

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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08. Memcon	Re: Meeting with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (5 pp.)	3/13/90	(b)(1)	C

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Scowcroft, Brent, Files
Series: Presidential Correspondence
Subseries: Presidential Memcons
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Presidential Meetings - Memorandum of Conversations 2/22/90 - 4/11/90

Document Partially Declassified
(Copy of Document Follows)
By CSA (NLGB) on 10/16/10

Date Closed: 1/26/2009	OA/ID Number: 91107-008
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0275-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #: 2000-0429-F(159)	MR Case #:
AR Disposition: Released in Part	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date: 8/31/2009	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

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- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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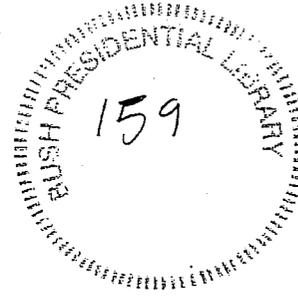
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1965



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Ordway, Director for Africa, NSC Staff (notetaker)

President Chissano
Francisco Madeira, Presidential Advisor (notetaker)

DATE, TIME March 13, 1990, 11:10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: With your permission, I thought we could chat here for a few minutes. We have our top players who are interested in what our views are next door. First, however, I want to say how happy I am to see you here. (U)

President Chissano: I am very happy to have come. It was a very timely invitation. (U)

The President: Is there anything you want to raise here? I know our experts are waiting, but if there is anything you would like to discuss more privately, just go ahead. (U)

President Chissano: No. (U)

The President: I do want to talk about the negotiating process. And there is another thing, although I realize this is an internal affair. I know you are proud of what you have been doing with political reform, but I wanted to tell you that going toward a multiple party system would get a lot of support here in the U.S., and in other countries as well. (U)

[REDACTED SECTION]

These are the subjects I wanted to talk about here. (U)

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The President: That would be good. Speaking about that area, I am very encouraged about the two Yemens getting together. (C)

President Chissano: I would like to offer you this, Mr. President. [Hands over a copy of the draft constitution.] (C)

The President: It's brand new? January 1990. What support are you getting from the people? Good? (C)

President Chissano: Very good. And this invitation from you to visit Washington is also very good support. (U)

The President: Really? It's a good signal? (U)

President Chissano: If it is seen that you are supporting this, that is very important. (U)

The President: We want to say whatever is helpful. We have respect for what you are doing, and know it is difficult. You have regional problems, RENAMO, poverty. But I have the greatest respect for the direction in which you are moving. I hope this visit symbolized that. (C)

President Chissano: Your invitation came just when we were deciding to move to direct talks. (C)

The President: What do they want, RENAMO? (C)

President Chissano: We are trying to find out. They say they want talks without preconditions. We prepared some principles, but these were not preconditions. But we never did find out what they wanted, other than to move us out of power. (C)

Now they are saying, come, let us discuss. They want me to say that they are a political party. But to do that, we would have to change the constitution. We are prepared to do that, but they must participate in the discussion about the constitution, and argue their case. We have made changes in the constitution, but we have not yet decided on the party system. This must be discussed on its own. After discussion, we will include the result into the constitution. (C)

Whatever the conclusion on parties, we have seen to it that there will always be the possibility of independent candidates, even if we maintain for some time the one-party system. If there is consensus on a multi-party system, we have nothing against that. We have even put together three or four advantages of a multi-party system, and then what the specific problems are in Mozambique. More than 70 percent illiteracy. Many different ethnic groups, languages and religions. And, it's a question of

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tradition. There is no habit of this in Mozambique. FRELIMO has been the only political vehicle. We are the party, the army, the state, everything. Now, we have to put things in their appropriate places. But we have to prepared the people's minds for that. We have to understand how a multi-party system fits. If it doesn't fit now, then perhaps in five years. (C)

The President: The more you can demonstrate openness in your political system, the better it is. You need what works, though.

(C)

President Chissano: For us it is an open question. We will produce an electoral law supposing that a multi-party system will be adopted. Another electoral law supposing that it is not adopted. Once we see the trend, we will bring them out. But we don't want to prejudge the results. If the people accept it because the President says so, it does not mean that they will adapt to it. (C)

[Provides copy of pamphlet by Oscar Monteiro on democracy, explaining that he found it to be very interesting.] (U)

Meeting adjourns to Cabinet Room. (U)

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