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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Bilateral Discussion with President Sese Seko Mobutu of the Republic of Zaire

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.
The President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
John Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President
for Press Relations
Karl D. Jackson, NSC, Notetaker

Zaire
President Sese Seko Mobutu
Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguz-a-Karl-i-Bond
Special Counsellor Nkema Liloo
Director of President's Office Mokonda Banza
Murairi Mitima, Ambassador to Japan

DATE, TIME February 24, 1989, 5:25 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
AND PLACE: Ambassador's Residence, Tokyo, Japan

President Bush: I am interested in hearing from you on any subject. I am encouraged by recent developments in Angola. Our position continues to be one of supporting Savimbi. Zaire can take part of the credit for the Cubans leaving.

President Mobutu: My impression is that things are going well. Some Palestinians are still training former soldiers from Katanga with Cuban and East German assistance. We briefed Senators Nunn and Boren on these matters.

President Bush: Rest assured that the Senators conveyed this information to me at the White House upon their return.

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President Mobutu: We also briefed a second congressional delegation in Zaire two weeks ago. We fear for our security. We lack air power and need anti-tank weapons to counteract Angolan forces.

President Bush: Do you really worry about an actual attack?

President Mobutu: This is of ever greater concern. The Chief of Staff of Angola was in Portugal recently where he let it be heard that an action against Zaire had already been decided upon at the political level.

President Bush: But with the Cubans leaving and Savimbi still in the field, this would seem rather foolish.

President Mobutu: Not all Cubans will be withdrawn. Some of them have taken up citizenship in Angola.

President Bush: Do Angolans like the Cubans? Savimbi told me that Cubans fly in and pick up their dead while leaving Angolan wounded on the field.

President Mobutu: There is a profound cleavage within the Angolan leadership between blacks, who are firmly anti-Cuban, and those of mixed ancestry, who remain close to the Cubans.

President Bush: When we last talked about Belgium, I did not want it to seem as if I was interfering in your internal affairs.

President Mobutu: No, I understand.

President Bush: As we look at financial requirements and our relationship with Belgium, I would be remiss if I did not say that we favor the resolution of your problems with Belgium.

President Mobutu: What is happening between a former metropolitan power and a former colony is very painful. In the spirit of the Toronto summit, the Belgian Prime Minister indicated that Belgium wanted to make a gesture, a government-to-government loan. Our debt is 5 billion francs and the offer was to forgive 1 billion. In reply, we told him that for the sake of our relationships, other countries, such as Canada, Italy, West Germany, and France had cancelled much larger portions of the debts owed them by Zaire. I told them that Belgium could not do less than other countries. Belgian wealth resulted from what was siphoned out of Zaire. Zaire did not get anything from the sale of its uranium. Only eleven days after Zaire's independence, Belgian citizens declared succession with the help of Belgian

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