

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Reverend Leon Sullivan

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert C. Frasure, NSC Director for African Affairs (Notetaker)

Reverend Leon Sullivan
Dr. C. T. Wright

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 20, 1991, 2:00 - 2:20 p.m. EST
The Oval Office

Reverend Sullivan: I want to thank you for seeing me. I know your time is short. Basically I want to put Africa back on the main agenda. The continent is being forgotten. (U)

The President: I agree and we can do that. On debt, for example, we are moving ahead. About 50% of Africa's debt to us has been forgiven. At the G-7, African debt will be an agenda item. We are moving on it. (U)

Reverend Sullivan: At the Abidjan summit, we had 2500 people focussed on Africa and the African American relationship. The main issue was debt. It's a milestone. I hope at the G-7 we can take a leadership role. I think 25% of the money could go to the poor, to clinics. (U)

We need to tie debt forgiveness to democracy and to structural adjustment. We need to lift up Africa like Poland or Egypt. I hope you can do that. (U)

At a meeting in Texas we had a thousand people to form Africa support committees. I have the largest self-help committees in the country. (U)

The President: We are about to forgive a large amount of PL-480 debt. (U)

Reverend Sullivan: Another thing I want to mention is the possibility of an African Business Council. It's a new proposal.

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As you know, I am the GM board. I want to work with the State Department on it as I did before. (U)

The President: Leon, what is your feeling on the sanctions issue? As you know, I will comply with the law. (U)

Reverend Sullivan: Until there is political equality, I don't think you should lift all the sanctions. GM won't go back in there until I tell them. It's a question of political equality. (Ø)

The President: I don't really want to get crosswise with you on this. (Ø)

Reverend Sullivan: I think you should hold off until it is done. Political rights need to be given, the right to vote. (Ø)

The President: I understand. But I don't want to move the goalposts. I see de Klerk fighting the rightwing. (Ø)

Hasn't there been progress in your view? (U)

Reverend Sullivan: I see great progress. But it is the result of sanctions, and they should stay in place. (U)

The President: Leon, we may be apart on this one. (U)

Reverend Sullivan: Finally, I want to mention my idea of sending teachers to Africa. It's like a thousand points of light. I want to send a thousand teachers to Africa. I want your help. (Ø)

The President: Is the Peace Corps doing enough out there? (Ø)

Reverend Sullivan: No. This is a separate effort. (U)

I can get a hundred companies to help. (U)

Finally, again on the debt, take a stand on it. It can be converted into local currency, for example take \$10,000 off the debt and turn it into local currency. Will you help me on that? (Ø)

The President: Take a note on that. (U)

Leon, thank you for coming in. Can I have a private word with you? (U)

Reverend Sullivan: Of course. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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