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PA/HO Department of State

E.O. 12958, as amended

April 21, 2005

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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- NODIS -

Monday - September 22, 1969
2:00 p.m.

FOR HAK:

Apropos your "supposition" at this morning's staff meeting that there were some errant cables on Nigeria, I had a classic example this morning.

Attached at Tab A is a recommendation from Lagos (telegram 8488) for the arrival statement of our new Ambassador. Aside from the rather strained historical analogy of the United States, the statement ends with a ringing declaration altogether contrary to the President's policy as I understand it (passage underlined).

As per your instruction, I certainly intend to raise a red flag on this with Newsom.

Incidentally, in the same vein, I have attached at Tab B a cable (Lagos's 8484) from Newsom's new Nigerian Office Director, recommending that the President write a love letter to Gowon. I intend to address this cable with Newsom as well.


R Morris

Attachments

Tab A - Lagos's 8488, 9/22.

Tab B - Lagos's 8484, 9/21.

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ACTION SS 70

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O 221412Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9108

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LIMDIS

SUBJECT: DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR TRUEHEART

REF: LAGOS 8484

1. THERE FOLLOWS SUGGESTED DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR TRUEHEART.

BEGIN TEXT. " IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR A NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVING IN A COUNTRY TO ISSUE A STATEMENT CONTAINING PLATITUDES AND GENERALITIES. IT IS TEMPTING FOR ME TO DO SO TODAY. BUT YOU AND I KNOW THE ISSUES FACING NIGERIA TODAY, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PERMIT AVOIDANCE OF CERTAIN HARD AND TROUBLESOME FACTS. IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT IN FACING THESE ISSUES SQUARELY NIGERIANS AND AMERICANS CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.

"FIRST, NIGERIANS ARE FIGHTING NIGERIANS IN A BITTER CIVIL WAR TO RESOLVE WHETHER THIS COUNTRY CAN SURVIVE AS AN IMPORTANT, VIABLE NATIONAL ENTITY--OR WHETHER IT MAY FRAGMENT AS ONE ETHNIC GROUP ATTEMPTS SECESSION. MY GOVERNMENT AND AMERICANS UNDERSTAND THIS TRAGIC DILEMMA. AMERICA'S SURVIVAL AS A NATION WAS ONCE SO THREATENED AND WE FOUGHT A FOUR-YEAR WAR TO INSURE "ONE NATION...INDIVISIBLE..."

"SECONDLY, NIGERIA'S PROBLEM OF RECONCILIATION OF HER DIVERSE ETHNIC GROUPS COULD BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR. AGAIN RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERING PEOPLE BECAUSE OF RACE, RELIGION, AND NATIONAL ORIGIN HAS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN SEIZED FOR YEARS AND WHICH

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NOW EMPLOYS OUR FULLEST ENERGIES AND RESOURCES. AMERICA UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS NIGERIAN PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE.

"THIRDLY, BECAUSE AMERICA IS A FEDERATION OF 50 PROUD AND DIFFERENT STATES, WE APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS IMPLICIT IN NIGERIA'S NEW FEDERAL VS. STATES RELATIONSHIPS.

"OUR COUNTRIES ARE LARGE AND HAVE GREAT ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. MORE IMPORTANTLY, BOTH HAVE GREAT HUMAN TALENT. THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE, YOUR NATION AND MINE, SUCCESSFULLY HARNESSE THE TREMENDOUS HUMAN RESOURCES WITH WHICH WE ARE BOTH ENDOWED MAY BE THE MEASURE BY WHICH WE ARE JUDGED.

"FINALLY, PERMIT ME TO REITERATE FOR THE RECORD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES--REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY COUNTERPROPAGANDISTS TO THE CONTRARY--HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF "ONE NIGERIA". MY GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INNOCENT VICTIMS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WAR, BUT LET NO ONE CONFUSE THIS CONCERN WITH OUR CLEAR POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE "ONE NIGERIA" ON WHICH THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY INSIST.

"WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF THE IBO PEOPLE FOR PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY. THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERN IS REFLECTED CLEARLY IN THE FAR-REACHING SECURITY GUARANTEES IT HAS OFFERED.

"MRS. TRUEHEART AND I ARE GENUINELY PLEASED TO BE HERE. WE SOLICIT YOUR UNDERSTANDING AS WE EMBARK ON OUR FIRST DAYS IN A NEW COUNTRY." END TEXT. GP-3
CLSON

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~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

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Department of State
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Moore tab
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ACTION SS 30

INFO OCT 01/031 W

R 211125Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9105

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EXDIS

FOR NEWSOM FROM BRUBECK AND CHARGE

DEPT PASS ADDIS FOR BRUBECK

1. ON BASIS OUR EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS HERE, INCLUDING TWO HOURS WITH GENERAL GOWON, BELIEVE FOLLOWING MAY BE HELPFUL IN CONSIDERING HOW TO LAUNCH AMB TRUEHEART HERE IN MOST AUSPICIOUS CLIMATE.
2. IN SPITE OF THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT CAUTIOUS AND LIMITED CHARACTER OF OUR SUPPORT, RESENTMENT OF PRESSURES ON THEM ON RELIEF ISSUES (THEY FEEL WE MAKE REPEATED DEMANDS ON THEM WHILE BIAFRAN INTRANSIGENCE IS UNCHALLENGED) FMG STILL REMARKABLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD U.S. THEY HAVE NATURAL ORIENTATION TO AND ADMIRATION FOR U.S. AND, IN PRESENT GLOW OF SATISFACTION OVER THEIR HANDLING OF ICRC PROBLEM, ARE PARTICULARLY WELL DISPOSED. AT SAME TIME, THEY FEEL THEY ARE GIVEN TOO LITTLE CREDIT AND BIAFRANS TOO LITTLE BLAME IN SUCH CASES AS ICRC LIFT. THEY WISH ALSO THAT U.S. STRONG HUMANITARIAN STATEMENTS ON RELIEF WERE MORE OFTEN BALANCED BY CLEAR STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR QTE ONE NIGERIA UNQUOTE AND NEGOTIATIONS TO THAT END, TO MAKE CLEAR OUR RELIEF INTERESTS DO NOT PUT IN QUESTION OUR POLITICAL POSITION. WHAT THEY REALLY WANT FROM US IS PUBLIC VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THEM AND THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA. FINALLY, IT IS CLEAR GEN GOWON FEELS CONSIDERABLE WARMTH FOR PRESIDENT AND WOULD LIKE TO FEEL REAL SUPPORT EXISTS.
3. BELIEVE STATEMENTS FOR TRUEHEART SHOULD REFLECT THE

ALLEN
BERGSTROM
CHAPIN
HALPERIN
HOLDREN
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ABOVE. SPECIFICALLY, MOST VALUABLE WOULD BE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER FOR HIM TO PRESENT, CONVEYING OUR ADMIRATION (NOT APPRECIATION) FOR GOWON HANDLING OF ICRC NEGOTIATIONS AS GOWON'S OWN GENUINE CONCERN AND THAT OF HIS GOVT. FOR THEIR STARVING COUNTRYMEN. SHOULD ALSO RESTATE CLEARLY OUR SUPPORT FOR RECONCILIATION IN NIGERIA (ALONG LINES UNSEC JULY 17TH STATEMENT WHICH FMG WELCOMED).

4. BELIEVE STATEMENT BY TRUEHEART WHEN PRESENTING CREDENTIALS SHOULD BE ALONG SAME LINES WITH PERHAPS SOME EXPRESSION RE CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF NIGERIAN ECONOMY AND NIGERIA'S IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA.
5. EMB TRANSMITTING SEPTEL SUGGEST TEXT ARRIVAL STATEMENT.
OLSON
BT

NNN

NOTE: NOT PASSED ADDIS BY OC/T.

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NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY