

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Quett Masire, President of Botswana on December 17, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Quett Masire, President of Botswana
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: John M. Ordway

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 17, 1992, 11:51 - 11:55am EST
The Oval Office

The President: This is George Bush. Can you hear me? (U)

President Masire: Yes, I can hear you, Mr. President. Quett Masire here. (U)

The President: I'm sorry to interrupt your evening. I just wanted to thank you for what you're doing. We're so pleased with your strong support. The support of Africa is vital to the coalition. I salute you. The commitment coming from you as a strong democracy is particularly important. (Ø)

President Masire: Mr. President, it is we that should thank you. You have been great in coming to help Africa in our hour of need. We feel it is only proper that Africa should help those helping Africa help itself. (Ø)

The President: It is very important to be shoulder to shoulder on this mission. We want to establish a secure environment and turn it over to the peacekeeping force. It could be a risk if the U.S. tried to be a colonial power there. We are very sensitive to this. We want to fulfil our role and then withdraw, not expand our mission. We are getting lots of support from peacekeepers. (Ø)

President Masire: No, it could not by any sense of the imagination be looked at as an expansion. It has been a shame that humanity stood by as Somalia sank into a quagmire. I am very glad you have taken the lead, and that there is a generous response. (Ø)

The President: I appreciate that, sir. I hope you have a happy New Year. I will not be around during the next year, at least in this capacity. (U)

I was in Botswana once, a long time ago when I was ambassador to the UN. (U)

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President Masire: That's right. (U)

The President: Maybe I could possible visit sometime in the new year. (U)

President Masire: Please come. You have a standing invitation. (U)

I have to thank you and congratulate you for fighting so gallantly and bowing out so honorably. (U)

The President: Why thank you for your kinds words. Barbara and I are trying to do that. I am pleased that you noticed. (U)

President Masire: That has been a shot in the arm for democracy the world over. (U)

The President: You are very nice to put it into that perspective. (U)

President Masire: Thank you and Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. (U)

The President: Merry Christmas to you, too. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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