



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

I-375/76
January 13, 1976

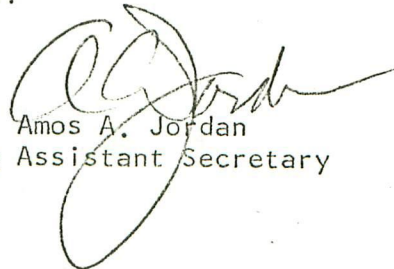
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Congressional Inquiry from Congresswoman
Chisholm--ACTION MEMORANDUM

Congresswoman Chisholm sent you a message (Tab A) expressing concern at media reports of a United States carrier off the Angolan coast and requesting full disclosure of State and DOD involvement.

I recommend you sign the proposed reply at Tab B.

The Department of State concurs.


Amos A. Jordan
Acting Assistant Secretary

Attachments
a/s

Coordination: See Tab C
(Recommended revisions incorporated)



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

VZCZCMAY248

UNCLASSIFIED

22966

MULT
ACTION OSD:ADM(05)
DISTR ASD:LA(01) FILE(1)
(007)

TRANSIT/111923Z/111957Z/000:34TOR011951
DE RUEADCR #0174 0111935
ZNR UUUUU
P 111923Z JAN 76
FM SHIRLEY CHISHOLM MEMBER OF CONGRESS WASHDC
TO DEPT OF DEFENSE HON DONALD RUMSFELD OSD WASHDC
BT

UNCLAS RECD VIA NON-MILITARY FACILITIES
DEAR MR SECRETARY MEDIA REPORTS THAT U S CARRIER IS OFF ANGOLAN
SHORE REQUIRES FULL DISCLOSURE OF STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS
INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFRICAN CONFLICT FURTHER DENIALS AND REFUSALS TO
COMMENT ARE INADEQUATE, GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THAT SITUATION AND
THE ALREADY ANNOUNCED CONGRESSTIONAL INTENT THAT THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD HALT ALL AID AND MILITARY SUPPORTS TO ANGOLAN POLITICAL
FACTIONS. SUCH INVOLVEMENT IS DANGEROUS AND MUST BE STOPPED AT ONCE.
SURREPTITIOUS MILITARY ACTIVITY WILL FURTHER JEOPARDIZE RELATIONS
BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION. IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU GIVE
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC A COMPLETE AND HONEST ASSESSMENT OF ALL
INVOLVEMENT TO DATE
SINCERELY

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

BT
#0174
ANNOTES
CSB

SECDEF DISTRIBUTION	
SECDEF	
DEPOSO	
MILASST	/
SI EGASST	/
OSD	/
OCB	/
OTY	/
OSP	
PAJPER	
SAP	
DDP	
GALE ON	
FILE	

PAGE 1

UNCLASSIFIED

00000111



1346 7

I-375/20

PROPOSED PERSONAL NOTE FOR SECDEF SIGNATURE IN RESPONSE TO
CONGRESSPERSON CHISOLM'S TELEX OF 11 JANUARY 1976

I received your telegram of 11 January in which you expressed your concern over United States involvement in the ^{Angolan} African conflict. As you are aware, I have candidly responded to questions from the press on this subject as has Mr. Greener, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

There is no U.S. Navy aircraft carrier or carrier task force in Angolan waters. ^{IN FACT THE NEAREST DEPLOYED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS ARE IN THE MEDIT} Routine fleet movements in support of regular Sixth

Fleet operations in the Mediterranean are continuing; ^{FOR EXAMPLE, THE CARRIER USS SARATOGA DEPARTED FLORIDA ON JAN 6 AS NORMAL REPLACEMENT FOR THE USS KENNEDY.}

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.

Coordination:

Director, DSAA - Lt Gen Fish by Mr. Violette (Acting) *RV*
Acting ASD/ISA Mr. Jordan

Director, NESAR Region, OASD/ISA - Mr. Noyes

ASD (Public Affairs) - Mr. Greener *RV* - agree with LA Mr. Greener's changes incorporated, as above.

ASD (Leg Affairs) - *J. Chisolm*

I would make it more explicit that no carrier is anywhere in the area.



Tom

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JAN 16 1976

Honorable Shirley Chisholm
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Shirley:

I received your telegram of 11 January in which you expressed your concern over United States involvement in the Angolan conflict. As you are aware, the Department has responded on the record to numerous questions on this subject.

In short, there is no United States Navy aircraft carrier or carrier task force in Angolan waters. In fact, the nearest deployed aircraft carriers are in the Mediterranean. Routine fleet movements in support of regular Sixth Fleet operations in the Mediterranean are continuing; for example, the Carrier USS Saratoga departed Florida on January 6th as normal replacement for the USS Kennedy.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

