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02. Memcon	Memorandum of conversation between President George Bush and Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal (5 pp.)	9/10/91	(b)(1)	S

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: National Security Council
Series: Memcons, Presidential
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: September 1991

Document Partially Declassified
(Copy of Document Follows)
 By PK (NLGB) on 10/5/10

Date Closed: 1/10/2000	OA/ID Number: CF01728-015
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2000-0429-F	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #: 2000-0429-F(366)	MR Case #:
AR Disposition: Released in Part	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date: 8/21/2009	MR Disposition Date:

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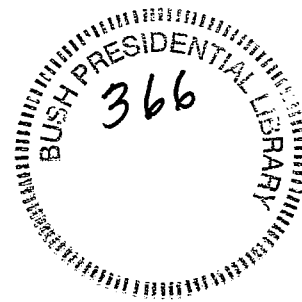
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



6957

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
John Sununu, Chief of Staff
Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for National Security Affairs
Herman J. Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
Katherine Shirley, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal
Thomas E. McNamara, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs (Notetaker)
Alec Toumahan, Interpreter

Adbou Diouf, President
Adboulaye Wade, Minister of State
Djibo Ka, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Famara Ibrahima Sagna, Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning
Alassance Dialy N'Diaye, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts
Ibra Deguene Ka, Senegalese Ambassador to the U.S.
Doudou Diop, Major General, Special Advisor to the President and Inspector General of the Armed Forces
Pascal Manga, Vice President of the National Assembly
Babacar Carlos Mbaye, Presidential Diplomatic Advisor
Gabriel Sarr, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 10, 1991, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. EST
The Cabinet Room

The President: I apologize to those who have been waiting. President Diouf and I have been caught-up in a host of issues that we discussed in the Oval Office. We will go into them further in this meeting. I welcome the entire Senegalese delegation to Washington and to the White House, and

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2000-0429-F

hope they are enjoying their visit. I know Senegal is firmly committed to democracy and congratulate Senegal as the first African country to join in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. President Diouf and I talked about democratic development in the Oval Office. Bilateral relations appear in good shape; the few differences can be talked out. Both of us are pleased with where bilateral relations now stand. President Diouf do you have any comments?

President Diouf: I would like to thank the President for the very warm welcome that we have received. We were very sympathetic to the President's and to U.S. feelings on Desert Storm/Desert Shield in which we participated and lost 93 citizens. We were proud to have been a part, despite the loss of our citizens -- a great cost to have paid. I thank President Bush for his leadership and the U.S. for its sacrifices. The respect for sovereignty was evident in that effort and in our bilateral relations.

I was most impressed by the leadership, intelligence, and diligence you showed in directing the coalition. I would like to express thanks for the news I received in the Oval Office about the cancellation of the \$42 million debt. This is excellent news, an extraordinary gesture, and an example of the very excellent bilateral cooperation that exists between our two countries. I know there are a number of competing and very compelling requests, and therefore, I am all the more appreciative since the competition is so heavy. To give this to Senegal, is very good indeed.

I would like to thank you for helping to encourage Senegal and other West Africans states to integrate economically towards a United States of Africa which, although it is some distance away, is the hope of all Africans. I thank the U.S. for its liberal policies, the equality with which it treats other nations, including Senegal, and the liberal economic example it has given to the world. U.S. assistance to Senegal and other Africans has helped us face our problems in the economic area.

Again, I thank everyone for a very gracious welcome and thank President Bush for his leadership of what is no longer a bipolar world, but a unipolar world with President Bush as the leader of the pole.

President Bush: Thank you, President Diouf, for your very kind words. I am interested in having your thoughts on Liberia. Some are looking towards a UN force to take action in Liberia. But the question is whether the UN could in fact do this without interfering in the internal affairs of Liberia. The situation in that country is heartbreaking; everyone longs for a peaceful solution.

President Diouf: The difficulties in the Liberian situation require a close look in order to tackle the problems in the context of the West African economic organization. I would spare no effort necessary to bring about a peaceful solution in

The Ivory Coast and others in the ECOWAS, Houphouet in particular, look to the UN to play a larger role.

The reaction on the part of the African states explains why they look to the UN and not the ECOMOG itself; everyone recognizes that the West Africans have united five nations behind the effort, three of whom have troops in Liberia and the other two, Guinea and Sierra Leone, are reluctant to put troops in because of cost. If these nations cannot solve it, the situation is very complex.

Even if Senegal and others want to have a different force, such as the UN force, and if it were possible to have additional troops, it would not necessarily permit a better situation to develop and make Liberia's neighbors feel more secure. To do this requires assistance from the U.S. and others. Only with more assistance, can there be peace in Liberia. More of the West Africans states could participate if there were more aid.

The conclusion is, therefore, that we need U.S. financing and U.S. assistance to maintain sufficient troops in Liberia for a successful and peaceful solution. There are other matters that also need addressing such as the upcoming elections. There will be elections five months from now. There is also a need to convince Charles Taylor not to continue the war and to join the peace process.

President Bush: We have just received news from Lagos from the Vice President's party saying Nigeria would have no problem in increasing the size of the force using Senegalese troops, even if it means reducing Nigerian participation.

Assistant Secretary Cohen: Charles Taylor has no trust in the Nigerians. Therefore, the presence of Senegalese troops would be a test of his cooperation because we would be responding to one of his complaints by reconstituting the force and bringing in more neutral troops. We could assist, but to bring this about we would need French help also.

President Bush: Changes in the USSR are affecting all of us, including Africa. There are changes in resources available, and the future is bright for bringing an end to the cold war. This, therefore, increases the possibility for reducing defense expenditures, such as for nuclear weapons. The problem is there are so many parts of the Soviet Union that are looking for independence. But there is a central government, and there is a need for a central government.

In many cases these new republics, these new states, do not want to completely separate from the center. They do not necessarily want to push Gorbachev aside. Gorbachev has done much to assist by helping out in Angola, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and other places, and he deserves credit for what he has done. I have no desire to put Gorbachev in the ash can of history.

Among other developments, the UN will look quite different in the future than it has in the past. The Baltic states, for example,

want to push Gorbachev aside. Gorbachev has done much to assist by helping out in Angola, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and other places, and he deserves credit for what he has done. I have no desire to put Gorbachev in the ash can of history.

Among other developments, the UN will look quite different in the future than it has in the past. The Baltic states, for example, will probably go into the UN as members. All things are not clear but the future does look good as these problems sort themselves out.

President Diouf: You have clearly explained the situation in the USSR, and I concur with the evaluation. We are experiencing a new world order since the Gulf crisis. It is clearer to us everyday. And we in Senegal wish to see a new world order, but one which is both political and economic in its scope. To bring this about, we need solidarity between the north and south in the dialogue. And what we need is dialogue, not confrontation -- dialogue based on the possibility for cooperation between north and south. Senegal is in favor and committed to the new world order which is taking place, and shape, right under our very eyes.

President Bush: President Diouf, what are your views on the situation in Libya? Is Qadhafi a disturbance to you, as he is in some countries? Mubarak thinks we need to do more now to get Qadhafi into the community of nations. I would appreciate your advice and comments.

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President Bush: Thank you for your comments. We will continue to watch the situation very carefully. In my opinion, the leopard has not changed his spots.

Secretary Eagleburger: There will be an opportunity to discuss Liberia at greater length during the lunch at the State Department in just a few minutes.

President Bush: We will also have a chance this evening before the dinner to discuss Liberia or any other issues that might need further treatment. Let me close by saying I am delighted that President Diouf was able to come for this visit.

President Diouf: I want to raise several issues since, if I omit them, the Finance Minister will cut my throat. I want to talk about the organizations set up by the valuable Bretton Woods

the financial programs that the IFIs insist on, but they must be developed in a way which is socially doable. Such programs should not be undertaken so they destroy the social harmony of the countries where the programs are being carried out.

President Bush: Will you be meeting with any of these IFI's while in Washington?

President Diouf: Yes

President Bush: I would like to say a word of praise for World Bank President Preston whom President Diouf and I both know. I wish you the best of luck in your conversation with the IFI's.

End of Conversation