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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs  
Nancy Bearg Dyke, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

President Yoweri Museveni, Chairman of the OAU  
Salim Salim, Secretary General of the OAU

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: October 1, 1990, 9:15 - 9:30 a.m., Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City

The President: I really appreciate the public support the OAU has given to our policy in the Gulf. I am also encouraged about Angola. One more step. UNITA will assume a legal status. Everything else is coming along: talking, ceasefire. Tell me what else you would like to discuss. (Ø)

President Museveni: Liberia. If Taylor talks with ECOWAS, it will be helpful. (Ø)

Ambassador Cohen: Now that Doe is gone, everyone says they can start talking. The OAU can be helpful with this. (Ø)

President Museveni: The OAU can help. (Ø)

Ambassador Cohen: We certainly support that. (Ø)

The President: We've been reluctant to do it. We don't want to dictate a solution. As soon as they stop fighting we are ready to go in. (Ø)

President Museveni: They have the manpower but not the logistics. Maybe, the US can support with logistics. (Ø)

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Secretary Baker: Back to Angola for a moment. It will really be helpful if the OAU takes a strong position. We have talks going and are very close to a solution - election, etc. Need Dos Santos' cooperation. UNITA is the political force in Angola. If military action can be put aside, and there is a ceasefire and political recognition, and if the OAU supports this, we can get peace in Angola. This would really be a major step. (Ø)

President Museveni: We will look at it. (U)

Secretary Baker: Please. (U)

The President: I would be interested in your view on South Africa. We think de Klerk is a new breed of ruler. The violence between the ANC and Zulus is bad. Are we right, otherwise, to be encouraged? (Ø)

President Museveni: The changes are encouraging. I asked Mandela if he trusts de Klerk. He said, "Yes." I was very happy. Mandela is fed up with the system in South Africa, especially the right wing and security forces and Army. He is pressing De Klerk to real change. In one year things will happen. Then, maybe the sanctions can be removed. If they are removed first, you remove pressure. If the pressure is kept on, de Klerk will keep moving. (Ø)

The President: We can't remove the sanctions until certain conditions are met under our law. Many black leaders in the US are blaming de Klerk for violence in South Africa. He has been slow to use his security force. (Ø)

President Museveni: Need Mandela to handle the situation differently. Some factions are taking advantage of the violence. The whites use it by saying, "Look at what will happen if you get majority rule." (Ø)

The President: One point de Klerk raised was regarding the Communist Party. I thought the Communist Party was out of style, but I guess some ANC members are still Communists. (Ø)

President Museveni: Since the West didn't give support, some of the people moved to the East. The numbers are very small of Communists in ANC. It would be unwise for Mandela to throw them out. It would cause lots of trouble. (Ø)

The President: Is Winnie Mandela being seen as a problem? Is it an effort of white South Africans to get at the blacks or what? (Ø)

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Secretary General Salim: Blacks want her to have a chance to clear herself. (U)

The President: What if she is found guilty? What effect will it have on the progress? (Ø)

President Museveni: The blacks would separate the two. (Ø)

President Museveni: The debt situation is a crisis. The African leaders are extremely concerned. The economies are not integrated. When the prices go down, what you export loses value and imports cost more money. And the oil factor is new. (Ø)

The President: We are worried and want to be helpful. We are encouraging everyone to move on the Uruguay Round, especially on agriculture. The oil price situation is bad on everyone. We want to do everything we can to move forward free markets. It is very tough on us. If the deficit comes down, maybe interest rates will come down. Thank you for raising this issue. (Ø)

President Museveni: If we have debt forgiveness on one hand and provision of machinery on the other, we can balance. (Ø)

The President: Can't the international institutions help with that? We'll look into it -- EXIM, OPIC, etc. Hank, please look into it. (Ø)

Ambassador Cohen: Uganda has one of the best economies in Africa today, but it is still a problem. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --

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