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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]
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- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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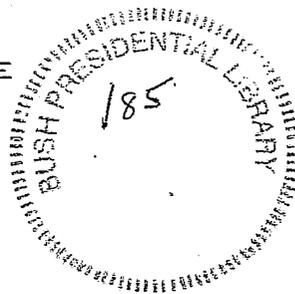
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- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Abdou Diouf of Senegal

PARTICIPANTS:

The President
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
and National Security Advisor
Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President
and Press Secretary
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President
and Deputy National Security Advisor
Herman J. Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State
for African Affairs
John M. Ordway, NSC Staff (notetaker)
Alec Toumayan, (interpreter)

President Abodu Diouf
Moussa Toure, Minister of Finance
Abdoul Aziz Diop, Minister Delegate for
Planning
Ibra Deguene Ka, Senegalese Ambassador to the
U.S.

DATE, TIME May 14, 1990, 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: It's wonderful to see you. I know this is a private visit, but I want to hear what you have to say. I have followed your remarkable Presidency. Maybe when you know someone personally, you take more of an interest. I am delighted you are here. (U)

President Diouf: Thank you, Mr. President. I want you to know that not only is this meeting a sign of the special relationship between Senegal and the U.S., but this visit comes in the framework of personal friendship. It is thanks to this that we have achieved this relationship, strengthened by our joint vision, and mutual understanding between the two of us. (U)

We can do more in the future, both in bilateral cooperation and in the context of our joint efforts to achieve greater peace in the world, a more just world, showing more solidarity. (U)

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CA 6/21/2009

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With regard to bilateral cooperation, things are going very well. The only request we would make is in regard to the amount of assistance. If it could be a bit more substantial. But the quality of your assistance is at its best. ~~(S)~~

The President: I believe we are providing about \$40,000,000 this year? ~~(S)~~

Ambassador Moose: About \$42,000,000 this year. We have been averaging about \$40,000,000 recently. ~~(S)~~

The President: I share your view on the close cooperation between our two countries, and the overall relationship. The levels of funding are very tough. We are in big battles with the Congress on funding levels for foreign assistance. This ties into our mega-economic problem, with our massive budget deficit. We will do the best we can, since you have been helpful in every way. I am listening very carefully to what you say. ~~(S)~~

President Diouf: Perhaps there are ways to go beyond what you are doing. For instance, Senegal is not getting PL-480 Title III. This area could be studied, to see why Senegal is no longer a beneficiary of PL-480 Title III. ~~(S)~~

The President: Will you be seeing some of our experts, the new AID administrator, Mr. Rosken, Agriculture? (U)

Ambassador Moose: He will be seeing the AID Administrator, but not Agriculture. (U)

The President: We will encourage them to be as helpful as possible. (U)

President Diouf: Regarding military assistance, we appreciate what has been done, but the figures for the current two years show a decline. My chief of staff will be received at the Pentagon tomorrow and will discuss this with them. Again, let me thank you for the assistance we have gotten, and the very good terms. ~~(S)~~

The President: What are your priorities? What, not in detail, are your major defense requirements? ~~(S)~~

President Diouf: We need help in the military area, for the army. Your assistance has been to support the effort of the Senegalese army to contribute to national development, equipment for civil engineering works. For the navy, your cooperation is best exemplified by the naval base you built. This enables us to better monitor our fishing resources. We have been able to defend our coastal areas. This is important to defending the

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national economy, since there is considerable smuggling in our area. ~~(C)~~

Also, I would like to highlight your efforts in the air area, where you have helped in the struggle against locusts. You have made available aircraft with a large amount of spraying capacity. (U)

Regarding defense cooperation, we also see a key role being played by your energetic diplomatic approach when our neighbors went beyond the borders of the permissible -- I am referring to the problem with Mauritania. ~~(C)~~

The President: I wanted to ask you about that. (U)

President Diouf: When I hear Mauritania is trying to escalate tensions, threatening to wage war against Senegal, I ask that Ambassador Moose be notified, even in the middle of the night, so that the U.S. Government will know and can act to make demarches to the Government of Mauritania. ~~(C)~~

The President: Is there any prospect for a greater mediation effort by President Mubarak? I know that has been tried, it is logical. ~~(C)~~

President Diouf: Mubarak is a man of good will and good faith. He has worked on the problem, and we accept Mubarak's proposals. But every time he turns to Mauritania, the Mauritians turn him down. I was in Cairo, in Mubarak's office, and he offered the following solution. First, resumption of diplomatic relations. Second, resumption of air relations. Third, a meeting between the two presidents to unblock the situation. I agreed, and Mubarak was very happy. He phoned President Taya, who was reluctant, and said he would be sending a minister. Then, he sent a cabinet member and the answer was negative. ~~(C)~~

The President: On all three points? ~~(C)~~

President Diouf: On all three. ~~(C)~~

On the day before I left to come to Washington, the Egyptians proposed that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Internal Security should meet in June in Paris in the Egyptian Embassy, under the chairmanship of Boutros Ghali. I gave my consent. I don't know what the Mauritians will do. ~~(C)~~

We have observed at ministerial level meetings for more than one year, that the Mauritanian ministers receive instructions to be inflexible, and they view these instructions as rigid. We can't

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make progress. My ministers always ask me for instructions, and we try to be flexible. However, we are in a deadlock. (C)

The most pressing problem is a human rights issue, namely that 50,000 Mauritians have been expelled from their own country, and are now in Senegal. They have lost everything: their homes, their possessions, everything. (C)

The President: Is this on ethnic grounds? (C)

President Diouf: Yes. It is on ethnic grounds. (C)

The President: On human rights, you have been helpful in voting with us on the issue of human rights in Cuba. I know this is not easy, taking a position like that on a third world issue. But I wanted you to know that we have noted your stand with interest. (C)

We don't want to beat up on Castro, but everybody else in the world is moving forward toward human rights and multi-party democracy, and he is moving back the other way. (C)

How is my old friend Qadhafi behaving in Africa? (S)

President Diouf: I share your view. Castro needs perestroyka and democracy. (C)

The President: If he gets perestroyka in Cuba, he's history. (C)

He has some standing with the people there because of his revolutionary zeal, but time is now passing him by. (C)

President Diouf: Regarding Qadhafi, you know that I am hosting the Islamic summit in January 1991 in Dakar. I will endeavor to improve relations with Qadhafi, with all Islamic countries, but especially with two restless countries: Libya and Iran. (S)

I was able to normalize relations, but we have been having lots of problems. For example, with Libya. We went to Qadhafi and other Islamic countries asking them to contribute to the expenses of the Islamic summit preparations. Saudi Arabia has helped us with a \$100,000,000 gift. Other countries, less powerful, have made gestures. Kuwait has given \$30,000,000. The United Arab Emirates have given \$5,000,000. Qatar has given \$2,000,000. Even Oman, which is not very affluent, has given \$1,000,000. Qadhafi, after keeping us in suspense for more than one year, has given us \$1,000,000. And you know how much money he has and how he finances terrorism and other things with his money. (S)

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(b)(1) The last time I saw him, he stressed, above all, that he wanted me to bring about reconciliation with you. Every time he sends an envoy, he asks if I have seen President Bush and that I should seek reconciliation. I say no, I have not yet seen President Bush. I have told Ambassador Moose all about this. (S)

Qadhafi creates a conflict for me. He says that President Bush has a daughter who is in business. Why doesn't he send her as an envoy to me? I wonder if he is thinking about Maureen Reagan. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

Ambassador Cohen gave the appropriate answer -- that my daughter was going to marry his son! His son and my daughter grew up together. They are very close. (S)

The President: Mubarak tells me he can make progress with Qadhafi. [Imitates Mubarak, saying that Qadhafi is not a problem, that he can tell him what to do.] I said to him, "watch your wallet." He [Qadhafi] is a devious man. (S)

I don't want to dwell on that; however, I have heard that he wants reconciliation, but he is still involved in terrorism. And we know, for a fact, that the Rabta plant was preparing for chemical gas production. There are no grounds now for improved relations. I have no problem with you telling him that you raised it with me, if that would help with your relations. That's fine with me. (S)

President Diouf: |

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(b)(1) I told Ambassador Moose, that I would raise this, and gave my personal opinion. He can't be trusted. (S)

The President: We agree on that. (S)

President Diouf: Regarding Iran, we resumed relations, but are very worried. I had to have the Iranian ambassador called in and

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told that if he kept up what he was doing, we would have to expel him and break relations. (C)

The President: They are stirring up radical opposition? (C)

President Diouf: Yes, they are stirring up Lebanese centers. There is a Shiite imam, who was given Senegalese citizenship. These Lebanese Shiites are stirring up trouble throughout West Africa. They are passing out books, extolling the Iranian revolution, and criticizing my friends the King of Saudi Arabia and the King of Morocco. I had the ambassador in to tell him to stop this. He denied having anything to do with it, but I know it was his doing, because it has stopped. (C)

We are very worried because of all that is going on. Our friends in Morocco and Saudi Arabia are very aloof from the situation. We know the problems they are causing for Saudi Arabia. I prefer the French. (C)

On Iraq. We supported Iraq during the war with Iran. I have the impression now, though, that Iraq is falling back into old demons. I have recently received intelligence saying that Iraq wants to carry out missile tests in Mauritania. We have been told they want to carry out chemical weapons testing in Mauritania, too. In Mauritania, the toughest faction is controlled by the Iraqi Baathist party. (C)

The President: Is the President close to Saddam Husayn? (C)

President Diouf: His only trip out of the country since the events with Senegal has been to Iraq. The Iraqi press is against us, with provocations and slander in the newspapers. Husayn says this is not at his instructions and that Senegal and Mauritania are both his friend. But we are very worried. (C)

The President: We are worried, too. We have improved relations with Iraq, but there are very troubling signs, particularly this "long gun." (C)

We have no relations with Iran, but we take some encouragement from Rafsanjani, and Velayati seems like a more reasonable man than his predecessor. But we can have no normal relations with Iran until the hostages are released. Once they are released, we are willing to try to improve relations, if these six Americans are released. We have had some settlement of claims with them, but this is still a big problem. It would be nice to see Iran move back into a more civilized mode. (C)

President Diouf: Let's hope that Algeria won't fall into fundamentalism. (C)

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The President: Are you worried? (C)

President Diouf: Yes. (C)

The President: We like President Chadli Bendjedid. He is a reasonable man. But we see some difficulties here. It would be terrible if Algeria fell into a fundamentalist mode. Will you see Chadli soon? (C)

President Diouf: I have no immediate plans to see him. (C)

The President: If you do, please give him my regards and tell him we hold him in great respect. (C)

President Diouf: I don't think he was right to permit an Islamic party to come into being. In our constitution, we prohibited any party based on religion, sect, ethnic group, region, language or sex. I told Bendjedid that he should carry out democracy. He followed my advice. But now, with the Islamic party, that is dangerous. I am afraid, not only for Algeria, but for north Africa as a whole. I want to urge Chadli to resist these pressures. I am told that the fundamentalists have more militants in Algerian than the FMLN. (C)

The President: Your daughter is studying where in the U.S.? (U)

President Diouf: At George Washington University. She is studying civil engineering. (U)

The President: This is wonderful. We view it as a great tribute that she, and your son, are studying here. (U)

President Diouf: Three of my four children are studying here. (U)

The President: Where is the other? (U)

President Diouf: At American University. (U)

I will discuss with Ambassador Cohen in detail some other questions, but I am very interested in the efforts to restore peace in Angola and Mozambique and in your joint efforts in Sudan, Ethiopia and Chad. (C)

The President: Ethiopia is very discouraging, since there are people dying, and we cannot get food in. In Sudan, I hope talks can produce peace in that tragic land which is divided between north and south. (C)

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I had a good visit with the President of Mozambique and was very impressed by him. We are staying with him, even though there has been some pressure from some quarters here to support RENAMO. But we are not going to do that. (C)

What was the other country? Angola. We want to get talks going there, too. We think negotiation is the way to go. (C)

President Diouf: In South Africa, we must support the tandem: de Klerk and Mandela. (C)

The President: We agree. De Klerk is coming to see me next month; we don't have a date for Mandela, yet. (C)

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