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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

12 JUL 1976

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting between Hon. James S. Gichuru, Kenyan Minister for **Defence**, and Hon. Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defense, at the Kenyan MFD, 1100 Hours, 16 June 1976

Those present were:

Kenya

MOD Gichuru
J. G. Kiereini, Permanent Secretary, MFD
Three other officials of the MFD, Kenya

US

Secretary Rumsfeld
Amb. Marshall, US Amb., Kenya
Mr. McAuliffe, ASD/ISA
Mr. Greener, ASD/PA
Col. Brooks, Mil. Asst. to SecDef

K. Rumsfeld

Minister Gichuru - Opening Statement

-- Kenya is an "island" -- other than Ethiopia, unfriendly nations surround it.

-- Kenya's small army was planned for internal employment primarily (6,700 men).

-- In the past, have held periodic joint defense planning meetings with Ethiopia; but "since they killed the Emperor" the meetings have not been held.

-- Kenya has few tanks -- the surrounding countries have many.

-- Kenya has come to a point where it "must rethink" its defense capabilities. It must develop a credible deterrent force.

-- Pres. **Amin** of Uganda has recently claimed nearly one-half of the territory of Kenya (according to a Ugandan press release), Allegedly, he claimed the entire western part (most fertile) of the country to within 20 miles of Nairobi. His objective is access to the sea,

-- The eastern half of Kenya is claimed by Somalia.

-- Relations with Tanzania are not good either.

12 JUL 1976



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Secretary Rumsfeld - Opening Statement

-- Stated that he is the first incumbent U.S. SecDef to pay an official visit to Africa.

-- Reviewed the itinerary of his trip.

-- Understands the Kenyan concern for their own defense, and is interested in assisting to the extent we can.

-- Mentioned the spread of Soviet interest and influence in Africa, especially in Somalia.

-- Stated U.S. interests: peace, freedom, and self-determination, for others as well as itself.

-- The U.S. hopes to cooperate in training as well as equipment support.

Equipment Needs

-- Min. Gichuru: Kenya needs airplanes and wants to know the U.S. position "quickly." They want to appear that they have been given that "priority" as an indicator to their foes (specifically mentioned Uganda). He said that the President had asked him to state this.

-- Sec. Rumsfeld: The support package is the pacing factor. The U.S. can accelerate delivery, but that would affect cost and the availability of support and training.

-- Min. Gichuru: He understands that the U.S. Congress doesn't want to supply the A-4's. Kenya needs them as a deterrent. The A-4 is "a better combination of fighter and bomber aircraft.'

-- Sec. Rumsfeld: Confirmed that the U.S. Congress does not intend to authorize distribution of attack aircraft. The ability to defend is the best deterrent. The F-5E is far superior in that respect. A U.S. team of experts on the F-5E is scheduled to arrive in Kenya the end of June to discuss the matter. The SecDef will get additional feedback from them.

Ship Visits and Joint Exercises

-- Sec. Rumsfeld: Ship visits to Mombasa and joint exercises have been very useful.

-- Min. Gichuru: Agreed with Sec. Rumsfeld's assessment and commented on the interesting and pleasant experience he and some of his assistants had in visiting the carrier ENTERPRISE.

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-- Mr. Kiereini: Joint exercises are very desirable and helpful to Kenya.

P-3 Reconnaissance

-- Sec. Rumsfeld: The U.S. would like to be able to **use Kenyan** territory on occasion for P-3 patrol aircraft operations.

-- Mr. Kiereini: "Absolutely no problem."

Advisors for F-5E

-- Mr. McAuliffe: The U.S. wishes to place a small team (2 or 3 people) of "advisors" in Kenya with the F-5 aircraft. They would remain only as long as needed.

-- Amb. Marshall: He wishes to discuss this matter with Min. Gichuru.

Training

-- Sec. Rumsfeld: Training relationships have been good and useful.

-- Mr. Kiereini: Visits by the U.S. National War College are especially **desirable**. Training of Kenyans in the U.S. is beneficial and creates favorable impressions of the U.S. among the students.

-- Mr. McAuliffe: We solicit your suggestions for improvement of training.



Elmer T. Brooks
Colonel, USAF
Military Assistant

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