



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

He's not your
favorite person : and
it's already a difficult
week.

But long-term it's an
important country : and both
President Reagan & President
Mitterand have seen him.

Agree to brief
meeting?

CDP 24/9
Yes mt



file Mo
of P Cason

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1984

ZAIRE: VISIT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU

Thank you for your letter of 24 September, about President Mobutu's request to call on the Prime Minister later this week.

The Prime Minister agrees to see President Mobutu for a brief meeting and can manage 1815-1845 on Thursday, 27 September. I should be grateful if an invitation in this sense could be conveyed through the Zaire Ambassador.

Would you please let me have briefing by tomorrow evening and arrange for an experienced interpreter to be present. I should also be grateful if the Department could ensure that the numbers attending on this Zairean side are restricted to President Mobutu himself, his Foreign Minister (if present) and the Ambassador.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CS

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 September 1984

Dear Charles,

Zaire: Visit of President Mobutu

The Zairean authorities informed us today that President Mobutu intends to pay a brief private visit to London on Thursday 27 September on his way back to Zaire from the United States. The Zairean Embassy have asked if a call on the Prime Minister could be arranged for the afternoon of Thursday 27 September or, depending on the President's time of arrival in London, the morning of Friday 28 September.

This very short notice is deplorable, especially as the Foreign Secretary will be in New York for the UN General Assembly at the time. There are, however, some arguments in favour of a positive response. The Foreign Secretary is keen to see more substance in our relations with this large and strategically important pro-Western country (in which we have investments of some £80m). It was against that background that the Prime Minister, as you may recall, sent a message to President Mobutu following Mr Botha's visit in June. Mobutu has played a useful role in supporting the objectives of the West in Chad, and because of his good relations with Savimbi may have a role to play in the Angola/Namibia problem.

It would therefore be most useful if the Prime Minister could spare the time to see him. A 30 minute call would suffice.

On his way to the USA, where he was received by President Reagan, Mobutu stopped over in Paris, also at very short notice, and called on President Mitterrand. We believe that he also plans to visit Bonn and Rome before returning to Zaire. Earlier this year he paid an official visit to Belgium. He last visited the UK, as the guest of HM Government, in 1981.

If the Prime Minister agrees to receive him, we will, of course, forward briefing in the normal way.

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq³
10 Downing Street

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CONFIDENTIALPRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU, 27 SEPTEMBER

He is coming at 6.15 p.m. for half
an hour. Accompanied by his Foreign
Minister and Ambassador.

John Johnson, new Under-Secretary
for Africa, will come from the FCO.

I suggest the White Drawing Room.
Card attached.

Math. Lawer Duty Clerk
pp. C.D.P.

26 September 1984CONFIDENTIAL



MOBUTU SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU wa za BANGA

President of the Republic and Marshal of Zaire

1. Mobutu deposed President Kasavubu in a bloodless coup in 1965 and assumed Presidential power. He visited the UK in December 1973, (State Visit) and as a guest of HMG in December 1981, when he called on the Prime Minister.
2. Mobutu's power initially rested on the Army. He still surrounds himself with tight security and a network of informers, but Mobutu is respected by many Zaireans, often grudgingly, for the energy and single-mindedness with which he has successfully restored peace, stability and unity to the country, thanks largely to his ability to steer the internal politics of Zaire, which are complicated by diverse tribal and regional aspirations.
3. In the early years of his Presidency, Mobutu often felt insecure and this led him to extreme policies internally. His personal authority has greatly increased and he now rules supreme. He is extremely corrupt (and one of the richest men in the world). A nepotist who finds it impossible to deny advancement to his relatives and fellow tribesmen. He is surrounded by people from his own region (Equateur).
4. Despite his profession of non-aligned views, he has in general been anti-communist. He is well versed in European culture and politics, an effective writer and orator. Despite his nationalist convictions, he is amenable to foreign, basically Western influence, while insisting on his right to differ. Since 1983 he has shown himself increasingly aware of the need for economic and financial discipline and has become, for lack of an alternative, very responsive to proposals of the IMF.



5. He was re-elected for a 7-year term as President on 29 July 1984. (He was the sole candidate). Now aged 53, his health has been the subject of some speculation in recent years.

6. Speaks no English.

UMBA di LUTETE

1. State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation since November 1983. Member of MPR Central Committee. Born 1939 in Zaire.

2. Graduated in law from Lovanium University, Kinshasa and in International Maritime Law in Brussels. Has served, since 1967, in a number of Ministerial positions and has long experience both as Foreign Minister and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He is close to President Mobutu, and an able and effective exponent of the President's thinking. Can be a tough and sometimes difficult negotiator. Personally affable, but vain. Understands English if spoken slowly, but prefers not to speak it. He visited UK officially in February 1984 and called on the Secretary of State and Mr Rifkind.

3. Thought likely to lose his post in the next reshuffle, not least because the Zairean Government was embarrassed by the discovery of drugs in the luggage of a member of his party during a recent official visit to Europe.



CITOYEN MUKAMBA KADIATA NZEMBA, Zairean Ambassador to London
Appointed September 1984

1. Citoyen Mukamba was born in 1930 in Tshikapa, Zaire. He completed his primary and secondary education in Kabwe (Zaire) and studied Administration, Political Science and Diplomacy at Lovanium (campus name for Kinshasa) University.
2. He began his public service career in 1955 in Kinshasa. His early career was spent in regional government. He served as Governor in three provinces.
3. Citoyen Mukamba's diplomatic career began 12 years ago when he was appointed Ambassador to Uganda in 1972. Since then he has served successively as Ambassador in Sudan, Italy and Switzerland.
