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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

I-2328/76

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with the US Ambassador to Ghana (U)

PARTICIPANT

'The US Ambassador to Ghana, Shirley Temple Black

'UNITED STATES

The Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld
Military Assistant, **RADM M. Staser Holcomb, USN**
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Near Eastern, African and South
Asian Affairs (ISA), **James H. Noyes**
Director, Africa Region (ISA), **John A. Reed, Jr.**

Time: 1430-1510, 1 March 1976

Place: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon

(C) After an exchange of pleasantries, Ambassador Black said Angola was very much on **the minds** of **Ghanaian** officials. The Embassy had received conflicting signals on Ghana's policy toward the **MPLA** and developments in Angola and was surprised by **Accra's** 23 December recognition of the **MPLA**. Secretary Rumsfeld said the **Angolan** situation is a very difficult one. We view Soviet and Cuban aid and activities in Angola as symptomatic of a larger and more important question in our relationship with Moscow concerning the third world. Moscow's "feistiness" and willingness to commit large amounts of resources are important,, **as is the** use for the first time of a **Cuban** expeditionary force in Africa.

(C) The Secretary said the US reaction to these developments was complicated by early disclosure of the covert program; the public was unprepared for this revelation, and a knee jerk, "**no more Vietnams**" reaction clouded the issue. Mrs. Black

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Ghana 09/11/76
9 Mar 76

said **Angolan** developments had hurt the US in Ghana. Popular demonstrations against the Embassy had occurred but had not gotten out of hand. The press began a sharp 'anti-American campaign but had eased up' after the Ambassador spoke with the Minister of Information about it.

~~(C)~~ Ambassador Black said she had several things on her mind. Ghana still wants to buy C-130 transports for its Air Force, primarily to ease the supply problem for **Ghanaian** troops serving with the UN emergency force in the Middle East. Mr. Noyes affirmed the unavailability of FMS **credits** for Ghana but suggested the Ambassador might want to raise the question of possible EXIM credits. Lockheed produces a commercial version of the C-130 that is virtually identical to the military **air-craft**. Mrs. Black said this was an excellent idea which she would raise with EXIM 'during her visit.

~~(C)~~ The Ambassador thanked the Secretary for the planned increase in grant military training, which she considers the best program the US has in Ghana. She said she hopes some way will be found to continue and expand it should the **Congress terminate** ^{the} military assistance program as planned after FY 77. The Secretary responded that **he, too, has** been impressed by our military training program and believes the training of foreign military officers is the "**best investment we can make**".

~~(C)~~ Mrs. Black then **turned to** Ghana's desire to establish a **Jungle Warfare center for counterinsurgency** training. She said the **GOG** had approached her several times since the civil war began in **Angola last** year to ask our help in this project. She has discouraged these requests, considering such assistance potentially, damaging to the US politically, but wondered how Defense would react to such a proposal. In the general **discussion** that followed, it emerged that no formal request has been made of us on this matter **and** we are uncertain as to what Ghana may have in **mind**. The Secretary **recalled** the public **safety** training formerly provided by AID and **wondered if this** is the sort of capability Accra was trying to gain.,. Mrs. Black said that Cuba will be sending a mission to Accra this spring and may plan **to offer** assistance in this area. Mr. Noyes noted that it certainly would be better for us to provide counter-insurgency training than let. the Cubans **do it**. The Secretary agreed to look into the matter and to provide Mrs. Black his thoughts.

~~(C)~~ Ambassador Black then reviewed **her efforts to get** US **naval** ships to visit Accra and to persuade one of our service bands to come to Ghana. Mr. Noyes said Navy is looking into the possibility of a West African tour by one or more naval units later this year. If such visits are approved, Accra would be

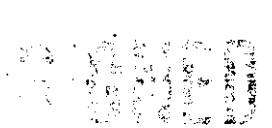


included. Secretary.Rumsfeld said we might be able to solve both matters **by** embarking a band from one of the larger Sixth Fleet units on-a ship scheduled to visit Ghana. The-Ambassador said she hoped some such arrangement could be made.

(U) As the meeting ended, Mrs., Black urged the Secretary to visit Ghana. Mr. Rumsfeld replied that, much as he personally would like to make an African trip, his schedule probably **would** not permit it.

Approved by:

DEPUTY


Acting Assistant Secretary
of Defense (ISA) (NEASA)

Date: 9 Mar 76

Prepared by:
Mr. Reed
OASD/ISA/NA

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