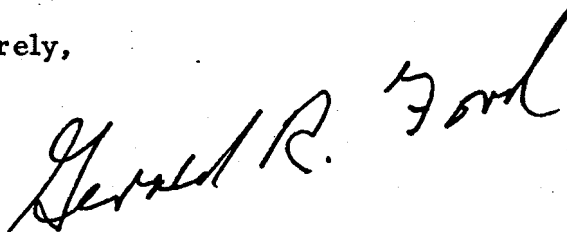
I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26, as well as your personal message of good wishes delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potolot.

I was pleased to learn of your high regard for the contribution our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. William L. Swing, has made to strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. I attach great importance to these relations and to the mutual cooperation we enjoy, such as that exhibited recently at the United Nations General Assembly.

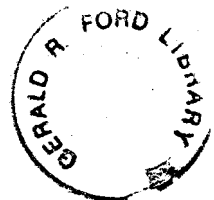
It is in the context of the close ties between our two Governments that I have asked Mr. Swing to seek your agreement to the appointment of a new United States ambassador to your country. I am confident you will find my nominee highly qualified to fulfill this important post in our diplomatic service.

Finally, Mr. President, you may be assured that if you should be visiting our country at some future date I would hope that a mutually agreeable time could be arranged for us to meet in Washington during the course of your visit.

Sincerely,



His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic  
Bangui



1B

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

11/20

IL

Please send the letter to President Bokassa to:

Honorable Edward Mulcahy  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
African Affairs  
Room 6234A  
Department of State



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTONACTION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS

November 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic  
(CAR)

A special emissary recently gave Deputy Secretary Ingersoll a letter from President Bokassa to you praising our Charge<sup>1</sup> in Bangui, William Swing and expressing a desire to visit the United States (Tab B).

In forwarding a suggested reply to Bokassa, the Department of State recommends that you give a positive indication that you would meet with Bokassa should he visit the United States (Tab C). The Department points out that for many years Bokassa has expressed a strong desire to visit the United States; however, for reasons of his own prestige he has refused to make such a visit even on a private basis without some prior assurance that he could meet with you while here.

The Department notes that we now enjoy increasingly productive political relations with the CAR. Bokassa, for example has continued to give us strong support on important international issues. The CAR was one of only four African states to co-sponsor the friendly Korean resolution at the current UNGA, despite heavy pressures to switch to a hostile position. The CAR voted against the Zionism resolution and Bokassa has indicated to us that he intends soon to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Bokassa has standing invitations from several U.S. organizations to visit the United States under their sponsorship, and we understand he would like to come in the spring of 1976. I concur in the Department's recommendation regarding a possible meeting with Bokassa and recommend you indicate you would hope to meet with him should he visit the United States.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS*W 3/3/04*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS

- 2 -

Prior to Bokassa's strong endorsement of Mr. Swing, you had given your approval to the nomination of Anthony Quainton, a career Foreign Service Officer, as our new Ambassador to the CAR. We are now ready to request the Government of the CAR to grant agreement for Ambassador Quainton, and I believe it would be advisable for your letter to Bokassa to make a reference to this fact.

I have attached a suggested reply to Bokassa, including the points recommended above (Tab A). Paul Theis' office has cleared the text of this proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to President Bokassa the letter at Tab A.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - GDS



10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 51875  
MM/BP  
French

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
THE PRESIDENT FOR LIFE AND MARSHAL  
OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bangui, September 26, 1975  
No. 182/CS/PR

Mr. President and Great and Good Friend:

Within the framework of the cordial relations of friendship and cooperation which so fortunately exist between our two countries, and desirous of further strengthening those relations, I have decided to dispatch Joseph Potolot, my Minister of State for Public Works and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, on a special mission to Your Excellency.

This mission, the details of which I am instructing Minister Potolot to explain to Your Excellency, concerns the deep and unanimous desire of my Government to see Your Excellency and the United States Government elevate William L. Swing, currently Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy at Bangui, to the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America in the Central African Republic.

We are not unaware, Mr. President and Great and Good Friend, of the diplomatic practices and requirements involved, but because of the com-

His Excellency  
Gerald Ford,  
President of the  
United States of America,  
Washington, D.C.



petence and above all the effectiveness with which Mr. Swing has performed his duties in the Central African Republic as well as the eminent role which he has played in strengthening the bonds of friendly cooperation between our two countries since assuming command of the Embassy, I am taking the liberty, for the greatest good of our two peoples, of interceding on his behalf with Your Excellency.

I still fervently desire to make the visit of friendship to your powerful and beautiful country which was agreed upon over three years ago with your predecessor but which has always been postponed owing to unexpected events.

It is in this perspective that I commend to Your Excellency my Minister of State Joseph Potolot, in whom I place my full confidence, requesting you to receive him with your customary courtesy and to give entire credence to all that he tells you in my name, more especially when he conveys to you my sentiments of very high esteem.

Accept, Mr. President and Great and Good Friend, the renewed assurances of my very high and friendly consideration.

[Signature]

Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Marshal of the Central African Republic

[Stamp of the Central African Republic]



*Le Président à Vie,  
Maréchal de la  
République Centrafricaine*



12  
*République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail*

182/CS/PR

Monsieur le Président et Très Cher Grand Ami,

Dans le cadre des cordiales relations  
d'amitié et de coopération qui existent si  
heureusement entre nos deux pays et soucieux

.../...

Son Excellence  
Monsieur Gérard FORD  
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

WASHINGTON D.C.





de renforcer toujours davantage ces relations, j'ai décidé de dépêcher auprès de Votre Excellence Monsieur Joseph POTOLOT, mon Ministre d'Etat chargé des Travaux Publics, ancien Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, chargé d'une mission spéciale.

Cette mission dont je charge le Ministre d'Etat Joseph POTOLOT d'expliquer les détails à Votre Excellence, a trait au désir profond et unanime du Gouvernement que je préside et de moi-même, de voir Votre Excellence et le Gouvernement Américain élever au rang d'Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire des Etats-Unis d'Amérique en République Centrafricaine, Monsieur WILLIAM-L-SWING, actuellement Chargé d'Affaires de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis à Bangui.

Nous n'ignorons pas, Monsieur le Président et Très Cher Grand Ami, les usages et les exigences diplomatiques en la matière, mais c'est compte tenu de la compétence et surtout de l'efficacité avec lesquelles Monsieur SWING s'acquitte de sa mission en République Centrafricaine ainsi que du rôle éminemment important qu'il joue dans le renforcement des liens d'amicale coopération entre nos deux pays depuis qu'il assure la Direction de l'Ambassade que je me suis permis, pour le plus grand bien de nos deux peuples, d'intervenir en sa faveur auprès de Votre Excellence.

.../...

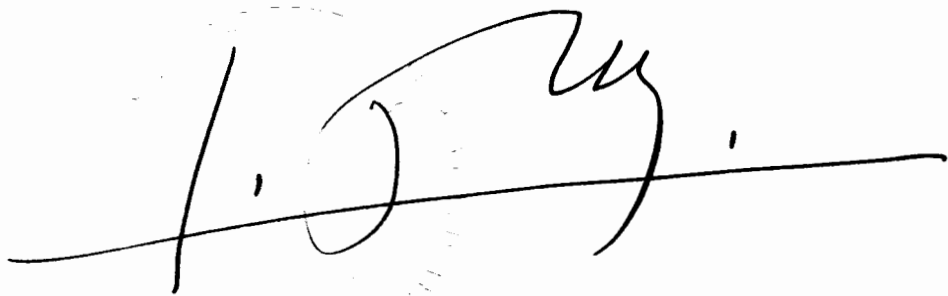


Par ailleurs, je garde toujours présent en la mémoire, le désir fervent d'effectuer un jour dans votre puissant et beau Pays, la visite d'amitié arrêtée depuis plus de trois ans avec votre Prédécesseur, mais qui a toujours été remise par suite de contre temps.

C'est dans cette optique que je recommande auprès de Votre Excellence, le Ministre d'Etat Joseph POTOLOT en qui je place toute ma confiance, en vous priant de le recevoir avec votre bienveillance accoutumée et d'accorder foi et créance à tout ce qu'il vous dira en mon nom, surtout lorsqu'il vous transmettra mes sentiments de très haute estime.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Président et Très Cher Grand Ami, les assurances renouvelées de ma très haute et amicale considération.

Bangui, le 26 septembre 1975

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jean-Bedel BOKASSA

Maréchal de la République Centrafricaine



16

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 12th 1975

General -

State recommends the President meet with Bokassa should he come to the United States. The only value I can see would be to support one who has stood with us on the Korean and Zionism votes and who may be the first to re-establish relations with Israel. A low profile visit with a short Presidential meeting would reinforce the "carrot" side of our voting diplomacy.

Bokassa is one of the last of the old semi-literate non-commissioned French army officers who has "ruled" his country since independence. He salutes when sharply nudged.

A few years ago a national holiday and festival was held when Bokassa claimed to have found the illegitimate daughter he fathered while serving in Vietnam in the early 1950's. She lived in regal splendor in the President's palace for months before being discovered as a fraud.

*Art*



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

6942

Tab 7 fwd to TI 11/18  
14 AM  
Jobs I + A retyped

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

ACTION

November 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: Hal Horan *HH*

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic  
(CAR)

Deputy Secretary Ingersoll recently met with a special emissary of President Bokassa, who delivered a letter from Bokassa to the President praising our Chargé in Bangui and stating his often-repeated desire to visit the United States (and, by inference meet with the President) (Tab B).

While in the past we have discouraged any optimism on Bokassa's part for a presidential meeting, the Department is now recommending that the President give a positive indication to Bokassa that he would hope to meet with him should he visit the United States (Tab C). The Department notes our increasingly productive political relations with the CAR, including support on the Korean question and a recent indication by Bokassa that he plans to re-establish relations with Israel. Bokassa expects something in return and what he wants most of all is a call on the President.

I concur in the Department's recommendation and suggest that the President's response to Bokassa indicate that if he "should be visiting our country at some future date [the President] would hope that a mutually agreeable time could be arranged for [them] to meet in Washington." (See Tab A)

In addition to the above, the suggested presidential response takes note of Bokassa's high regard for our Chargé in Bangui but states

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

*HH 3/3/04*



that we are seeking CAR agreement to the appointment of a new United States ambassador. In fact, our Embassy in Bangui is holding a request for agreement for Anthony Quainton, a career Foreign Service Officer, pending receipt of the President's letter.

Paul Theis' office concurs in the text of the suggested letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to the President the memo at Tab I.





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S-7521934  
XR-7520588

6942  
(add-on)

11

November 6, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Response by President Ford to letter dated  
September 26 from Central African Republic's  
(CAR) President, Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Ref : Springsteen/Scowcroft memo dated October 16, 1976

A letter from President Bokassa to President Ford, dated September 26, was delivered to Deputy Secretary Ingersoll by a special emissary on October 3, 1975. The emissary also delivered a verbal message of good will and encouragement from Bokassa to the President. A translation of the French text of Bokassa's letter and a suggested reply by President Ford were transmitted to the White House as attachments to the referenced memorandum. (Tab 2). Intervening events, including the CAR's strong support on key UN issues, have necessitated a revision of the suggested reply. (Tab 1).

The two main points raised in Bokassa's letter pertain to his desire to have the current U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Bangui, William L. Swing, appointed as the new U.S. Ambassador to the CAR and his desire to make a visit of friendship to the United States.

Nomination of U.S. Ambassador to CAR

Prior to the delivery of Bokassa's letter, preparations were well advanced for nominating a new U.S. Ambassador to the CAR. We are now ready to request the Government of the CAR to grant agreement. However, in the light of Bokassa's strong endorsement of Charge Swing, we believe it would be advisable that President Ford's reply make reference to his new Ambassadorial nominee, and that the reply be delivered at the same time as agreement is requested, with a view to facilitating a timely, positive response to that request.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS

lra 3/3/04



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Bokassa's Visit to the U.S.

For many years Bokassa has expressed a strong desire to visit the United States; however, for reasons of his own prestige he has refused to make such a visit, even on a private basis, without some prior assurance that he can meet with the President while here. We have been firm in discouraging any optimism on Bokassa's part for such a meeting. As a result, Bokassa has felt increasingly frustrated and the issue has caused an underlying strain in our otherwise good relations. He felt particularly humiliated in 1973 when, after having accepted an invitation from a private U.S. organization, he left the CAR for a private visit to this country (in conjunction with a state visit to Haiti) only to be informed en route that President Nixon would not be able to receive him. He abruptly cancelled the extensive plans for his visit and returned to the CAR.

In spite of this irritant in our relations, Bokassa has continued to give us strong support on important international issues. The CAR was one of only four African states to co-sponsor the friendly Korean resolution at the current UNGA, despite heavy pressures from communist and Third-World sources to switch to a hostile position. We will continue to need CAR's support on this and other important issues. Bokassa, for his part, has indicated to us that he expects something in return and a meeting with the President is clearly what he wants.

Bokassa still has standing invitations from several private U.S. organizations to visit the United States under their sponsorship. We understand he would like to come in the spring of 1976. Although we regard a state or official visit for Bokassa as out of the question, we do believe U.S. interests in maintaining our productive political relations with the CAR warrant a positive indication from the President that he would meet with Bokassa should the latter make a private visit to the U.S.

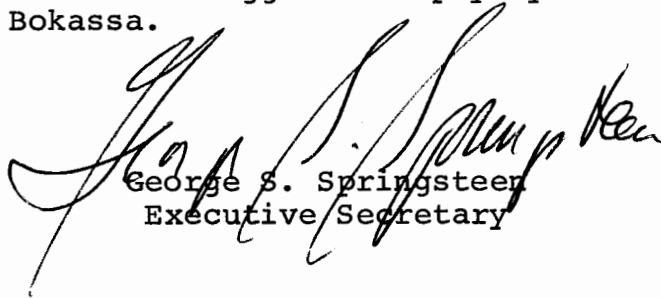
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -


In view of the foregoing, the Department herewith transmits a revision of the suggested reply by President Ford to President Bokassa.

  
George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Revised suggested reply
2. Springsteen/Scowcroft memo of October 16 (with attachments)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~







DEPARTMENT OF STATE 7520588

Washington, D.C. 20520

6942

15

October 16, 1975

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter to President Ford from  
Central African Republic's (CAR)  
President, Jean-Bedel Bokassa

The attached letter from President Bokassa to President Ford was delivered to Deputy Secretary Ingersoll by a special emissary. The emissary also delivered a verbal message of good will and encouragement from Bokassa to the President. A translation of the French text of Bokassa's letter and a suggested reply by President Ford are also attached.

*George S. Springsteen*  
George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

As stated

UNCLASSIFIED



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 51875  
MM/BP  
French

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
THE PRESIDENT FOR LIFE AND MARSHAL  
OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bangui, September 26, 1975  
No. 182/CS/PR

Mr. President and Great and Good Friend:

Within the framework of the cordial relations of friendship and cooperation which so fortunately exist between our two countries, and desirous of further strengthening those relations, I have decided to dispatch Joseph Potolot, my Minister of State for Public Works and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, on a special mission to Your Excellency.

This mission, the details of which I am instructing Minister Potolot to explain to Your Excellency, concerns the deep and unanimous desire of my Government to see Your Excellency and the United States Government elevate William L. Swing, currently Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy at Bangui, to the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America in the Central African Republic.

We are not unaware, Mr. President and Great and Good Friend, of the diplomatic practices and requirements involved, but because of the com-

His Excellency  
Gerald Ford,  
President of the  
United States of America,  
Washington, D.C.



petence and above all the effectiveness with which Mr. Swing has performed his duties in the Central African Republic as well as the eminent role which he has played in strengthening the bonds of friendly cooperation between our two countries since assuming command of the Embassy, I am taking the liberty, for the greatest good of our two peoples, of interceding on his behalf with Your Excellency.

I still fervently desire to make the visit of friendship to your powerful and beautiful country which was agreed upon over three years ago with your predecessor but which has always been postponed owing to unexpected events.

It is in this perspective that I commend to Your Excellency my Minister of State Joseph Potolot, in whom I place my full confidence, requesting you to receive him with your customary courtesy and to give entire credence to all that he tells you in my name, more especially when he conveys to you my sentiments of very high esteem.

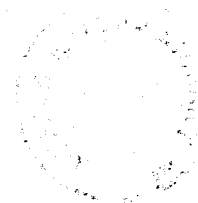
Accept, Mr. President and Great and Good Friend, the renewed assurances of my very high and friendly consideration.

[Signature]

Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Marshal of the Central African Republic

[Stamp of the Central African Republic]



SUGGESTED REPLY

at 10  
16

RRR

Dear Mr. President:

~~I wish to acknowledge~~ *Thank you for* your letter of September 26 *and*  
~~as well as~~ your personal message of good wishes *which was*  
delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State  
Joseph Potolot,

I ~~was~~ *am* pleased to learn of your high regard for the  
contribution ~~which~~ our Charge d'Affaires, ~~the~~ William L.  
Swing, ~~has~~ made to strengthening the warm relations between

our two countries. Because of the value ~~which~~ we place  
*(you may be sure that your recommendations will receive full consideration)*  
on these relations, ~~you may be~~ *also* sure that the United States

will continue to send to your country representatives of  
the highest professional caliber. ~~It will be regretted that~~  
~~you may also be assured,~~

*If the* ~~Mr. President,~~ that other matters raised in your letter, *Mr. President,*  
including your plans for an eventual visit to this country,  
will ~~continue to~~ receive our full and careful attention.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic,  
Bangui.



ACTION~~CONFIDENTIAL - GDS~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic  
(CAR)

A special emissary recently gave Deputy Secretary Ingersoll a letter from President Bokassa to you praising our Charge' in Bangui, William Swing and expressing a desire to visit the United States (Tab B).

In forwarding a suggested reply to Bokassa, the Department of State recommends that you give a positive indication that you would meet with Bokassa should he visit the United States (Tab C). The Department points out that for many years Bokassa has expressed a strong desire to visit the United States; however, for reasons of his own prestige he has refused to make such a visit even on a private basis without some prior assurance that he could meet with you while here.

The Department notes that we now enjoy increasingly productive political relations with the CAR. Bokassa, for example has continued to give us strong support on important international issues. The CAR was one of only four African states to co-sponsor the friendly Korean resolution at the current UNGA, despite heavy pressures to switch to a hostile position. The CAR voted against the Zionism resolution and Bokassa has indicated to us that he intends soon to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Bokassa has standing invitations from several U.S. organizations to visit the United States under their sponsorship, and we understand he would like to come in the spring of 1976. I concur in the Department's recommendation regarding a possible meeting with Bokassa and recommend you indicate you would hope to meet with him should he visit the United States.

~~CONFIDENTIAL - GDS~~

Gm 3/3/04



CONFIDENTIAL - GDS

- 2 -

Prior to Bokassa's strong endorsement of Mr. Swing, you had given your approval to the nomination of Anthony Quainton, a career Foreign Service Officer, as our new Ambassador to the CAR. We are now ready to request the Government of the CAR to grant agreement for Ambassador Quainton, and I believe it would be advisable for your letter to Bokassa to make a reference to this fact.

I have attached a suggested reply to Bokassa, including the points recommended above (Tab A). Paul Theis' office has cleared the text of this proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to President Bokassa the letter at Tab A.

CONFIDENTIAL - GDS



Dear Mr. President:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26, as well as your personal message of good wishes delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potolot.

I was pleased to learn of your high regard for the contribution our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. William L. Swing, has made to strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. I attach great importance to these relations and to the mutual cooperation we enjoy, such as that exhibited recently at the United Nations General Assembly.

It is in the context of the close ties between our two Governments that I have asked Mr. Swing to seek your agreement to the appointment of a new United States ambassador to your country. I am confident you will find my nominee highly qualified to fulfill this important post in our diplomatic service.

Finally, Mr. President, you may be assured that if you should be visiting our country at some future date I would hope that a mutually agreeable time could be arranged for us to meet in Washington during the course of your visit.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic  
Bangui

Rewrtn:GenS:ms:11/17/75



1P

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26, as well as your personal message of good wishes delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potohot.

I was pleased to learn of your high regard for the contribution our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. William L. Swing, has made to strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. I attach great importance to these relations and to the mutual cooperation we enjoy, such as that exhibited recently at the United Nations General Assembly.

It is in the context of the close ties between our two Governments that I have asked Mr. Swing to seek your agreement to the appointment of a new United States ambassador to your country. I am confident you will find my nominee highly qualified to fulfill this important post in our diplomatic service.

Finally, Mr. President, you may be assured that if you should be visiting our country at some future date I would hope that a mutually agreeable time could be arranged for us to meet in Washington during the course of your ~~stay~~ visit.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic  
Bangui





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

6942

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic  
(CAR)

A special emissary recently gave <sup>Deputy Secretary</sup> Bob Ingersoll a letter from President Bokassa to you praising our Charge in Bangui, William Swing, and expressing a desire to visit the United States (Tab B).

In forwarding a suggested reply to Bokassa, the Department of State recommends that you give a positive indication that you would meet with Bokassa should he visit the United States (Tab C). The Department points out that for many years Bokassa has expressed a strong desire to visit the United States; however, for reasons of his own prestige he has refused to make such a visit even on a private basis without some prior assurance that he could meet with ~~the President~~ while here.

~~In the past the Department has been firm in discouraging any optimism on Bokassa's part for a meeting, to his increasing frustration. In reassessing its stance,~~ the Department notes that we <sup>now</sup> enjoy increasingly productive political relations with the CAR. Bokassa, for example, has continued to give us strong support on important international issues. The CAR was one of only four African states to co-sponsor the friendly Korean resolution at the current UNGA, despite heavy pressures to switch to a hostile position, and ~~most recently~~ Bokassa has indicated to us that he intends soon to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

*The CAR voted against the Korean resolution and*

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

*W 3/3/04*



*and recommend Bokassa*

While I concur in the Department's recommendation regarding a possible meeting with Bokassa, I believe it should be recognized that if you indicate you would hope to meet with Bokassa should he visit the United States, he will consider that tantamount to an invitation and will expect a meeting to be arranged. He has standing invitations from several U.S. organizations to visit the United States under their sponsorship, and we understand he would like to come in the Spring of 1976.

Prior to Bokassa's strong endorsement of Mr. Swing, you had given your approval to the nomination of Anthony Quainton, a career Foreign Service Officer, as our new ambassador to the CAR. We are now ready to request the Government of the CAR to grant agreement for Ambassador Quainton, and I believe it would be advisable for your letter to Bokassa to make a reference to this fact.

I have attached a suggested reply to Bokassa, including the points recommended above (Tab A). Paul Theis' office has cleared the text of this proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to President Bokassa the letter at Tab A.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter of September 26 and your personal message of good wishes which was delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potolot. I also have received a full report of the discussion Minister Potolot had with the Deputy Secretary of State.

Please be assured that the matters raised during that discussion and in your letter will receive our full and careful attention in keeping with our desire to see the friendly relations between our two countries strengthened.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic,  
Bangui.



ACTION

October 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: HAL HORAN *HH*

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic

Deputy Secretary Ingersoll recently met with a special emissary of President Bokassa, who delivered a letter from Bokassa to the President praising our Chargé in Bangui and stating his often-repeated desire to visit the United States.

I do not recommend that we encourage this desire but believe it would be appropriate for the President to acknowledge briefly President Bokassa's letter and the personal message of good wishes delivered by his emissary. Paul Theis' office concurs in the text of the suggested draft at Tab A.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward to the President the memo at Tab I.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic

A special emissary recently gave Bob Ingersoll a letter from President Bokassa to you (Tab B). In his letter Bokassa praises the performance of our Charge in Bangui, Mr. William Swing, and states an often-repeated desire to visit the United States.

While I do not recommend that you encourage this desire, I do recommend that you briefly acknowledge Bokassa's letter. Accordingly, I have attached at Tab A a suggested response. Paul Theis' office concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Bokassa at Tab A.



## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Correspondence with Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President of the Central African Republic

*President*  
A special emissary ~~of President Bokassa~~ recently delivered a letter from Bokassa to you (Tab B), to ~~Deputy Secretary Ingersoll~~. In his letter Bokassa praises the performance of our Charge in Bangui, Mr. Swing, and states an often-repeated desire to visit the United States. *William*

*that* While I do not recommend that you encourage this desire, I do ~~believe it would be appropriate for you to acknowledge briefly~~ *recommend* Bokassa's letter, and his personal message of good wishes to you delivered by his emissary. Accordingly, I have attached a suggested response, *at Tab A* (Tab A). Paul Theis' office concurs, ~~in the text of the letter.~~

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Bokassa at Tab A.



1w

RRR

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26, as well as your personal message of good wishes delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potolot.

I was pleased to learn of your high regard for the contribution ~~which~~ our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. William L. Swing, has made to strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. I attach great importance to these relations and to the mutual cooperation we enjoy, such as that exhibited recently at the United Nations General Assembly.

It is in the context of the close ties between our two Governments that I have asked <sup>Mr.</sup> ~~Charge~~ Swing to seek your agreement to the appointment of a new United States Ambassador to your country. I am confident you will find my nominee ~~highly~~ <sup>highly</sup> qualified to fulfill this important post in our diplomatic service.

Finally, Mr. President, you may be assured that if you should be visiting our country at some future ~~time~~ <sup>date</sup> I would ~~make~~ <sup>hope</sup> every effort to meet with you during the course of your stay,

~~if a mutually agreeable~~ <sup>if a mutually agreeable</sup> ~~time could be arranged for us to meet in Washington~~

Sincerely,

meet in Washington

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic,  
Bangui.



SUGGESTED REPLY

RRR

Dear Mr. President:

~~I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26 <sup>and</sup> ~~as well~~  
<sup>Thank you for</sup> your personal message of good wishes <sup>which was</sup> delivered by your special  
emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potolot. I also have received a  
full report of the discussion Minister Potolot had with the Deputy  
Secretary of State.~~

~~I wish to assure you that the matters raised during that discussion  
and in your letter will receive our full and careful attention in keeping  
with our desire to see the friendly relations between our two countries  
strengthened.~~

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

(Gerald R. Ford)

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic,  
Bangui.





IX

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR				
10	16	10	16	7A	7506942		Horan	

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: KISSINGER, H \_\_\_\_\_

KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_ COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_

SCOWCROFT X \_\_\_\_\_ SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_

DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ ST EX SEC X \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCE: CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
 S/S 7520588 INCLAS LOG IN/OUT

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ LOU \_\_\_\_\_ NO FORN \_\_\_\_\_ NODIS \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_ EYES ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ EXDIS \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_ CODEWORD \_\_\_\_\_

TS \_\_\_\_\_ SENSITIVE \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: lta to Pres for Pres Bokassa of Central African Rep re US & CAR relations

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASCMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO.		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( <u>X</u> )
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ..... ( )
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR ..... ( )
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	<u>X</u>		<u>✓</u>	APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO _____ TO _____ ( )
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ ( )
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: <u>10/26</u>
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE			<u>✓</u>	

*Leonal, m*

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
10/21	HAK	X		Pres to sign ltr to Bokassa	(10/30)
10/23	Horan	S		<del>Update Reps per</del> <sup>SCOWCROFT</sup> (11/3)	
11/2	Scowcroft	X		Pres to sign ltr to Bokassa	(11-18)
11/18	Pres			Sign ltr to Bokassa	
11/20	NSC/S	C		Pres sign ltr to Bokassa	
<p><i>Revised by Horan prior to dispatch</i></p>					

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH 11/20

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: to Hon Mulcahy, Dept of State

CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: \_\_\_\_\_ FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:  
 MAF'D \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

DEC 02 1975

OPEN \_\_\_\_\_

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SF \_\_\_\_\_  
 NSC \_\_\_\_\_  
 WH \_\_\_\_\_ EP \_\_\_\_\_  
 (PA) \_\_\_\_\_ DY \_\_\_\_\_

2/24/20

Mr. Herman

you have

the folder.

This is ADD-on



BTM

Plus - Let's  
release original  
folder to S with  
inclusion of OBE



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 24, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Response by President Ford to  
letter from President Bokassa

Ref: NSC log number 7508317, December 18, 1975

In response to Mrs. Davis' request of December 18, (NSC #7508317), the Department transmitted via the attached memorandum a suggested reply by President Ford to President Bokassa concerning the latter's expressed desire to visit the U.S. during the spring of 1976 and meet with President Ford. The Department recommended that an office call be scheduled during the last two weeks of April and that President Ford sign the suggested reply to Bokassa indicating the meeting would be arranged.

The CAR Foreign Ministry informed us on February 18 that "for obvious domestic political reasons", in the aftermath of the February 3 attempt on Bokassa's life, President Bokassa's planned visit to the U.S. must be postponed. We strongly suspect that the postponement resulted from Bokassa's suspicions, following the arrest and conviction of a local employee of our Embassy in Bangui, that the CIA was behind the assassination plot.

Consequently, Bokassa's December 9 letter has been overtaken by events and does not require a reply by President Ford. We expect to renew our recommendation for a Ford/Bokassa meeting after US/CAR relations, which have been jolted by these events, have been stabilized and Bokassa reschedules his private visit to the U.S.

*George S. Springsteen*  
George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Springsteen/Scowcroft  
memorandum dated February 2, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS

Wn 2/3/76





## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 2, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

## COPIES TO:

D  
P  
M  
S/S-S  
S/P  
AF  
S/CPR  
RF:vhdSubject: Response by President Ford to letter dated  
December 9 from Central African Republic's  
(CAR) President, Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Ref: NSC log number 7508317, December 18, 1975

Attached is a suggested reply by President Ford to CAR President Bokassa's letter of December 9. In his reply, President Ford agrees to a call on him by the CAR President in April.

Bokassa's letter is in response to President Ford's letter of November 20, in which the President expressed the hope of meeting with Bokassa, should the latter make a private visit to the United States and a mutually agreeable date be arranged.

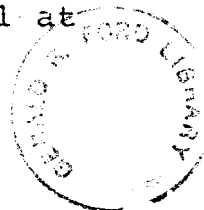
In his letter, Bokassa states that he would like to visit the U.S. during the spring of 1976. A recent Diplomatic Note from the CAR Foreign Ministry specified that Bokassa wishes to begin his U.S. visit on April 15.

We have received strong support and cooperation from Bokassa and his government on several UN issues important to us, including Korea. More recently, Bokassa has actively worked in support of our views on Angola and has been by far the most outspoken African public critic of the Soviet/Cuban intervention there.

The Department wishes to facilitate the planning of the private portion of the Bokassa visit, which is expected to be coordinated by several private U.S. organizations having interests in the CAR. Despite the private nature of his visit, the highlight for Bokassa will be his call at the White House and his meeting with President Ford.

Wm 3/3/76  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

We recommend that an office call by Bokassa on President Ford be scheduled during the last two weeks of April and that the President sign the letter to Bokassa indicating the meeting will be arranged.

*George S. Springs*  
(for) George S. Springs  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Suggested reply
2. English translation and original text of letter dated December 9
3. President Ford's letter of November 20

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY

RECEIVED 3 NOV 8 57

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. President:

In response to your letter of December 9, in which you expressed your desire to make a private visit to the United States during this coming spring, I have directed the American Embassy in Bangui, in cooperation with the White House Staff, to work closely with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs to arrange a mutually agreeable date for our meeting in Washington during the month of April. I hope that we will be able to confirm a date for the meeting in the near future. I look forward to meeting you at that time and discussing matters of common concern for our two countries.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic,  
Bangui.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date:  
 NSC log # 750831

## MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
 Executive Secretary  
 Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

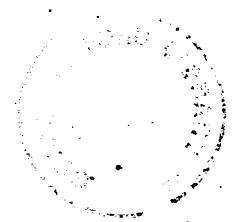
To: President  
 From: Jean Bokassa  
 Date: Dec 9 1975  
 Subject: Ltr in French

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Draft reply for:	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Signature
	<input type="checkbox"/> White House Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Furnish info copy
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendations/Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Handling
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Information

DUE DATE: December 30, 1975

COMMENTS:



*Handwritten signature or initials at the bottom of the page.*

28

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 53403  
WD/BP  
French

The President for Life and  
Marshal of the Central African Republic

Bangui, December 9, 1975

269/CS/PR

Mr. President:

It gave me great pleasure and satisfaction to receive your letter of November 20, 1975, acknowledging receipt of my letter of September 26, 1975, and my personal message which had been transmitted to you by my special envoy, Mr. Joseph Potolot, Minister of Public Works.

I was happy to note that, like myself, you attach great importance to the relations and the spirit of cooperation existing between us, and it is from that standpoint that the Government over which I preside immediately gave its agrément to the nomination of the new Ambassador of the United States of America at Bangui.

But allow me above all to express to you my great gratitude and very sincere thanks for your invitation to visit your great and beautiful country, an invitation which I accept with pleasure and which will give me an occasion to discuss with you all matters conducive to the strengthening of our bilateral relations.

With regard to the date of that visit, I shall await word on it from your Chargé d'Affaires at Bangui, with the hope that it may be scheduled, if possible, in the spring of 1976.

His Excellency  
Gerald R. Ford,  
[The White House]



Accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high and cordial consideration.

[Signature]

Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
Marshal of the Central African Republic



*Put - Please hold 20*  
*— This is file on the*  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
*time being -*

February 6, 1976

TO: Doug Smith in Mr. Hartmann's Office  
1st floor, West Wing, W.H.

FROM: Hal Horan, <sup>44</sup>ext. 5022

SUBJECT: Presidential response to letter from  
CAR President Bokassa.

For your clearance.

1115  
BR  
2/6/76  
make copy of draft  
for Mr. Horan

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. President:

In response to your letter of December 9, in which you expressed your desire to make a private visit to the United States during this coming spring, I have directed the American Embassy in Bangui, in cooperation with the White House Staff, to work closely with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs to arrange a mutually agreeable date for our meeting in Washington during the month of April. I hope that we will be able to confirm a date for the meeting in the near future. I look forward to meeting you at that time and discussing matters of common concern for our two countries.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency  
 Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa,  
 President for Life of the  
 Central African Republic,  
 Bangui.

*OK*  
*J. Smith*  
*1115*  
*6 Feb 76*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date:  
 NSC log # 7508317

## MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
 Executive Secretary  
 Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: President  
 From: Jean Bokassa  
 Date: Dec 9 1975  
 Subject: Ltr in French

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Draft reply for:	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Signature
	<input type="checkbox"/> White House Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Furnish info copy
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendations/Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Handling
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Information

DUE DATE: December 30, 1975

COMMENTS:

*Carlette W. Davis*  
 for Jeanne W. Davis  
 Staff Secretary



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 2, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Response by President Ford to letter dated December 9 from Central African Republic's (CAR) President, Jean-Bedel Bokassa

Ref: NSC log number 7508317, December 18, 1975

Attached is a suggested reply by President Ford to CAR President Bokassa's letter of December 9. In his reply, President Ford agrees to a call on him by the CAR President in April.

Bokassa's letter is in response to President Ford's letter of November 20, in which the President expressed the hope of meeting with Bokassa, should the latter make a private visit to the United States and a mutually agreeable date be arranged.

In his letter, Bokassa states that he would like to visit the U.S. during the spring of 1976. A recent Diplomatic Note from the CAR Foreign Ministry specified that Bokassa wishes to begin his U.S. visit on April 15. 20

We have received strong support and cooperation from Bokassa and his government on several UN issues important to us, including Korea. More recently, Bokassa has actively worked in support of our views on Angola and has been by far the most outspoken African public critic of the Soviet/Cuban intervention there.

The Department wishes to facilitate the planning of the private portion of the Bokassa visit, which is expected to be coordinated by several private U.S. organizations having interests in the CAR. Despite the private nature of his visit, the highlight for Bokassa will be his call at the White House and his meeting with President Ford.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
GDS

Ma 3/3/04



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

We recommend that an office call by Bokassa on President Ford be scheduled during the last two weeks of April and that the President sign the letter to Bokassa indicating the meeting will be arranged.

*George S. Springsteen*  
(fn) George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Suggested reply
2. English translation and original text of letter dated December 9
3. President Ford's letter of November 20

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



2K

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 53403  
WD/BP  
French

The President for Life and  
Marshal of the Central African Republic

Bangui, December 9, 1975

269/CS/PR

Mr. President:

It gave me great pleasure and satisfaction to receive your letter of November 20, 1975, acknowledging receipt of my letter of September 26, 1975, and my personal message which had been transmitted to you by my special envoy, Mr. Joseph Potolot, Minister of Public Works.

I was happy to note that, like myself, you attach great importance to the relations and the spirit of cooperation existing between us, and it is from that standpoint that the Government over which I preside immediately gave its agrément to the nomination of the new Ambassador of the United States of America at Bangui.

But allow me above all to express to you my great gratitude and very sincere thanks for your invitation to visit your great and beautiful country, an invitation which I accept with pleasure and which will give me an occasion to discuss with you all matters conducive to the strengthening of our bilateral relations.

With regard to the date of that visit, I shall await word on it from your Chargé d'Affaires at Bangui, with the hope that it may be scheduled, if possible, in the spring of 1976.

His Excellency  
Gerald R. Ford,  
[The White House,]  
[Washington, D.C.]



Accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high and cordial consideration.

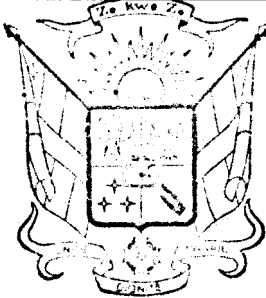
[Signature]

Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
Marshal of the Central African Republic





*Le Président à Vie,  
Maréchal de la  
République Centrafricaine*



*République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail*

26

269/CS/PR

Monsieur le Président,

C'est avec un très grand plaisir et une réelle satisfaction que j'ai reçu votre lettre du 20 novembre 1975 par laquelle vous avez bien voulu accuser réception de ma lettre du 26 septembre 1975 ainsi que de mon message personnel qui vous a été remis par mon envoyé spécial, Monsieur Joseph POTOLOT, Ministre d'Etat Chargé des Travaux Publics.

.../...

Son Excellence Gérard R. FORD

Président des Etats Unis

J'ai été heureux de noter que tout comme moi, vous attachez une grande importance aux relations ainsi qu'à l'esprit de coopération qui règne entre nous et c'est dans cette optique que le Gouvernement que je préside a immédiatement donné son agrément à la nomination du nouvel Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à Bangui.

Mais qu'il me soit surtout permis de vous adresser ma plus haute gratitude et mes très sincères remerciements pour l'invitation que vous avez bien voulu me faire pour visiter votre grand et beau pays, invitation que j'accepte avec plaisir et qui me fournira l'occasion de m'entretenir avec vous sur l'ensemble des questions tendant à renforcer nos relations bilatérales.

S'agissant de la date de cette visite, je m'en remets pour l'essentiel à votre Chargé d'Affaires à Bangui, tout en souhaitant que celle-ci puisse se situer, dans la mesure du possible au printemps de l'année 1976.

Je vous prie d'agr er, Monsieur le  
Pr sident, les assurances de ma tr s haute et  
amicale consid ration.

Fait   Bangui, le 9 d cembre 1975

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'B' with a horizontal line crossing through them.

Jean-Bedel BOKASSA  
Mar chal de la R publique Centrafricaine



2M

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

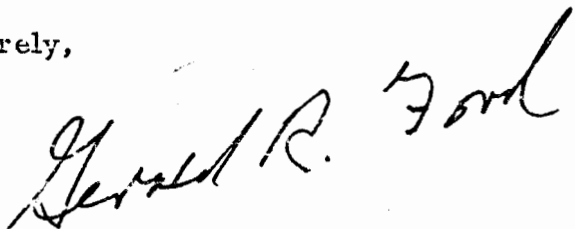
I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 26, as well as your personal message of good wishes delivered by your special emissary, Minister of State Joseph Potoilot.

I was pleased to learn of your high regard for the contribution our Charge' d'Affaires, Mr. William L. Swing, has made to strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. I attach great importance to these relations and to the mutual cooperation we enjoy, such as that exhibited recently at the United Nations General Assembly.

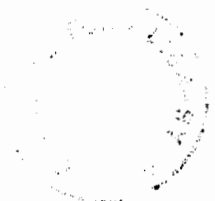
It is in the context of the close ties between our two Governments that I have asked Mr. Swing to seek your agreement to the appointment of a new United States ambassador to your country. I am confident you will find my nominee highly qualified to fulfill this important post in our diplomatic service.

Finally, Mr. President, you may be assured that if you should be visiting our country at some future date I would hope that a mutually agreeable time could be arranged for us to meet in Washington during the course of your visit.

Sincerely,



His Excellency  
Marshal Jean-Bedel Bokassa  
President for Life of the  
Central African Republic  
Bangui



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date: Dec 18 1975  
NSC log # 7508317

MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:


To: President  
From: Jean Bokassa  
Date: Dec 9 1975  
Subject: Ltr in French

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Draft reply for:	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Signature
	<input type="checkbox"/> White House Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Furnish info copy
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendations/Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Handling
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Information

DUE DATE: December 30, 1975

COMMENTS:



*Carleton Agoston*  
for Jeanne W. Davis  
Staff Secretary

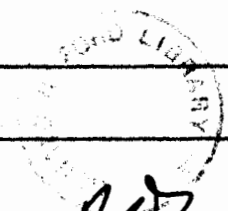
*Staff 20*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

12/16/75

TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*RDL*

Robert D. Linder

2P

12/18

NSC's

Send to SIS

for translation &  
recommendation.

Send copy to Horn.  
Cable



*Le Président à Vie,  
Maréchal de la  
République Centrafricaine*



*République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail*

2R

269/CS/PR

Monsieur le Président,

C'est avec un très grand plaisir et une réelle satisfaction que j'ai reçu votre lettre du 20 novembre 1975 par laquelle vous avez bien voulu accuser réception de ma lettre du 26 septembre 1975 ainsi que de mon message personnel qui vous a été remis par mon envoyé spécial, Monsieur Joseph POTOLOT, Ministre d'Etat Chargé des Travaux Publics.

../...

Son Excellence Gérard R. FORD  
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique  
WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON D.C.



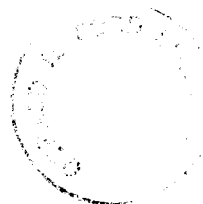


J'ai été heureux de noter que tout comme moi, vous attachez une grande importance aux relations ainsi qu'à l'esprit de coopération qui règne entre nous et c'est dans cette optique que le Gouvernement que je préside a immédiatement donné son agrément à la nomination du nouvel Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à Bangui.

Mais qu'il me soit surtout permis de vous adresser ma plus haute gratitude et mes très sincères remerciements pour l'invitation que vous avez bien voulu me faire pour visiter votre grand et beau pays, invitation que j'accepte avec plaisir et qui me fournira l'occasion de m'entretenir avec vous sur l'ensemble des questions tendant à renforcer nos relations bilatérales.

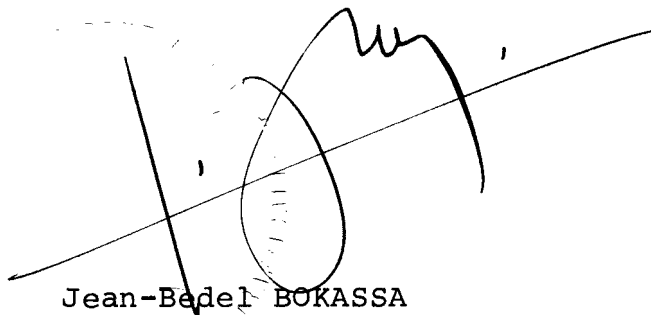
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./.



Je vous prie d'agr er, Monsieur le  
Pr sident, les assurances de ma tr s haute et  
amicale consid ration.

Fait   Bangui, le 9 d cembre 1975

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jean-Bedel BOKASSA  
Mar chal de la R publique Centrafricaine

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
12	9	12	18	14	7508317	

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES X FROM: Bokassa, Jean-Bedel REFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
 KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_ S/S UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT  
 SCOWCROFT \_\_\_\_\_ COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ LOU NO FORN NODIS  
 DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_ C EYES ONLY EXDIS  
 ST EX SEC \_\_\_\_\_ S CODEWORD  
 TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Pres of Central Africa writes Pres Ford in French

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO.		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES (_____)
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS (_____)
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO (_____)
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ (_____)
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? (_____)
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: _____
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
12/10		State	D	translation & Recommendation (12/30)	
2/2				Reul state draft 7504929	
2/3				Horan's Memo for Pres (2-10)	
2/25	Horan	S	C	OBE per Horan	

NSC/S INSTR DISP

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_  
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: \_\_\_\_\_ FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:  
**FEB 27 1976**  
 CRT ID: \_\_\_\_\_ SA SF  
 OPEN HOC HP NS  
 CLOSE MAX WH EP  
 PA DY