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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3701 OF 7 DECEMBER 1981,

INFO KINSHASA

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VISIT TO U S BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITED WASHINGTON FROM 29 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER. HE CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, HAIG, WEINBERGER, AND REGAN, AS WELL AS ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE I M F. WE WERE BRIEFED ON THE VISIT BY LANNON WALKER (STATE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY) AND OAKLEY (U S AMBASSADOR AT KINSHASA).

2. OAKLEY DESCRIBED THE MILITARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE SAID THAT SOME GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN DONE DURING VISITS TO ZAIRE BY LANNON WALKER, GENERAL WALTERS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEST INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANT, PENTAGON) SHORTLY BEFORE MOBUTU'S ARRIVAL IN THE U S. THE AMERICANS WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE LOGISTIC ORGANISATION OF THE ZAIROIS MILITARY, AND HAD CONCENTRATED ON DECIDING HOW BEST TO GET BACK INTO OPERATION EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY ALREADY HAD. (THE MILITARY MISSION CHIEFS IN KINSHASA OF THE U S, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND GERMANY HAD JOINTLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE ZAIROIS APPALLING LOGISTIC STRUCTURE WAS A REAL THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE; THEY HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE FLOW OF MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM WESTERN SOURCES SHOULD BE COORDINATED IN AN OVERALL COLLECTIVE EFFORT.)

3. THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT EVIDENCE OF INCREASED ACTIVITY BY THE F L N C IN ANGOLA. TWO TO THREE HUNDRED F L N C PEOPLE SEEM NOW TO BE BACK INSIDE SHABA, POSSIBLY ENGAGED IN PRELIMINARY SUBVERSION, WHILE A FURTHER THOUSAND GENDARMES HAD CROSSED INTO ANGOLA: SOME OF THESE WERE BEING TRAINED IN CUBA AND EAST GERMANY.



IN THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER, WHILE A FURTHER THOUSAND GENDARMES HAD  
CROSSED INTO ANCOLO: SOME OF THESE WERE BEING TRAINED IN CUBA AND  
EAST GERMANY, WHILE OTHERS WERE BEING USED BY THE ANGOLANS AGAINST  
U N I T A. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS DISCOUNTED SOME INTELLIGENCE  
REPORTS THAT AN ATTACK ON ZAIRE MIGHT TAKE PLACE BEFORE FEBRUARY,  
THEY WERE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT SIGNS OF GROWING PREPAREDNESS AMONG  
THE F L N C AND DIMINISHED ZAIROIS COMPETENCE TO HANDLE THIS THREAT.

4. DURING HIS VISIT, MOBUTU HAD DISCUSSED THIS SITUATION AND  
COMPLAINED THAT HIS OWN OFFICIALS HAD NOT TOLD HIM HOW BAD THE  
LOGISTIC STRUCTURE WAS IN HIS ARMED FORCES. HE HAD AGREED WITH  
SECRETARY OF DEFENCE WEINBERGER THAT IN FUTURE HE WOULD CHAIR (IN  
HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENCE) A QUARTERLY MEETING WITH THE  
AMBASSADORS AND MILITARY MISSION CHIEFS OF GERMANY, U S, FRANCE AND  
BELGIUM. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE U S SHOULD SEND A LOGISTIC  
TEAM URGENTLY TO ADVISE ON SOLUTIONS TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. THIS  
WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KINSHASA ABOUT 14 DECEMBER, AND THE  
AMERICANS WERE ASKING GERMANY, FRANCE AND BELGIUM TO SEND SIMILAR  
TEAMS.

5. IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING THE ORGANISATION OF THE ZAIROIS ARMED  
FORCES AND MODERATELY INCREASING THE OVERALL U S MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMME, THE AMERICANS WERE SEEKING TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF  
EQUIPMENT ALREADY ON ORDER. IT WAS HOPED TO SHORTEN PRESENT DELIVERY  
TIMES OF 1 TO 3 YEARS TO A MATTER OF MONTHS ON SOME ITEMS. IN  
PARTICULAR THE AMERICANS WERE PLANNING TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR  
THE 31ST BRIGADE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE O A U  
PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN CHAD.

6. THE AMERICANS WERE URGING THE FRENCH, GERMANS AND BELGIANS TO  
INCREASE THEIR OWN MILITARY CREDITS OR ACCELERATE EXISTING ONES, AS  
WELL AS GIVING URGENT HELP WITH LOGISTIC RECONSTRUCTION (PARTICULARLY  
WELCOME WAS THE STATIONING OF A BELGIAN Z130 IN ZAIRE). A START  
HAD BEEN MADE AND THE GERMANS HAD ALREADY SAID THAT THEY WERE  
WILLING TO PUT THEIR MILITARY WAREHOUSE IN ZAIRE AT THE DISPOSAL OF  
THE FOUR POWERS.

7. LANNON WALKER DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE TALKS. HE SAID  
THAT FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN DOWNWARDS, U S OFFICIALS HAD INSISTED  
THAT THE I M F AND I B R D AND NOT THE U S OR ITS PARTNERS WERE  
ZAIRE'S SALVATION. THE AMERICANS HAD ASSESSED THAT AT CURRENT  
RATES, ZAIRE WOULD FALL OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FUND PROGRAMME  
BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND WOULD RISK LOSING THE SCHEDULED I M F  
REPLENISHMENT. THERE WAS CONSEQUENTLY A HIGH RISK OF FURTHER ZAIROIS  
DEFAULT ON THE DEBTS. THE AMERICANS HAD DURING THE PRELIMINARY



DEFAULT ON THE DEBTS. THE AMERICANS HAD DURING THE PRELIMINARY MEETINGS MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE OFFERED TO ADVISE THE ZAIROIS ON ECONOMIC STRATEGIC DECISIONS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING, AND THEY HAD ACCORDINGLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN THE FORM OF DRAFT LETTERS FROM MOBUTU TO THE PRESIDENT OF I B R D AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF I M F. THERE WERE THREE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF ADVICE:

(A) THAT ALTHOUGH THE ZAIROIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SET OVERALL POLICY, GECAMINES WOULD BE RUN BY MR ROBERT CREM. SOZACOM WOULD ALSO BE THOROUGHLY REFORMED.

(B) GECAMINES WOULD IN FUTURE HANDLE THE SALE OF ITS OWN PRODUCTS THROUGH TO THE END, RATHER THAN HAVE SOZACOM HANDLE THESE.

(C) THAT THE CURRENT ZAIROIS ECONOMIC TEAM WOULD REMAIN IN POST UNTIL THE END OF THE FUND PROGRAMME. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE WOULD BE THE SOLE POINT OF CONTROL FOR ALL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING THOSE BY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

8. MOBUTU HAD TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT HE WAS WILLING TO DO THIS BUT WOULD PREFER NOT TO WRITE IT DOWN FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE HAD ASKED THE AMERICANS TO TELL THE I M F AND BANK PRIVATELY THAT HE WOULD IMPLEMENT SUCH STEPS (WITHOUT REVEALING THAT THE U S HAD SUGGESTED THEM.) HOWEVER, AT AMERICAN URGING, HE EVENTUALLY SENT LETTERS SETTING OUT IN BROAD TERMS HIS INTENTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE I B R D, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF I M F AND PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE ONLY POINTS LEFT UNMENTIONED WERE THAT AN EXPATRIOT WOULD BE PLACED IN CHARGE OF GECAMINES AND THAT THE ECONOMIC TEAM WOULD REMAIN IN PLACE, ALTHOUGH HE ASSURED THE AMERICANS VERBALLY THAT THIS WOULD IN FACT HAPPEN.

9. THE AMERICANS EMPHASISED THAT ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD THE ZAIROIS BE TOLD THAT WE WERE AWARE THAT THE AMERICANS HAD SUGGESTED THIS PROGRAMME AND HAD VIRTUALLY FORCED IT UPON MOBUTU.

10. WALKER HOPES THAT U S ALLIES WOULD NOW TALK DISCREETLY TO THE BANK AND FUND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE QUICKLY IN PINNING DOWN SPECIFICS NOW THAT MOBUTU HAS TAKEN GENERAL POLITICAL DECISIONS WHICH ALLOWED PROGRESS TO BE MADE.

11. THE ABOVE BRIEFING WAS PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR THE FRENCH, GERMANS AND BELGIANS, AND IT WAS ONLY BY CHANCE THAT WE ALSO ATTENDED.

HENDERSON.