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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
247992	CABLE	NIAMEY 06122	1	10/14/1982	B1
247993	CABLE	STATE 306078	3	10/30/1982	B1
247994	CABLE	NIAMEY 00401	2	1/24/1983	B1
247995	CABLE	NIAMEY 01552	2	3/21/1983	B1
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247998	CABLE	NIAMEY 06759	3	11/29/1983	B1

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/21/02
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, PDIP, PINT, EFIN, ECON, NG
SUBJECT: JULY-SEPTEMBER 1982 IN NIGER

REF: NIAHEY 4149

1. ~~(ENTIRE TEXT.)~~

2. SUMMARY: NIGER ENJOYED A RARE MOMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AS HOST FOR THE 13TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION (ICO) AUGUST 21-26. NEARLY FORTY COUNTRIES SENT DELEGATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS DOMINATED BY THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. THE U.S. CAME IN FOR SOME CRITICISM, BUT HOST NIGER AND OTHER MODERATE PARTICIPANTS ENSURED A DEGREE OF BALANCE TO THE PROCEEDINGS. ON THE OAU CRISIS, NIGER WENT THROUGH A PERIOD OF INDECISION BEFORE FINALLY OPTING FOR THE MOROCCANS. WE EXPECT THE GON TO STICK WITH THIS DECISION. HOWEVER, SUCH DECISIONS ARE NEVER IRREVOCABLE IN THIS PART OF AFRICA. DOMESTICALLY, THE GON HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED BY THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE INCREASING REALIZATION THAT THE URANIUM BOOM IS OVER AND NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF REVENUE IS IN SIGHT. THE FY-83 BUDGET HAS NO FUNDS FOR NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND THE GON WILL VERY LIKELY HAVE TO RESCHEDULE ITS FOREIGN DEBT. FORTUNATELY THE KEY AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL DO BETTER THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED, WITH THE SORGHUM AND MILLET CROP ABOUT 9 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. NIGER'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES HAVE PROMPTED SPECULATION ABOUT PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S POSITION, BUT THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT REMAINS STRONG. END SUMMARY.

3. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

4. ISLAMIC CONFERENCE: NIGER ENJOYED A MOMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AS DELEGATES FROM 38 ISLAMIC COUNTRIES GATHERED IN NIAHEY AUGUST 21-26 FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION (ICO). HELD IN NIAHEY'S NEW PALAIS DES CONGRES, THE CONFERENCE

CONSIDERED AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA OF VIRTUALLY EVERY CONCEIVABLE SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD. BY FAR THE DOMINATING ISSUE, HOWEVER, WAS THE ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON. THE PLO DELEGATE DELIVERED AN EMOTIONAL ADDRESS CONDEMNING THE U.S. AND SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER DAOUDA DIALLO, AND ICO SECRETARY GENERAL CHATTI TO SEND A STRONGLY-WORDED MESSAGE TO YASSAR ARAFAT ALONG THE SAME LINES. THE SOVIET UNION WAS CRITICIZED FOR ITS ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT OTHERWISE IT RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION. CONFERENCE EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS TO RESOLVE THE IRAN-IRAQ DISPUTE MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS, ALTHOUGH THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDED A CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND THE RETURN OF TROOPS TO THEIR BORDERS. THE OTHER EIGHTY-PLUS ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL DECLARATION ARE FAIRLY STANDARD G-77 POSITIONS. THAT THE ICO BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND WAS TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN THE DIVERSE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. IN ADDITION, THE ARAB STATES WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE CONFERENCE IN FEZ, WHICH FOLLOWED SOON AFTERWARDS. THE GON RECEIVED HIGH MARKS FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE LOGISTICS ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL AS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER DIALLO'S HANDLING OF THE PRESIDENCY. DIALLO TOLD US AFTERWARDS THAT THE GON HAD TRIED TO PLAY A "BALANCING" ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE, AND THAT TO A LARGE EXTENT THIS EFFORT HAD SUCCEEDED. IT WAS MADE SIMPLER BY THE ABSENCE OF LIBYA FROM THE CONFERENCE. THE LIBYANS INTENDED TO BE PRESENT, BUT THE LIBYAN DELEGATION WAS DELAYED ON ITS ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT FIVE HOURS FOR BAGGAGE INSPECTION. THE LIBYANS, INSULTED BY THIS AFRONT TO DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGE, RETURNED IN A HUFF TO TRIPOLI. THE MOROCCANS, WHO HANDLED CLAIMED CREDIT FOR EXCLUDING THE LIBYAN DELEGATION.

5. THE TRIPOLI OAU SUMMIT: AFTER MUCH INDECISION AS TO

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WHETHER AND AT WHAT LEVEL NIGER WOULD ATTEND, FOREIGN MINISTER DIALLO WENT TO TRIPOLI FOR THE MINISTERIAL PRE-SUMMIT MEETINGS BUT LEFT AFTER FOUR DAYS WHEN THE MEMBERS FAILED TO REACH A QUORUM. DIALLO EXPLAINED TO US AFTERWARDS THAT THE GON FELT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT THE OAU SHOULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT A QUORUM. KOUNTCHE'S FINAL DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT MEETING WAS IN PART BASED ON MOROCCO'S DISCREET, EFFICIENT, AND TIMELY DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATION AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT, MANPOWER AND TRAINING THAT ENSURED THE SUCCESS OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. ALL SUMMER NIGER HAD BEEN PULLED BETWEEN FORCES DEMANDING THAT HE ATTEND (FRANCE, ALGERIA, LIBYA) AND DEMANDING A BOYCOTT (MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT). WITH THE CONCRETE ASSISTANCE FROM MOROCCO, KOUNTCHE CHOSE TO STAY HERE, A CHOICE HE WAS ALREADY PREDISPOSED TO MAKE AS HE HAS NO LOVE FOR QADHAFI AND DREADED A QADHAFI LED OAU FROM THE BEGINNING. ALSO, KOUNTCHE STRONGLY FEELS THE INCLUSION OF THE SDAR IN THE OAU WAS WRONG. HE HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING, "ONE IS NOT A COUNTRY JUST BECAUSE ONE HAS A FLAG AND SOME GUNS." IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SUMMIT BREAKDOWN, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE RECEIVED VISITING MALIAN PRESIDENT TRAORE SEPTEMBER 13, CARRYING A MESSAGE FROM THE OAU CONTACT GROUP SUPPORTING THE POLISARIO AND, ON SEPTEMBER 22 FOREIGN MINISTER FAHN BULLEN OF LIBERIA WHO COUNSELED FOR A FIRM POSITION AGAINST THE POLISARIO. HOWEVER, HAVING ONCE MADE UP HIS MIND, IT NOW APPEARS THAT KOUNTCHE INTENDS TO STICK WITH THIS DECISION. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE CONTINUES TO PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON PRESERVING THE OAU, BUT HE IS LIKELY TO STAY AWAY FROM ANY MEETING THAT COULD LEGITIMATIZE THE SDAR. THIS INCLUDES MEETINGS FROM WHICH THE SDAR VOLUNTARILY DOES NOT ATTEND. AS FORMIN DIALLO HAS SAID, "IF ONE HAS THE OPTION TO ATTEND OR NOT, THEN ONE IS CONSIDERED A MEMBER EVEN IF ONE DOES NOT ATTEND."

6. QATAR RECOGNITION: ON SEPTEMBER 13 THE GON RECOGNIZED QATAR AND AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THE GON'S AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, SALIFOU SOUMAILA, WILL BE ACCREDITED AS WELL TO QATAR. THE GON MOVE FOLLOWS A LONG-STANDING GON POLICY OF REINFORCING RELATIONS WITH WEALTHY ARAB NATIONS.

7. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS:

8. DOMESTICALLY, THE GON HAS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE STATE OF THE NIGERIESE ECONOMY AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH AUGUST 2, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE FOCUSED ON AUSTERITY, ASKING FARMERS TO CELEBRATE THE DAY SIMPLY SO THAT THEY COULD GET ON WITH THE WORK IN THE FIELDS. HE ALSO CALLED FOR AVOIDING WASTE AND TIGHTENING THE BELT. ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, SAID THE PRESIDENT, SHOULD BE REDUCED IN ORDER TO DECREASE NIGER'S BILL FOR IMPORTED ENERGY. FORTHCOMING BUDGET CUTS WOULD AFFECT EVERYONE, INCLUDING NIGER'S EMBASSIES ABROAD WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OPERATE WITHIN STRICT LIMITS. HE FURTHERMORE ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF TWO COMMITTEES, ONE TO STUDY THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MAKE THEM MORE PRODUCTIVE, AND ONE TO DEVELOP A STATISTICAL BASE TO FORESEE AND DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION ON NIGER.

9. LATER, AS TABASKI APPROACHED, THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT MUSLIM HOLIDAY, THE MEDIA WAS REplete WITH EXORTATIONS TO THE PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE SPARINGLY AND AVOID GOING INTO DEBT.

10. A MUCH MORE CONCRETE MANIFESTATION OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS FACING NIGER CAME SEPTEMBER 23, WHEN MINISTER OF PLAN, ANNOU MAHAMANE, ANNOUNCED A SHARPLY REDUCED NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1983. WHILE BALANCED, THE BUDGET CALLS FOR EXPENDITURES A FULL 13.4 PERCENT BELOW 1982. THE INVESTMENT BUDGET, WHICH TOOK VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE REDUCTION, IS ONLY ONE-FOURTH THE LEVEL PROPOSED FOR FY-82 AND IS BARELY ENOUGH TO MEET THE GON'S COMMITMENTS ON EXISTING PROJECTS. OBSERVERS CLOSE TO THE GON'S FINANCIAL EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT EVEN WITH THE REDUCTION, THE GON WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FUNDING THE NEW BUDGET. THE WORLD BANK REP FULLY EXPECTS THE GON TO ENTER DEBT RESCHEDULING NEGOTIATIONS SOON.

11. SENIOR GON OFFICIALS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH FINDING A

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AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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WAY TO RESTORE THE NIGERIEN ECONOMY TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE LATE SEVENTIES, WHEN THE URANIUM BOOM BROUGHT RELATIVE WEALTH TO NIGER. ONE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR NIGER TO HAVE REMAINED POOR THAN TO HAVE EXPECTATIONS DASHED. ACCEPTANCE IS GROWING IN GON CIRCLES THAT URANIUM, FAR FROM BEING THE MOTOR OF THE ECONOMY, IS ACTUALLY DRAGGING THE ECONOMY DOWN. LIKE DICKENS' MR. MICAMBER, THE GON IS HOPING THAT SOMETHING ELSE WILL TURN UP. OFFICIALS HAVE APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ABOUT ENCOURAGING U.S. OIL AND MINING COMPANIES TO CONSIDER INVESTING IN NIGER. THE OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED, PROBABLY RIGHTLY, THAT NIGER CONTAINS MINERAL WEALTH, BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS MUST IMPROVE BEFORE MEANTIME, FOREIGN COMPANIES ARE HEADING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THE LAST U.S. COMPANY INVOLVED IN URANIUM EXPLORATION HERE, CONOCO, HAS ADVISED EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT IT WILL BE LEAVING NIGER FOR GOOD IN NOVEMBER. FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL FRENCH CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAVE CONTINUED TO REDUCE THEIR OPERATIONS IN NIGER IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND REPORTEDLY 1,000 FRENCH CITIZENS (ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH POPULATION RESIDENT IN NIGER) HAVE LEFT THIS SUMMER.

12. 1982 AGRICULTURAL SEASON: NIGER'S KEY AGRICULTURAL ECTOR IS FORTUNATELY IN RELATIVELY GOOD SHAPE. CONTRARY TO EARLY EXPECTATIONS THAT THIS YEAR'S CROP COULD BE A DISASTER (REFTEL), PRPIMARILY BECAUSE THE RAINS WERE LATE, THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED. RAIN STARTED FALLING IN AUGUST AND CONTINUED INTO SEPTEMBER. THE QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE RAINS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO BRING ALL CROPS TO MATURITY, BUT THE HARVEST SHORTFALL WILL BE LESS THAN EXPECTED. MILLET AND SORGHUM OUTPUT IS PROJECTED AT 1,207,000 METRIC TONS, ABOUT 9 PERCENT BELOW ESTIMATED PRODUCTION IN 1981, A YEAR CONSIDERED NEAR NORMAL. IN VIEW OF THE DEFICIT, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE GON AGENCY CONCERNED WITH FOOD SECURITY WILL MOBILIZE TO PURCHASE GRAIN STOCKS IN PRODUCTIVE ZONES (DOSSO AND SOUTH MARADI DEPARTMENTS) FOR DISTRIBUTION TO EXTREME DEFICIT PRODUCTION ZONES (NORTHERN TAHOUA, NIAHEY, MARADI AND ZINDER DEPARTMENTS). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOOD IMPORTS FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES MAY BE REQUIRED TO COVER REQUIREMENTS BEYOND THE GON'S OWN CAPABILITY TO PURCHASE.

13. U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: FROM LATE JULY THROUGH THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, AID COMMITTED OVER \$13.0 MILLION IN BILATERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE TO THE GON. \$10.6 MILLION OF THIS REPRESENTED U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO TWO NEW, MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, THE BALANCE GOING TO CONTINUING EXISTING PROJECTS. IN ADDITION, USAID SIGNED AGREEMENTS TOTALLING \$10.4 MILLION IN GRANT ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE NIGER BASIN AUTHORITY AND AGRHYMET (THE REGIONAL SAHELIAN AGROMETEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION INSTITUTION). EMBASSY PRESS RELEASES ANNOUNCING THE AGREEMENTS' SIGNING HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE NIGERIEN MEDIA.

14. INTERNAL SECURITY: NIGER HAS BEEN CALM THROUGH THIS PERIOD, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING A ONE AND ONE-HALF DAY STRIKE (JULY 19-20) BY ABOUT 1,600 MINERS AT THE URANIUM MINE OWNED BY THE COMPAGNIE MINIERE D'AKOUTA (COMINAK) NEAR ARLIT. THE STRIKE WAS OVER WORKING CONDITIONS, NOT SALARY, AND THIS VERY LIKELY HELPED ENSURE A RAPID SETTLEMENT, WHICH WAS IN FAVOR OF THE MINERS. WE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND INSTANCE IN THIS YEAR WHERE THE GON HAS QUICKLY ACCEDDED TO STRIKERS' DEMANDS. THE FIRST INSTANCE WAS A STUDENT STRIKE IN LATE APRIL ON THE EVE OF THE MITTERAND VISIT (REFTEL).

15. KOUNTCHE'S POSITION: ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE PROMPTED SPECULATION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE. WHILE THE PRESIDENT NO LONGER ENJOYS THE BENEFIT OF RISING URANIUM REVENUES AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD PRODUCTION, HIS POSITION OVERALL REMAINS STRONG. BY WORD AND DEED HE IS TRYING TO SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE FOR THEIR WELFARE, AND THAT THE CUTBACKS WILL BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED, JUST AS THE URANIUM WEALTH WAS USED TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. FAIR AND ENERGETIC.

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 NIAMEY 06314

MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY REMAINS THE HALLMARK OF KOUNTCHE'S LEADERSHIP. HE FACES A MORE DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD, BUT THE DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT OF HIS OWN MAKING, AND THIS SHOULD HELP DISCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO HIS LEADERSHIP. CASEY

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TAGS: PEPR, OAU, CD, FR, NG, UV
SUBJECT: POST TRIPOLI II READOUT BY NIGER FORMIN DIALLO

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 27, NIGER FORMIN DAUDA DIALLO GAVE ME SOME INSIGHTS CONCERNING BEHIND THE SCENES MANEUVERING AT TRIPOLI II. HE ALSO EXPRESSED INCREASING NIGERIAN FEARS OF QADHAFI RETALIATION AGAINST NIGER AND CHAD. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION WITH STATEMENT INDICATING NIGER FELT THE USG HAD A BETTER APPRECIATION OF QADHAFI'S TRUE CHARACTER THAN THE FRENCH AND THAT NIGER WOULD BE LOOKING TOWARD THE USG FOR HELP IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO DEFUSE WHAT HE SEES AS VERY SERIOUS TENSIONS BUILDING IN THIS REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMIN DIALLO STARTED THE CONVERSATION WITH A RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION OF WHY WOULD QADHAFI THROW-UP THE CHAD ROADBLOCKS THAT SCUTTLED HIS SUMMIT AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU. DIALLO STATED THERE WERE TWO REASONS. ONE, QADHAFI WOULD NEVER ALLOW HABRE TO SIT IN A LIBYAN CHAMBER AS A HEAD OF STATE. DIALLO STATED THAT THIS WOULD BE A DEGRADATION TO QADHAFI AND HIS ARAB PRIDE WOULD NOT ALLOW IT. SECONDLY, THIS WAS A GOOD VEHICLE TO GET BACK AT THE STATES THAT BLOCKED THE QUORUM FOR TRIPOLI I. DIALLO SAID IT BECAME APPARENT FROM THE START THAT QADHAFI HAD PLANNED TO HAVE THE CHAD SEAT EMPTY ALL ALONG. THIS WOULD BE A JUST REVENGE AGAINST THOSE WHO FORCED HIM TO ASK THE SDAR TO ABSTAIN FROM THE MEETING.

3. DIALLO STATED THAT QADHAFI'S ACTIONS AND RHETORIC AT THE MINISTERS MEETING IN TRIPOLI FORCED HIM INTO A MORE EXPOSED ACTIVE ROLE THAN NORMALLY FOLLOWED BY NIGER. HE SAID QADHAFI'S COMMENT ON INHERITED COLONIAL BORDERS

WAS THE MOST FEARFUL TO NIGER'S POSITION. HE STATED THAT FROM THEN ON HE CONSULTED WITH MEMBERS OF MANY DELEGATIONS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT QADHAFI WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE THE HEAD OF THE OAU. HE STATED HE WAS FRUSTRATED BY SOME, PARTICULARLY THOSE FAR REMOVED FROM LIBYA'S BORDERS, THAT FOLLOWED THE FRENCH VIEW THAT QADHAFI WAS NOT ALL THAT BAD. HE WAS RELIEVED WHEN ENOUGH STATES PULLED OUT TO DENY A QUORUM. DIALLO STATED THAT HE WAS VISITED BY BOTH LIBYAN FORMIN ABDALATI AND LIBYAN NO. 2 JADALLAH, WHO TOLD DIALLO THAT THEY WERE NOT HAPPY WITH HIS ACTIVITIES. TO WHICH DIALLO SAYS HE DECLARED THAT NIGER WILL NOT BE A SATELLITE TO LIBYA.

COMMENT NO. 1: NIGER IS VERY HESITANT ABOUT GETTING OUT FRONT ON AN ISSUE, ESPECIALLY IF IT WOULD ANGER A MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBOR. ALSO, KOUNTCHE HAS CHOSEN TO RELY ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FORA ESPECIALLY THE OAU CHARTER, TO PROTECT HIS SOVEREIGNTY, AS HE CAN ILL AFFORD AN ARMY LARGE ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIS BOUNDARIES. EMBASSY CAN BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI'S STATEMENT CONCERNING HIS DISRESPECT FOR COLONIAL BORDERS AND HIS KNOWN COVETING OF NORTHERN NIGER WOULD CREATE ENOUGH APPREHENSION IN THE GON TO FORCE THEM TO STAND UP TO QADHAFI.

COMMENT NO. 2: WHEN DIALLO SPOKE OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS REPLYING TO HIS ARGUMENTS WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE FRENCH DON'T THINK QADHAFI'S SO BAD, DIALLO BECAME VERY AGITATED. HE SAID THE FRENCH WERE NAIVE AND DIDN'T UNDERSTAND QADHAFI'S TRUE CHARACTER. END COMMENTS.

4. DIALLO THEN DWELT ON POSSIBLE LIBYAN RETALIATIONS. HE SAID FOR SURE CHAD WOULD BE INVADED AGAIN AND SOON. HE WAS NOT SURPRISED WHEN I TOLD HIM WE HAD RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION THAT INDICATED SUCH AS EVENT WAS IMMINENT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED A FEAR THAT NIGER WOULD BE NEXT AFTER CHAD. HE FELT THAT DURING THE UPCOMING WAR IN CHAD, QADHAFI WOULD CONTINUE TO TRAIN AND EXPORT TERRORIST DISSIDENTS INTO THE NORTH. ALSO HE FEARED ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST KOUNTCHE.

5. DIALLO THEN REFLECTED THAT THE US AND NIGER HAD THE SAME OPINION OF QADHAFI, THEREFORE, NIGER WOULD BE SEEKING HELP FROM THE USG IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE LIBYAN THREAT IN THIS REGION OF AFRICA. WHEN QUESTIONED ON WHAT KIND OF HELP NIGER FORESAW DIALLO REPLIED THAT HIS
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GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DECIDED YET, BUT IN ANY CASE WOULD WANT TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. IN FACT, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK OF HIS GOING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS BUT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS YET. HE STATED HE WISHED TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ME AND REQUESTED I PASS ON ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN CHAD OR ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION THAT I MIGHT RECEIVE. HE SAID THE SITUATION MUST BE WATCHED CAREFULLY AND SOLUTIONS FOUND BEFORE THE SITUATION GETS OUT OF HAND.

COMMENT: DURING THIS PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION I DID NOT GET THE FEELING THAT THE GON WILL BE ASKING FOR MILITARY SUPPORT. THEY WISH TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE REGION'S PROBLEMS BEFORE WAR STARTS. I'M SURE THEY WANT SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND PERHAPS COORDINATED PRESSURE ON QADHAFI THROUGH OUR CONTACTS IN ALGERIA, FRANCE AND OTHERS. I GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION DIALLO WOULD LIKE US TO INFLUENCE FRENCH VIEWS CONCERNING THE DANGER QADHAFI PRESENTS.
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E.O. 12356: DECL: 01/19/03
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, EAD, OAU, NG, AG, CD, US, LY
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROCKER'S VISIT TO NIGER,
JANUARY 16 - 18, 1983
REF: (A) NIAHEY 0031 (NOTAL), (B) NIAHEY 0113 (NOTAL), (C)
NIAHEY 0180 (NOTAL), (D) 82 NIAHEY 7517 (NOTAL), (E) NIAHEY
0278 (NOTAL), (F) NIAHEY 0318 (NOTAL), (G) NIAHEY 0059 (NOTAL)

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: DURING A BRIEF BUT PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO NIGER,
JANUARY 16-18, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROCKER MET WITH
PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE, FOREIGN MINISTER DIALLO, AND THREE
OTHER LEADING GON MINISTERS. DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT
KOUNTCHE CENTERED ON NIGER'S ECONOMIC CRISIS, BILATERAL
RELATIONS, REGIONAL ISSUES, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE
EXCHANGE WAS FRIENDLY AND FRANK, A REFLECTION OF THE
EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NIGER.
DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER OF PLAN HIGHLIGHTED CURRENT
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING NIGER AS IT ENTERS DISCUSSIONS
WITH IMF, PARIS CLUB, AND WORLD BANK FOR THEIR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE. VISIT ALSO AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY FOR CROCKER TO
FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH AREA BY SEEING A USAID AGRICULTURAL
PROJECT AND A FED IRRIGATION PROJECT. ATMOSPHERE THROUGH-
OUT VISIT WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE, AND GON MEDIA ACCORDED
CROCKER EXCELLENT TREATMENT. NOW THAT GON ECONOMIC CRISIS
IS MORE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS EVEN
CLEARER THAT SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS WILL BE NEEDED IN
THE WAY THE USG PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY. END
SUMMARY.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHESTER A. CROCKER ARRIVED IN
NIAHEY JANUARY 16 FOR A 48 HOUR VISIT, HIS FIRST EVER TO
A LANDLOCKED SAHELIAN COUNTRY. ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF
ASSISTANT GREGORY G. FERGIN, CROCKER WAS MET UPON HIS

ARRIVAL BY FOREIGN MINISTER DAUDA DIALLO, GON PROTOCOL
OFFICIALS, AMBASSADOR CASEY, AND DCM SOUTHWICK. AFTER A
BRIEF EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, CROCKER LEFT AIRPORT WITH
AMBASSADOR FOR LUNCH AND BRIEFING AT RESIDENCE WITH
COUNTRY TEAM. THE COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING CONCENTRATED ON
PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON STATE OF GON ECONOMY,
WHICH AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, HAS ENTERED AN EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT PHASE. BRIEFING WAS FOLLOWED BY 90 MINUTE
MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH DIALLO, WHO INVITED
MINISTER OF PLAN, ANNOU MAHAMANE, TO JOIN GROUP HALF WAY
THROUGH THE MEETING.

4. INITIAL PART OF DISCUSSION WITH DIALLO CENTERED ON
REGIONAL CONCERNS AND AFRICA GENERALLY, WITH SPECIAL
ATTENTION PAID TO THE OAU. DIALLO BEGAN HIS REMARKS BY
EXPRESSING GON SATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE CALLS THE
"FRAMEWORK" OF CONTACT ESTABLISHED IN RECENT YEARS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND NIGER. HE ASKED THAT THESE CONTINUE
SO THAT WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES
OF MUTUAL CONCERN. DIALLO SAID THAT HE HAS FOUND THE USG
WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING HIS COUNTRY AND AFRICA,
BUT HE WENT ON TO STRESS SEVERAL POINTS:

A. OAU: NIGER IS DETERMINED THAT FORCE WILL NOT PREVAIL
IN THE OAU. THE OAU MUST ABIDE BY ITS CHARTER AND
NOT BECOME A PLATFORM FOR THE VIEWS OF A PARTICULAR
FACTION. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM CROCKER AS TO
WHY TRIPOLI II FAILED, DIALLO SAID THAT IT SEEMS TO
HIM THAT QADHAFI MADE THE DECISION TO JETTISON THE
CONFERENCE AFTER IT WAS IN PROGRESS. HE SPECULATED
THAT QADHAFI HIMSELF MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO THE
DECISION BY HIS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, PARTICULARLY
THOSE WHO HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE CHAD
ADVENTURE. DIALLO SAID THAT MANY COUNTRIES AT THE
PPPP CONFERENCE SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF MODERATE STATES
PPPP LIKE NIGER BUT HAD REMAINED SILENT. HE PLACED ANGOLA
IN THIS CATEGORY. HOWEVER, DIALLO MAINTAINED THAT
THE MODERATES OPPOSING QADHAFI WERE NOT A GROUP WITH
A PLAN OR A PLOT, JUST STATES WITH CONVERGING VIEWS
ON A CERTAIN ISSUE. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE
NEITHER EXPECTS NOR WANTS A COALITION OF MODERATE
STATES TO BE FORMED TO ACT IN CONCERT ON OAU ISSUES.
AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY'S "FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THE
OAU," DIALLO SAID, IS AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE AND
MUST BE PRESERVED. (THIS REFLECTS A POST
YAMOUSSOUKRO REALIZATION THAT SUCH A COALITION WON'T
FLY. SEE REF A)

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B. WESTERN SAHARA: DIALLO, WHO RECENTLY VISITED ALGIERS WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE (REF B), SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS READY TO TALK BUT WILL DO NOTHING PUBLICLY. THE PROBLEM IS TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND GOODWILL BETWEEN THE ALGERIANS AND THE MOROCCANS. AS FOR NIGER-ALGERIAN RELATIONS, DIALLO EXPRESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF SATISFACTION.

C. CHAD: RESPONDING TO CROCKER'S INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THE LIBYAN INTERVENTION IN CHAD TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, DIALLO INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR WAITING FURTHER UNTIL THE RIGHT MOMENT WHEN SOMETHING MORE DRAMATIC IS HAPPENING IN CHAD. HE ADMITTED THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM WITH THIS, IN THAT QADHAFI MIGHT BE WAITING FOR "PEOPLE TO SLEEP," I.E., THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHILE HABRE'S OWN PROBLEMS WORE HIM DOWN AND MADE THE HABRE GOVERNMENT AN EASIER TARGET.

D. SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONCERNS DURING WHICH CROCKER TOOK THE LEAD, EXPLAINING THE STATUS OF THE NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW THEY ARE AFFECTED BY INTERNAL ANGOLAN POLITICS. CROCKER EMPHASIZED THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, THAT CONTACTS ENCOURAGED BY THE U.S. AMONG ALL THE PARTIES ARE CONTINUING, AND THAT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE BEING PRESENTED. CROCKER NOTED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTIONS IN THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT PRESSURES ARE BEING EXERTED ON THE ANGOLANS FROM ALL SIDES, INCLUDING FROM THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS. HE UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS ISSUE IS THE ONLY REAL OBSTACLE TO A SETTLEMENT AND SAID THAT THE U.S. HAS TOLD THIS TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. HAS ALSO TOLD THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTEREST IN THE DESTABILIZATION OF MOZAMBIQUE.

5. MINISTER OF PLAN ANNOU THEN JOINED THE MEETING AND THERE WERE A FEW MORE BRIEF EXCHANGES ABOUT QADHAFI. BOTH ANNOU AND DIALLO JUST RETURNED FROM INDIA (FYI: EMBASSY BELIEVES BUT HAS NO CONFIRMATION THAT THIS WAS A TRIP TO SELL NIGERIAN URANIUM). IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE, THEY SAID THEY WERE TOLO AT ONE HOTEL THAT LIBYA WOULD PAY THE BILLS EXCEPT FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS. ANNOU HAD REPLIED TO THE CASHIER THAT HE WOULD PAY HIMSELF; NOT ONLY THE DRINKS, BUT ALL OTHER CHARGES AS WELL.

6. ANNOU'S PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING UNDERScoreD THE GON'S INTENSE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE STATE OF NIGERIAN ECONOMY. ANNOU WAS SOMEWHAT ROUNDABOUT IN HIS PRESENTATION, BUT THE ESSENTIAL POINTS WERE WELL MADE. HE SAID THAT THE GON WAS GRATEFUL FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE AND WOULD BE TAKING THE UPCOMING USAID-FUNDED JOINT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT VERY SERIOUSLY. NIGER, ANNOU WENT ON TO EXPLAIN, KNOWS IT FACES A DIFFICULT PERIOD AND IS WILLING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO SECURE IMF ASSISTANCE. ANNOU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ECONOMY MUST BE RESTRUCTURED, MINIMIZING THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES, BUT THE GON CANNOT DO THIS ALONE. THE GON NEEDS "SOMETHING POSITIVE TO SHOW OTHERWISE THE COUNTRY WILL EXPLODE," ANNOU SAID.

7. ANNOU THEN ASKED FOR USG SUPPORT VIS-A-VIS THE IMF, THE WORLD BANK, AND THE EC TO ENSURE THE REQUIRED ASSISTANCE. ANNOU INDICATED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH A VISITING IMF TEAM WERE UNDERWAY AND A CLEAR PICTURE OF IMF TERMS AND CONDITIONS WOULD EMERGE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

8. CROCKER RESPONDED WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR GON OBJECTIVES. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FINDS ANNOU'S PPPPOESCRPTION OF THE PROBLEM CONVINCING. HE SAID HE IS PPPPIMPRESSED BY THE SERIOUS WAY THE GON IS ADDRESSING ITS BT

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ECONOMIC SITUATION.

9. THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR THE MEETING AT AN END, CROCKER LEFT FOR NIGER'S NATIONAL MUSEUM WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR BY THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, THOUGH SMALL, IS AN EXTREMELY WELL-DESIGNED AND MAINTAINED FACILITY WHICH GIVES AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION OF THE CULTURAL RICHNESS AND DIVERSITY OF NIGER.

10. LATER THE SAME EVENING CROCKER WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT A WELL-ATTENDED RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR CASEY. EIGHT MINISTERS WERE PRESENT AS WELL AS SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE WORLD BANK REP, AND MEMBERS OF THE VISITING IMF TEAM.

11. THE NEXT MORNING BEGAN WITH CALLS ON THREE MINISTERS, BEGINNING WITH MINISTER OF PLAN ANNOU, WHO CONTINUED IN THE SAME VEIN AS DURING THE PREVIOUS MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, ANNOU PROVIDED A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HOW THE GON ARRIVED AT THE CURRENT SITUATION. HE ADMITTED THAT MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE, BUT TOOK SOME PRIDE IN THE WAY THE GON HAD INVESTED IN INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE URANIUM BOOM. HE THEN EXPRESSED FEAR THAT SOME OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY NIGER'S VITAL ROAD SYSTEM, FACES DETERIORATION UNLESS A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED. ANNOU ALSO FORCEFULLY DREW A CONNECTION BETWEEN ECONOMICS AND INTERNAL POLITICAL STABILITY, SAYING THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA, HAD PREOCCUPIED THE GON AND THAT NIGER ITSELF COULD BECOME ANOTHER IRAN. HE AGAIN ASKED FOR THE USG TO INTERVENE IN NIGER'S BEHALF VIS-A-VIS THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, THIS TIME ADDING THE PARIS CLUB TO HIS LIST.

12. CROCKER EXPLAINED THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS, SAYING THAT THE U.S.

CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THE CRITERIA THESE ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOY IN DECIDING TO ACCORD ASSISTANCE, BUT THAT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS NIGER IS VERY FAVORABLE. ANNOU RECOGNIZED THIS, BUT ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN SECURING RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN FACTORS AFFECTING THE NIGER ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY THE LONG, UNCONTROLLABLE BORDER WITH NIGERIA WHERE THERE IS A LOT OF BORDER TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH NEVER SHOWS UP ON GON STATISTICS. IN RESPONSE, CROCKER PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH USG ECONOMICS EXPERTS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT NIGER'S CASE. ANNOU THEN SAID THAT NIGER WOULD NOT LOOK FOR MORE ASSISTANCE THAN IT NEEDED, THAT IF IT NEEDED TO GO NO FURTHER THAN THE IMF IT WOULD STOP THERE.

13. CROCKER EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL THE FINANCIAL SITUATION FACING THE USG BUT SAID THAT THE USG IS DOING ITS BEST TO HELP ITS FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND THAT NIGER IS ONE OF THREE FRANCOPHONE STATES TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES ACCORDED A HIGH PRIORITY. ANNOU SAID THAT THE GON ALSO FACES A BUDGET DEFICIT THIS YEAR, PROBABLY ON THE ORDER OF 24 BILLION CFA (US \$72 MILLION) AND THAT THE WORLD BANK HAS BEEN ASKED TO SEND A TEAM TO HELP EXAMINE HOW TO MANAGE SUCH A SHORTFALL. (IF TRUE, NIGER'S ECONOMIC DETERIORATION IS MORE RAPID THAN EMBASSY FORECAST AND REFLECTS RECENT IMF PROVIDED INFORMATION. REF C) THE WORLD BANK TEAM WILL ARRIVE JUST AFTER THE CURRENT IMF VISIT ENDS, ANNOU SAID. ANNOU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE WORLD BANK CAN PICK UP GON COSTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WITH OTHER DONORS POSSIBLY PICKING UP OTHER COSTS; THIS WOULD ALLOW THE GON ITSELF TO MEET SOME ONGOING GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.

14. CROCKER ASKED IF THE GON UNDERSTANDS THE KINDS OF FUNDAMENTAL READJUSTMENTS REQUIRED BY THE WORLD BANK. PPPANNNU REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, SAYING THAT THE GON IS PPPREADY TO CHANGE POLICIES AFFECTING PRICES, SUBSIDIES, FOREIGN TRADE, AND SUPPORTS FOR PARASTATALS. ANNOU ALSO SAID THAT THE GON WANTS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO RUN AS MUCH

OF THE ECONOMY AS POSSIBLE. THE MEETING ENDED WITH A SHORT GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT ENGAGING U.S. BUSINESS IN THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY, SPECIFICALLY THE PLANS FOR ANNOU TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES LATER THIS MONTH FOR MEETINGS ARRANGED BT

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BY THE BCIV. (REF D)

15. THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING, WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MOUMOUNI DJERMAKOEY AMADOU, WHO ALSO HEADS THE COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF A BRIEFING BY DJERMAKOEY ON GON PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. DJERMAKOEY EXPLAINED THAT THE IDEA FOR CREATING THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY IS BASED ON A FUNDAMENTAL RETHINKING OF NIGER'S ECONOMY, SOCIAL STRUCTURE, GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AS INHERITED FROM THE FRENCH, AND TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. THE PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, DJERMAKOEY SAID, PROCEEDS ON THE BELIEF THAT WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY CANNOT WORK IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE MAJOR PREOCCUPATION IS FEEDING ONESELF.

16. ACCORDING TO DJERMAKOEY, THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY -- A NETWORK OF COUNCILS EXTENDING FROM THE VILLAGE LEVEL TO A SOON-TO-BE CREATED NATIONAL LEVEL COUNCIL -- WILL SEEK TO INVOLVE ALL THE ENTIRE POPULATION IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. DECISION-MAKING, SAID DJERMAKOEY, IS TO BE DECENTRALIZED TO UNLEASH THE INITIATIVE AND ENERGIES OF PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, DJERMAKOEY SAID CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE, BUT EACH COUNCIL WILL BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE ITS OWN FUNDING, NORMALLY THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. DJERMAKOEY INDICATED THAT A MAJOR AIM OF THE ENTIRE SCHEME IS TO MAKE RURAL PEOPLE CONTENT WITH THEIR LOT AND THEREFORE AVOID URBANIZATION. NIGER'S CITIES AND TOWNS, DJERMAKOEY SAID, CANNOT ABSORB LARGE INCREASES IN POPULATION WITHOUT RISKING POLITICAL DISCONTENT. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO A HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM UNDER WHICH MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY VISIT THE UNITED STATES FOR OBSERVATION OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FORMS. DJERMAKOEY WAS AGAIN INVITED TO HEAD THIS DELEGATION. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT IN SEPARATE MESSAGE

IN FURTHER DETAIL ABOUT THIS MEETING AND CURRENT STATUS OF GON PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY.

17. THE MEETING FOLLOWING WITH THE MINISTER OF MINES, OUMAR DIALLO, WAS THE LEAST PRODUCTIVE OF THE THREE, MAINLY BECAUSE DIALLO WAS BENT ON USING THE OCCASION TO UPBraid BOTH THE USG AND THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR FOR FAILING TO COME THROUGH WITH INVESTMENT IN NIGER. CROCKER AND THE AMBASSADOR COUNTERED WITH DESCRIPTION OF BASIC PRIVATE SECTOR NATURE OF U.S. ECONOMY AND THAT MARKET FORCES DECIDED INVESTMENT DECISIONS AND THAT TIMES WERE NOT PROPITIOUS. NONETHELESS, THE AMBASSADOR POINTED TO THE RECENT EMBASSY INSTIGATED VISIT BY A BECHTEL VICE PRESIDENT AS AN INDICATION THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ARE INTERESTED IN NIGER AND ARE OPEN TO FIND WAYS TO INVEST IN PROFITABLE ENTERPRISES IN THIS COUNTRY.

18. THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS. SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE DETAILS OF THIS MEETING, BUT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSION ARE AS FOLLOWS. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY HAS "STOPPED" AND COULD EVEN SLIP BACKWARDS. HE, THEREFORE, APPRECIATED EXISTING U.S. BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND WANTED IT TO CONTINUE. HE ALSO TOOK UP AND REINFORCED THE PLEA MADE BY MINISTER OF PLAN ANNOU FOR THE U.S. TO INTERVENE IN NIGER'S BEHALF VIS-A-VIS THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. KOUNTCHE ALSO RENEWED HIS REQUEST FOR THE U.S. TO PROVIDE GRANT SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DOD SURVEY TEAM LAST YEAR (EQUIPMENT FOR ONE PARACHUTE UNIT AND AN ARMORED UNIT, INCLUDING ARMORED CARS).

19. KOUNTCHE WAS ELOQUENT AND FORCEFUL ON THE THEME HE PPPHAS DEVELOPED IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS THAT NIGER IS PPPPSURROUNDED BY UNSTABLE NATIONS EXCEPT FOR ALGERIA. KOUNTCHE, LIKE FOREIGN MINISTER DIALLO IN THE EARLIER CONVERSATION, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS RECENT VISIT TO ALGIERS AND INDICATED THAT HIS GOOD RELATIONS BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 05 OF 06 NIAHEY 00341

WITH ALGERIA WERE AN ESSENTIAL COUNTERWEIGHT TO LIBYAN ADVENTURISM. KOUNTCHE SAID HIS STRUGGLE WITH QADHAFI IS DEEPLY PERSONAL IN THAT THE LIBYAN LEADER HAD SENT ASSASSINS TO NIGER. KOUNTCHE SAID HE WOULD CONSEQUENTLY NEVER GO TO TRIPOLI FOR AN OAU MEETING, EVEN IF ALL THE OTHER AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE WERE THERE.

20. CROCKER REVIEWED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS CURRENT AFRICAN TOUR AND ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS. KOUNTCHE WAS APPRECIATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE OF WHAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, AND ONLY MADE A MILD AND PRO FORMA CRITICISM OF WHAT HE CALLED AMERICAN "INSISTENCE" THAT THE CUBANS WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA. HE UPBRAIDED SO-CALLED "REVOLUTIONARY" AFRICAN STATES, SAYING THAT THE "REVOLUTION IS OVER," THAT TRUE REVOLUTION IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE IMPLIED THAT NIGER AND MOST AFRICAN STATES ARE CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS IN THEIR OWN REGION, THAT JUST AS THE CHADIAN PROBLEM IS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT FOR KENYAN PRESIDENT MOI, THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SEEMS FAR AWAY TO STATES IN NORTHERN AFRICA. IN SUM, DURING THIS CONVERSATION KOUNTCHE CONVEYED ONCE AGAIN THE HALLMARKS OF HIS POLICIES AND LEADERSHIP STYLE: SERIDUSNESS, PRAGMATISM, ENERGY, AND MODERATION.

21. A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED THE AUDIENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE NATIONAL PRESS AND LOCAL AFP CORRESPONDENT WERE PRESENT, AND THE QUESTIONS WERE MILD. REF E.

22. AFTER A SHORT LUNCH WITH EMBASSY STAFF, CROCKER LEFT FOR THE LOSSA SEED CENTER ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY AND USAID/ NIGER OFFICIALS. GON OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH THE PROJECT WERE ON HAND AT THE CENTER TO PROVIDE A TOUR AND A BRIEFING. THE SEED CENTER, LOCATED ABOUT 60 MILES FROM NIAHEY, IS ONE OF FIVE SIMILAR SEED MULTIPLICATION CENTERS ESTABLISHED AS PART OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED NIGER CEREALS PROJECT. ON HIS RETURN FROM LOSSA, THE CROCKER PARTY ALSO

VISITED A PUMP-FED IRRIGATION PROJECT ALONG THE NIGER RIVER FUNDED BY THE FED. BOTH PROJECTS DEMONSTRATED THE CENTRAL PLACE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OCCUPIES IN GON AND MOST DONOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. THE TRIP ALSO ALLOWED THE CROCKER PARTY TO PASS THROUGH SOME TYPICAL NIGERIAN COUNTRYSIDE, AND THIS GAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE HARSHNESS OF THIS ARID ENVIRONMENT AND THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FARMERS.

23. THAT SAME EVENING GON HOSTED A TRADITIONAL MECHOU (BARBECUED GOAT) IN THE COURTYARD OF THE NEW GON FOREIGN MINISTRY. (THIS WAS THE INAUGURAL USE OF THE COURTYARD.) SENIOR GON OFFICIALS, RANKING MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND EMBASSY STAFF ATTENDED.

24. THE NEXT MORNING DIALLO MET AGAIN BRIEFLY WITH CROCKER AT THE VIP LOUNGE OF THE AIRPORT JUST BEFORE CROCKER'S DEPARTURE. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED WARM SATISFACTION WITH THE VISIT AND THE DIALOGUE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE ON SUCH A VARIETY OF ISSUES.

25. DOMESTIC MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE VISIT WAS FAIR, FAVORABLE, AND EXTENSIVE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF MEDIA ATTENTION DEVOTED TO COVERING CELEBRATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROMOTION TO GENERAL (REF F).

26. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE VISIT SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED SEVERAL U.S. OBJECTIVES. IT DEMONSTRATED THAT THE U.S. HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR NIGER AND AN APPRECIATION FOR THE PROBLEMS NIGER FACES BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND WITHIN THE REGION. THE U.S. COULD NOT AND DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS, BUT WE REINFORCED OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE GON. THE GON MADE ITS SITUATION CRYSTAL CLEAR, PPPPT THAT IT FACES AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PERIOD AHEAD AND THAT PPPPT IT IS RELYING ON THE UNITED STATES TO DO ITS PART TO SEE NIGER THROUGH. THE GON'S MODERATE POLICIES, DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, WERE REAFFIRMED IN OUR CONVERSATIONS, AS WAS BASIC GON UNDERSTANDING OF AND LACK OF HOSTILITY BT

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E. O. 12356: DECL: 01/19/03
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, EAID, OAU, NG, AG, CD, US
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROCKER'S VISIT TO NIGER,
JANUARY 16 - 18, 1983
REF: (A) NIAMEY 0031 (NOTAL), (B) NIAMEY 0113 (NOTAL), (C)
NIAMEY 0180 (NOTAL), (D) 82 NIAMEY 7517 (NOTAL), (E) NIAMEY
0278 (NOTAL), (F) NIAMEY 0318 (NOTAL), (G) NIAMEY 0059 (NOTAL)
TOWARDS U. S. SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY. THE GON'S ANTAGONISM
TOWARDS LIBYA, BASED ON KOUNTCHE'S OWN COMMENTS, SHOW NO
SIGN OF WEAKENING, AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE ABLE TO
EXPECT GON SUPPORT IN CONTAINING QADHAFI.

27. THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE GON ABOUT THE SEVERITY OF
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS HAVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U. S.
OUR ENTIRE AID PROGRAM, OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND OUR
EXPECTATIONS OF NIGER'S ROLE IN THE REGION, HAVE ALL BEEN
DEVELOPED ON THE BASIS OF ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT A NIGERIEN
ECONOMY WHICH NO LONGER EXISTS. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY
SIGNALLED THIS PROBLEM TO WASHINGTON (REF G) AND THE
SUBJECT WILL FIGURE IN FUTURE MESSAGES AS WE SEEK TO FIND
WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESTRUCTURING OF OUR ASSISTANCE
REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT IT NOT ONLY MEETS LONG TERM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS, BUT ASSISTS IN SUPPORTING STABILITY IN
THE SHORT TERM. CASEY
BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NIAHEY 00374

E.O. 12356: DECL: 1/21/89
TAGS: PREL, GE, FR, EG, NG
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIED EMBASSIES RE: ASSISTANT
SECRETARY CROCKER'S VISIT TO NIGER

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROCKER'S VISIT
TO NIGER JANUARY 16-18, 1983, I HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS
WITH AMBASSADORS FROM FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND EGYPT.
AFTER A BRIEF READ-OUT OF CROCKER'S VISIT THE CONVERSATIONS
TURNED TO THE CONDITION OF NIGER'S ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, SEVERAL OF MY COLLEAGUES WERE
INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A READ-OUT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CROCKER'S VISIT TO NIGER. THEREFORE, I HAD SEPARATE DIS-
CUSSIONS ON JANUARY 20 WITH AMBASSADORS GANNS (WEST
GERMANY), SALAMA (EGYPT) AND COURAGE (FRANCE). THEIR
MAIN INTEREST CENTERED ON WHY CROCKER HAD COME, AND WHAT
"GOODIES" HE HAD LEFT. MY GENERAL REPLY STRESSED THE GOOD-
WILL-ORIENTATION NATURE OF THE VISIT THAT CONCENTRATED ON
DISCUSSIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERNS FOR NIGER'S ECONOMY
AND SECURITY, BUT NO NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE PROMISED.

3. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS, NIGER'S RAPIDLY DETERIORATING
ECONOMY WAS THE MAIN TOPIC. THE VIEWS WERE UNANIMOUS
AND BLEAK. THE MAIN POINTS WERE: A) NIGER'S DEBT
BURDEN HAD BECOME UNSUPPORTABLE AND, THEREFORE, NIGER
MUST GET BUDGET SUPPORT LOANS/GRANTS AND DEBT RESCHEDULING
ASSISTANCE, B) THERE IS NO REVENUE PRODUCING SECTOR PRE-
SENTLY IDENTIFIABLE THAT COULD PROVIDE LONG TERM ECONOMIC
STABILITY AND THE IDENTIFICATION/DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A
SECTOR MUST BE OF HIGH PRIORITY, C) FOOD STOCKS ON
HAND ARE PRESENTLY SUFFICIENT TO FEED THE NATION AND SUP-
PLEMENT OR SUBSTITUTE, IN PART, THE SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES, BUT THIS COULD CHANGE WITH ONE YEAR OF POOR
RAINFALL.

4. IT WAS FELT BY ALL THAT THE PRESENT MODERATE, PRO-
WESTERN GOVERNMENT OF NIGER WAS A STABILIZING FORCE
IN THE REGION AND, AS SUCH, VITAL TO THE OVERALL
INTEREST OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS ALSO
AGREED THAT NIGER'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE A GREAT THREAT
TO KOUNTCHE'S AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE
AS LIBYA, NO DOUBT, WILL EXPLOIT THEM.

5. GANNS AND COURAGE MENTIONED THEIR OWN BUDGETARY PROBLEMS
AND INDICATED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WERE HAVING TO
PRIORITIZE THEIR ASSISTANCE AS THEY COULD NOT FILL

ALL THE NEEDS NOW EVIDENT IN AFRICA. FURTHERMORE, WE
ALL AGREED THERE MUST BE SOME CHANGES IN OUR ASSISTANCE
DELIVERY TO REDUCE THE COST OF ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES
SUCH AS NIGER.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR COURAGE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
IN KNOWING IF KOUNTCHE HAS, AGAIN, REQUESTED SECURITY
EQUIPMENT AND, IF SO, HOW HAD CROCKER RESPONDED. I
REPLIED THAT THE SUBJECT WAS MENTIONED BUT WE HAD SERIOUS
DOUBTS AS TO OUR ABILITY TO SUPPLY ALL THAT KOUNTCHE
REQUESTED. COURAGE THEN REMORSEFULLY SAID, "I SUPPOSE THAT
MEANS THE USG WON'T BE FINANCING FRENCH ARMS FOR NIGER."
I CONCURRED AND STATED, IF ANYTHING, WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO MAKE A MARGINAL INCREASE IN OUR FMS ON PERHAPS
BETTER TERMS.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 03/22/03
TAGS: PINS, PREL, PINR, MASS, US, FR, NG, LY
SUBJECT: PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR
COURAGE

REF: A) OUAGADOUGOU 1467 (NOTAL, B) NIAHEY 1428,
C) NIAHEY 144 (NOTAL)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: DURING CONSULTATIONS HELD LATE 21 MARCH 1983
FRENCH AMBASSADOR COURAGE AND I DISCUSSED LIBYAN ARMS DE-
LIVERY TO UPPER VOLTA, THE GON REACTION TO SUCH, NIGER'S
ECONOMY, AND THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF UPPER VOLTA PRIME
MINISTER SANKARA. END SUMMARY.

3. I OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING COURAGE IF HE
HAD HEARD OF THE RUMORS CONCERNING A LIBYAN ARMS SHIPMENT
TO UPPER VOLTA. (REF A) COURAGE REPLIED, "YES, HE
HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM PARIS MARCH 5, 1983." HE SHOWED
ME THE CABLE WHICH SAID THAT ONE IL-76-STOL HAD BEEN
SEEN UNLOADING WHAT APPEARED TO BE SMALL ARMS AND MUNITIONS
IN OUAGADOUGOU ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 2. WHEN HE SAID HE
HAD NO OTHER INFORMATION I INFORMED HIM WE HAD HEARD THERE
WAS ANOTHER PLANE INVOLVED. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE AND SAID
HE WOULD CHECK THIS OUT.

4. COURAGE THEN SAID KOUNTCHE HAD BEEN VERY WORRIED ABOUT
THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND HAD CALLED COURAGE IN FOR DISCUSSIONS
WITHIN AN HOUR OF COURAGE'S RETURN TO NIAHEY MARCH 18.
(FYI: COURAGE WAS ON A 10 DAY IN-COUNTRY TOUR FROM
MARCH 8 TO 18. END FYI.) I CONCURRED WITH HIS OBSERVATION
OF KOUNTCHE'S CONCERNS, INFORMING HIM KOUNTCHE HAD CALLED
ME IN ALSO (MARCH 15, REF B).

5. THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO KOUNTCHE'S INCREASING
SENSE OF DESPAIR GENERATED BY THE DETERIORATING NIGERIEN
ECONOMY AND WHAT KOUNTCHE SEES AS BEING SURROUNDED BY
QADHAFI INFLUENCED STATES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION
CONCERNING FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO NIGER, COURAGE STATED
THE FRENCH HAD DECIDED TO PURCHASE ALL OF NIGER'S UNSOLD
URANIUM FOR 1982 (SOME 1000 TONS) AND WERE CONSIDERING
THE RESCHEDULING OF NIGER'S DEBTS TO FRANCE. BUT HE
SAID FRANCE WAS HAVING INCREASING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
ITSELF AND THERE WAS A LIMIT TO WHAT EVEN FRANCE COULD DO.
HE AGREED KOUNTCHE WAS PROBABLY IN FOR SOME POLITICALLY
TRYING TIMES AS HE MAKES CUTS IN GOVERNMENTAL SPENDING
IN THOSE AREAS WHERE HE CAN, I.E. EXPENDITURES ON SALARIES
AND BENEFITS FOR HIS MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE FONCTION-
NAIRES. HE MENTIONED THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN HEARING OF
MORE UNREST IN THIS GROUP.

6. TOWARD THE END OF THE CONVERSATION I COMPLIMENTED
COURAGE ON HIS PROPHETIC COMMENT REGARDING THE LEANINGS
OF THE NEW UPPER VOLTA GOVERNMENT. I REMINDED HIM THAT
IN OUR CONVERSATION OF JANUARY 7, 1983 HE HAD STATED THAT
HE WAS CONCERNED, WHILE ALL REPORTS INDICATED THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WOULD FOLLOW PREVIOUS MODERATE TRENDS. (REF C,
PARA 10). COURAGE REPLIED HIS FEELINGS WERE BASED ON
PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH A FRIEND WHO LIVES IN
OUAGADOUGOU AND IS "A VERY CLOSE, LONG-TIME FRIEND OF
CAPTAIN SANKARA." COURAGE SAID HIS FRIEND'S OPINION OF
CAPTAIN SANKARA WAS THAT HE IS "A FANATIC THAT CANNOT BE
REASONED WITH." COURAGE SAID THIS CONVERSATION WAS
HELD A WEEK OR SO AFTER THE NOVEMBER 7 COUP AND AT THAT
TIME HIS FRIEND HAD PREDICTED THAT SANKARA WOULD EMERGE ON
TOP AND THE COUNTRY WOULD TURN TO THE LEFT. COURAGE
DID NOT REVEAL WHO HIS FRIEND WAS BUT INDICATED IT WAS NOT
THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN OUAGADOUGOU.
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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 NIAHEY 02536 01 OF 02 071626Z
ACTION AF-00

3484

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
CIAE-00 EB-00 DODE-00 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 COME-00
HA-00 L-03 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PM-00 INT-05 OMB-01
STR-14 SP-02 /125 W

-----312457 071631Z /40

P 071150Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY NIAHEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0656
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NIAHEY 02536

E.O. 12356: DECL: 5/7/89
TAGS: PREL, FR, NG, EAID, EFIN
SUBJECT: FRANCE'S NUCCI VISITS NIGER

REF: NIAHEY 2221

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR COURAGE HELD LATE MAY 5, 1983, CONCENTRATED ON VISIT OF MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NUCCI TO NIGER, MAY 2-3, 1983. COURAGE INFORMED ME FRANCE HAD DECIDED THAT NIGER WAS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES THAT THEY HAD TO KEEP AFLOAT AND, THEREFORE, THEY WERE PLANNING TO GIVE 6 BILLION CFA (USDOLS 16.2 MILLION) TO NIGER FOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT. ALSO, FRANCE WILL HELP NIGER IN VARIOUS MAJOR INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECTS. COURAGE ALSO RELAYED TO ME THAT PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE HAD GIVEN NUCCI HIS NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS OF UPPER VOLTAN PRESIDENT OUEDRAOGO. END SUMMARY.

3. COURAGE OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT NUCCI'S VISIT CAPPED OFF THE WEEK LONG WORKING SESSIONS OF A FRENCH/NIGERIEN MIXED COMMISSION WHICH WERE SEEKING WAYS TO INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO. COURAGE SAID THAT THE WAY FRANCE HANDLED ITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WAS EVOLVING. HE NOTED THAT AFTER MITTERAND'S ELECTION FRANCE HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO DO MORE FOR ALL OF THE LOC'S. BUT NOW, WITH ITS OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, IT WAS FINDING IT COULD NOT DO ALL THAT IT WISHED. THEREFORE, FOR THE TIME BEING FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO PRIORITIZE ITS ASSISTANCE MORE THAN IT WOULD LIKE TO. COURAGE INDICATED THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN UPPER VOLTA HAVE REFOCUSSED FRANCE'S VIEW OF THIS PART OF AFRICA. IN FRANCE'S PERSPECTIVE NIGER/KOUNTCHE STAND OUT AS A STRONG STABILIZING FORCE FOR MODERATION. THEREFORE, FRANCE HAS DETERMINED THAT NIGER MUST FIT NEAR THE TOP OF ITS PRIORITIES.

4. COURAGE SAID THAT FRANCE SEES NIGER'S CURRENT BUDGET PROBLEMS AS THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF POLITICAL UNREST. COURAGE SAID THAT FRANCE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO GIVE NIGER FROM 4-5 BILLION CFA (REF A) BUT THAT AFTER NUCCI HAD SPENT A DAY HERE HE WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH KOUNTCHE AND THE GON'S EFFORTS TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEM, NUCCI HAD ADDED A BILLION CFA ON HIS OWN. COURAGE SAID THAT NUCCI HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT FRANCE WOULD RESCHEDULE SOME FRENCH CONTRACTED DEBTS. COURAGE NOTED THAT, WITH THE 6 BILLION CFA, SOME DEBT RESCHEDULING, AND THE EXPECTED 40 MILLION USDOLS FROM THE IMF, NIGER MIGHT BE ABLE TO COVER ITS IMMEDIATE DEBT PROBLEMS.

5. COURAGE THEN ASKED IF WE WERE STILL PLANNING TO GIVE SOME FORM OF BUDGETARY SUPPORT. I MENTIONED OUR DOLS 2 MILLION-ESF AND AG SECTOR GRANT WERE STILL BEING PLANNED FOR FY83. COURAGE SEEMED PLEASED WE WERE HELPING TO "SUPPORT THE FRENCH EFFORT" IN KEEPING NIGER SOLVENT,

AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. WE BOTH AGREED THOUGH THAT NO LONG TERM ECONOMIC SOLUTION WAS IN VIEW.

6. COURAGE STATED THAT KOUNTCHE HAD REQUESTED FRENCH AID FOR SEVERAL LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND NUCCI HAD ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS:

--KANDADJI DAM: NUCCI FLATLY QUESTIONED ITS VIABILITY AND PROPOSED THAT INSTEAD OF SPENDING SEVERAL MILLION CFA FRANCE HAD COMMITTED TO FEASIBILITY STUDIES FRANCE WAS WILLING TO SPEND THE MONEY ON HYDROLOGY PROJECTS IN THE NORTH. COURAGE SAYS KOUNTCHE OPTED FOR THE WATER PROJECTS.

--URANIUM: FRANCE WOULD PURCHASE ALL OF NIGER'S UNSOLD SHARE OF PRODUCTION FOR 81-82 AND WOULD PURCHASE A GREATLY REDUCED NIGERIEN SHARE FOR 1983.

--OIL: WHILE FRANCE FEELS THE OIL DISCOVERIES NEAR LAKE CHAD ARE TOO MARGINAL FOR EXPORT, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE WORLD BANK FINANCING OF A SMALL REFINERY THAT WOULD PRODUCE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION.

--SONICAR COAL FED POWER PLANT: FRANCE WOULD WORK OUT SOME SORT OF REFINANCING/RESCHEDULING OF ITS DEBT THAT WOULD DECREASE THE AMORTIZATION COMPONENT OF ITS POWER COST STRUCTURE.

--GRAND MARCHE: FRANCE WOULD PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES OF A NEW GRAND MARCHE TO BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE OLD ONE WHICH BURNT DOWN LAST YEAR.

7. AT THE END OF THE MEETING COURAGE INFORMED ME THAT KOUNTCHE HAD TOLD NUCCI THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN IMPRESSED WITH UPPER VOLTAN PRESIDENT OUEDRAOGO. KOUNTCHE IS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED HIM A VERY WEAK MAN WITH NO INDEPENDENT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority DOS WALKER
By CN NARA DATE 8/5/22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02536 02 OF 02 071203Z
ACTION AF-00

3486

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00
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P 071150Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0657
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 NIAMEY 02536

SPIRIT. COURAGE AND I WONDERED WHETHER THIS DESCRIPTION WAS BASED MORE ON KOUNTCHE'S OPINIONS OF WHAT A MILITARY PRESIDENT/DICTATOR SHOULD BE, THAN ANY CHARACTER FAULT IN OUEDRAOGO.

8. COMMENT: THE MOST STRIKING THING ABOUT THIS MEETING WAS THAT IT TOOK ON THE AIR OF A DEBRIEFING. THIS MEETING WENT FAR BEYOND THE NORMAL OPEN SHARING OF INFORMATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE COURAGE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE ME A DETAILED BRIEFING OF NUCCI'S VISIT. COURAGE BROUGHT NOTES THAT HE TICKED OFF AS HE COVERED EACH POINT. THE ONLY TIMES THE CONVERSATION DEVIATED FROM HIS AGENDA WERE WHEN WE DISCUSSED OUEDRAOGO AND OUR BUDGET SUPPORT. CONCERNING THE LATTER COURAGE WAS NOT ONLY PLEASED TO HEAR WE WERE HELPING BUT INDICATED THAT MUTUAL COORDINATION IN THIS AREA WOULD BE A GOOD SUBJECT FOR FUTURE CONVERSATIONS.
CASEY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 NIAHEY 03423 201531Z
ACTION AF-00

2081

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
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SP-02 /069 W

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R 201524Z JUN 83
FM AMEMBASSY NIAHEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1216
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NIAHEY 03423

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, NG, FR, EAID
SUBJECT: PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR
COURAGE

REF: A) NIAHEY 3400, B) NIAHEY 3403

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: LATE JUNE 19 I VISITED FRENCH AMBASSADOR
COURAGE AND DISCUSSED OUR RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH NIGERIAN
PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE, RECENT LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN CHAD,
AND FRANCE'S SOLUTIONS TO NIGER'S SHORT TERM DEBT. END
SUMMARY.

3. COURAGE NOTED THAT DURING HIS REVIEW OF OAU SUMMIT
WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE HELD ON EVENING BEFORE MY JUNE 17
MORNING SESSION WITH KOUNTCHE, COURAGE HAD RECEIVED NEARLY
AN IDENTICAL DISCOURSE FROM KOUNTCHE ON HOW "MENGISTU
OF ETHIOPIA WAS ANTI-SOVIET" (REF A). ALSO, HE SAID
KOUNTCHE HAD REQUESTED JOINT AMERICAN-FRENCH CONSULTATION
TO OUEDRAOGO OF UPPER VOLTA. COURAGE SAID, HE WAS PASSING
ON THE REQUEST TO PARIS.

4. I THEN ASKED COURAGE HOW HE SAW THE SITUATION IN CHAD
DEVELOPING. COURAGE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS VERY
CONCERNED THAT HABRE COULD NOT HOLD FAYA LARGEAU. HE
ALSO STATED THAT HE KNEW THAT HIS VIEWS WERE NOT IN CON-
CERT WITH SOME OFFICIALS IN PARIS, WHO HE SAID, WERE NOT
AS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CHAD AS HE.

5. I THEN ASKED COURAGE ABOUT A RUMORED LARGE FRENCH LOAN
TO NIGER. COURAGE SAID THAT THE BIAO (PARIS) WAS PRE-
PARING A 14 BILLION CFA LOAN AND THAT, ALONG WITH THE
6 BILLION CFA COOPERATION ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT
OF FRANCE AND THE EXPECTED IMF LOAN, WOULD SEE NIGER
THROUGH ITS PRESENT SHORT-TERM DEBT SITUATION. WHEN
ASKED IF THIS NEW LOAN WENT AGAINST THE REPORTED IMF
CONDITIONS THAT NIGER STOP COMMERCIAL BORROWING, COURAGE
REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH IMF REPRESENTATIVE, THE PRESIDENT
OF THE BIAO, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAD ALL AGREED
ON THIS PACKAGE. HE SAID THE LOAN WAS NOT REALLY NEW
MONEY, BUT WOULD BE USED TO PAY OLD DEBTS. HE THOUGHT
THE BIAO LOAN WOULD BE SHORT TERM, MAYBE FIVE YEARS WITH
A TWO YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

6. COMMENT: AMEMBASSY NIAHEY HAS HEARD FROM WORLD BANK
SOURCES THAT THIS BIAO LOAN WOULD BE IN DOLLARS AND WOULD
IN EFFECT ROLL OVER OLD DEBTS PAYABLE IN FRANCS TO
NEW DEBTS PAYABLE IN DOLLARS. WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT
ADVISABILITY OF NIGER CONTRACTING NEW DEBT IN DOLLARS WHEN
FRANC KEEPS DECLINING IN VALUE VIS-A-VIS THE DOLLAR.
OVER 50 PERCENT OF NIGER'S EXTERNAL DEBT IS ALREADY IN

DOLLARS, AND EACH TIME THE FRANC IS DEVALUED, THE DEBT
BURDEN GROWS. ADDITIONAL DOLLAR LOAN AT THIS TIME WOULD
ONLY POSTPONE THE REPAYMENT PROBLEM AND ALSO RISKS PROBLEMS
WITH IMF WHO HAVE STATED TO EMBOFF THAT NO ADDITIONAL
COMMERCIAL BORROWING IS ONE OF THEIR TERMS. ONE WOULD
HOPE THAT NIGER HAS CHECKED THIS OUT BEFORE SIGNING SUCH
A LOAN. FROM THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW THE LOAN MAKES
GOOD SENSE SINCE THEY WILL BE REPAYED IN STRONGER DOLLARS
RATHER THAN IN FRANCS.
CASEY

*Niger
wt*

Authority *DDA*
BY *CA* NARA DATE *8/5/22*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERRAL

DATE 12 AUG 83

MEMORANDUM FOR STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WETTERING

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: KOUNTCHE, SEYNI

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 12 AUG 83

KEYWORDS: NIGER

INTL FINANCE

IMF

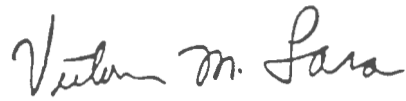
HS

SUBJ: LTR TO PRES KOUNTCHE FM PRES RE INTL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (IDA)

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:



FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY


file



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter regarding the funding of the International Development Association (IDA). You have succinctly outlined the state of economic conditions in Africa. I also understand and appreciate the role which IDA plays in seeking to alleviate these conditions.

This Administration intends to honor its internationally negotiated commitments, and with regard to IDA VI I have requested, in our supplemental submission to the Congress, an additional \$245 million for this fiscal year. This amount has survived the Congressional process so far, and I look forward to making our full FY 1983 IDA VI request available as planned. The remainder of the US contribution to IDA VI is included in our FY 1984 budget request.

As you know, Mr. President, negotiations are underway on the size and conditions of IDA VII. While the outcome is yet to be determined, the US position has been to support an increased focus by the World Bank on Sub-Saharan Africa as long as these countries are able to use these resources effectively.

The US has stressed that the allocation of IDA lending should be related to the willingness of recipients to follow policies which in the view of the Bank are likely to lead to effective project implementation. This emphasis on effective policies is essential if we are to maximize the impact of scarce concessional resources.

NSC
Authority / *WLS* *WAL*
BY *CH* NARA DATE *8/5/83*

The US and other major donors, moreover, have cautioned IDA management to be realistic in its expectations. For our part, we must have a replenishment capable of obtaining the support of our Congress if we are to avoid the funding difficulties we have experienced in IDA VI. We believe that the World Bank proposal for a "minimum" of \$16 billion replenishment is unrealistically high and does not adequately take into account either donor budgetary constraints or the potential for more effective resource use. To meet the US commitment for providing IDA with resources necessary for it to continue to improve the quality of its contribution to development, the US has been projecting \$750 million as the appropriate annual level for future US contributions to IDA VII. These considerations were the basis for US proposals at the July negotiations in Tokyo on IDA VII.

I share your concerns for the well-being of the nations of Africa, and I hope that the current negotiations for the replenishment of IDA will come to a satisfactory and prompt conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

His Excellency
General Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military
Council of the Republic of Niger
Niamey

ACTION

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August 10, 1983

AUG 11 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM:

FRED WETTERING **SIGNED**

SUBJECT:

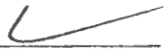
Niger: Presidential Letter Responding to Letter
From Niger President Kountche on IDA

President Seyni Kountche of Niger has written the President asking for increased US support to the International Development Association. The letter is similar to other letters from Francophone African leaders and likely was stimulated and conceived in Paris.

The proposed response is essentially the same as given the others: we will honor our commitments, we are negotiating IDA VII and are generally supportive to the World Bank's focus on Africa. The speechwriters have cleared the text.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign your memo forwarding the Presidential reply to the letter from Niger President Kountche.

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE

Attachments

Tab I

Your memo to the President

A Presidential Ltr to President Kountche

B Incoming letter

THE WHITE HOUSE

4950

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Niger: Reply to Letter from President Kountche

Issue

To give a polite, noncommittal response to a letter from Niger President Seyni Kountche who asked for increased US funds to IDA.

Facts

Several Francophone African leaders have written you calling for increased US contributions to the International Development Association, the soft loan organization of the World Bank. The orchestration in these probably came from Paris. The latest to write you in this regard is Seyni Kountche, the President of Niger.

Discussion

State proposes the same response to this letter as to others of its type. In the response you pledge to honor existing commitments, you note that IDA VII (the new level of contributions to IDA from member states) is currently under negotiation, and that you support the World Bank's focus on African problems. No commitments are made. The speechwriters have cleared the text.

RecommendationOK No

_____ Sign your letter to President Kountche of Niger.

Attachments

Tab A Your letter to President Kountche
Tab B Incoming letter

Prepared by Fred Wetters

LS No. 110234-B

Republic of Niger
Office of the President

No. 242/PCMS/DIRCAB

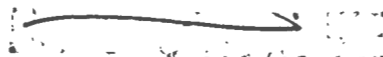
Niamey, July 13, 1983

Mr. President:

I take great pleasure in writing to you on the subject of an extremely important issue. The responsibility for resolving this issue rests with countries such as the United States and I am certain, Mr. President, that you will be both attentive to my words, and willing, as you have always been, to protect humanity from the serious threats to its fragile existence. I am writing to you, therefore, to convey the deep concerns of the countries of Africa and those of all developing countries as well.

As you know, in the present unfavorable international economic climate, with bilateral and multilateral government assistance at a standstill, terms of trade constantly deteriorating, and the international financial markets in great difficulty, the poor countries have

His Excellency
Ronald Reagan,
President of the United States of America,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority DDSW/ur
BY CH NARA DATE 8/5/22

been particularly hard hit. This situation requires a collective response by the industrialized countries in order to protect our chances for a world of peace, stability, and progress. Such a response could take various forms, but would be expressed most appropriately through the World Bank and its International Development Association, which has played a major role in the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

I should also like to draw your attention to the urgency of ensuring for 1983 that the resources of IDA 6 are fully replenished and of making every effort to ensure a budget of at least \$16 billion for IDA 7. Even though the IDA 7 budget would be higher in real terms than the \$12 billion budget for IDA 6, it would still be within reason when the increase in population of the countries concerned and the higher costs of goods and services are taken into account.

A collective and immediate effort on the part of donor countries, particularly the United States, is therefore vital for maintaining the level of IDA assistance at the minimum required level and restoring to the poor countries of the world the hope of a better life.

Confident that you will react favorably to my appeal, I extend to you, Mr. President, my best wishes for your personal health and the assurances of my very high consideration.

[Signature]

Brigadier General Seyni Kountche

DRAFT RESPONSE

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter regarding the funding of the International Development Association (IDA). You have succinctly outlined the state of economic conditions in Africa. I also understand and appreciate the role which IDA plays in seeking to alleviate these conditions.

This Administration intends to honor its internationally negotiated commitments, and with regard to IDA VI I have requested, in our supplemental submission to the Congress, an additional \$245 million for this fiscal year. This amount has survived the Congressional process so far, and I look forward to making our full FY 1983 IDA VI request available as planned. The remainder of the US contribution to IDA VI is included in our FY 1984 budget request.

As you know, Mr. President, negotiations are underway on the size and conditions of IDA VII. While the outcome is yet to be determined, the US position has been to support an increased focus by the World Bank on Sub-Saharan Africa as long as these countries are able to use these resources effectively.

His Excellency
General Seyni Kountche,
President of the Supreme Military
Council of the Republic of Niger,
Niamey.

DECLASSIFIED 12/27/80
Authority NSC/JDS waw
BY CN NARA DATE 8/5/22

To Speechwriter
8/1/83
OK 8/2/83

The US has stressed that the allocation of IDA lending should be related to the willingness of recipients to follow policies which in the view of the Bank are likely to lead to effective project implementation. This emphasis on effective policies is essential if we are to maximize the impact of scarce concessional resources.

The US and other major donors, moreover, have cautioned IDA management to be realistic in its expectations. For our part, we must have a replenishment capable of obtaining the support of our Congress if we are to avoid the funding difficulties we have experienced in IDA VI. We believe that the World Bank proposal for a "minimum" of \$16 billion replenishment is unrealistically high and does not adequately take into account either donor budgetary constraints or the potential for more effective resource use. To meet the US commitment for providing IDA with resources necessary for it to continue to improve the quality of its contribution to development, the US has been projecting \$750 million as the appropriate annual level for future US contributions to IDA VII. These considerations were the basis for US proposals at the July negotiations in Tokyo on IDA VII.

I share your concerns for the well-being of the nations of Africa, and I hope that the current negotiations for the replenishment of IDA will come to a satisfactory and prompt conclusion.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

XREF 8321717

S/S 8323960

Date August 4, 1983

For: Mr. William P. Clark
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President Reagan From: Niger President Kountche

Date: July 14, 1983 Subject: Presidential Reply to
Niger President Kountche on IDA

WH Referral Dated: NSC ID#
(if any)

☐ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

Action Taken:

☐ A draft reply is attached.

☐ A draft reply will be forwarded.

☐ A translation is attached.

☐ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

☐ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

☐ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

☒ Other.

Remarks: Original correspondence returned for your files.
Presidential reply to President Kountche was sent out
under SS # 8321717.

Walter S. Flanner
for Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

~~UNITED STATES USE~~
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO.

110234-A
JF/BP
French

Republic of Niger
Supreme Military Council
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation
Office of the Minister

No. 06289/MAE/C/CAB

July 14, 1983

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Niger presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to transmit the enclosed letter from the President of the Supreme Military Council and Chief of State of Niger to the President of the United States of America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Nigers thanks the United States Embassy for its cooperation and [complimentary close].

[Initialed]

[Embassy stamp]

Embassy of the United States of America,
Niamey.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WDS Walker
BY CRS NARA DATE 8/5/22

~~UNITED STATES USE~~

Department of State

1321717

S/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03886 141517Z 1444 003949 SS08395
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INRE-00 AGRE-00 FRB-03 JUS-01 USIE-00 SP-02 /087 W
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O 141510Z JUL 83
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1540

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ NIAMEY 03886

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, EAID, NG
SUBJECT: DEMARCHÉ TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT
KOUNTCHE CONCERNING IDA FUNDING

1. TODAY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SANDI YACOUBA, GAVE ME A LETTER (TEXT BELOW) SIGNED BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR IDA FUNDING. YACOUBA STATED THE GON REALIZED SUCH A LETTER COULD NOT BE ANSWERED IN DETAIL QUICKLY BUT THEY DID SEEK SOME INITIAL REACTIONS. I PLAN TO SEE KOUNTCHE NEXT WEEK BEFORE I LEAVE ON R&R AND WOULD APPRECIATE SOME REACTION THAT I COULD TRANSMIT AT THAT TIME. ORIGINAL LETTER BEING POUCHED TO AF/W.

2. TEXT (QUICK EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

QUOTE.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE VERY GREAT PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING TO YOU A VERY FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION, WHOSE SOLUTION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONS LIKE YOURS. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS THAT IN SEIZING UPON YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL FIND IN YOU NOT ONLY AN ATTENTIVE EAR, BUT ALSO THE WILL, WHICH YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN, ELSEWHERE, TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM THE GRAND DEFEATS WHICH MENACE ITS FRAGILE EQUILIBRIUM. I THEREFORE ADDRESS MYSELF TO YOU WITH THE DEEP FEELING OF EXPRESSING THE IMMENSE PREOCCUPATIONS NOT ONLY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, BUT EQUALLY THOSE OF ALL DEVELOPING NATIONS.

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY KNOWS, THE UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, THE STAGNATION IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF TERMS OF TRADE, AND THE DISMAL STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS, INFLECT ON POOR COUNTRIES A PARTICULARLY SEVERE SHOCK AND CALL FOR, ON THE PART OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, A COLLECTIVE REACTION IN SAFEGUARDING THE HOPES FOR A WORLD OF PEACE, STABILITY AND PROGRESS. A REACTION SUCH AS THIS CAN BE MANIFESTED IN SEVERAL WAYS, AND MOST OPPORTUNELY IN UTILIZING THE MECHANISMS OF THE WORLD BANK, IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA) HAS UNTIL NOW PLAYED A PRIVILEGED ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MISERY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO WISH TO CALL YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION TO THE URGENT NECESSITY, ON THE ONE HAND, TO LOCK IN FOR 1983, THE NECESSARY REPLENISHMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF IDA 6, AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO PUT EVERYTHING IN THE WORKS SO THAT

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03886 141517Z 1444 003949 SS08395
IDA 7 WILL ACHIEVE A LEVEL OF RESOURCES AT A MINIMUM OF 16 BILLION DOLLARS. EVEN THOUGH WE PERCEIVE AN INCREASE IN REAL VALUE WITH REGARD TO THE 12 BILLION DOLLARS OF IDA 6, THE LEVEL OF IDA 7 REMAINS AT A REASONABLE LEVEL WHEN ONE TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND THE INFLATION IN THE COST OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

THEREFORE, A COLLECTIVE AND URGENT EFFORT BY THE DONOR COUNTRIES, AND NOTABLY BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IS JUDGED TO BE INDISPENSABLE TO MAINTAIN IDA ASSISTANCE AT THE MINIMUM NECESSARY LEVEL AND TO RETURN TO THE POOR COUNTRIES THE HOPE OF A BETTER LIFE.

IT IS WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO MY PRESENT DEMARCHÉ THAT I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, AT THE SAME TIME AS MY RENEWED WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH, THE ASSURANCES OF MY VERY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

- GENERAL OF THE BRIGADE SEYNI KOUNTCHE
END QUOTE.
CASEY

Authority DOS Walker
BY CR NARA DATE 8/5/82

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p/c
Log
adv to
NSC-
RB.
EK

dsi

CONSEIL MILITAIRE SUPREME

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
ET DE LA COOPERATION

CABINET DU MINISTRE

N° 06289
MAE/C/CAB

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération de la République du NIGER présente ses compliments à l'Ambassade des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE et a l'honneur de lui transmettre un pli ouvert que le Président du Conseil Militaire Suprême, Chef de l'Etat du NIGER adresse au Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération de la République du NIGER remercie l'Ambassade des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE de son entremise et saisit cette occasion pour lui renouveler les assurances de sa haute considération.

AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUENIAMEY

5/5 8321/107

République du Niger

Le Chef de l'Etat

NIAMEY, le 13 JAN 1986

N° 217 /PCMS/DIRCAB.

Monsieur le Président,

J'ai le très grand plaisir de m'adresser à Vous pour une question capitale, dont la solution engage la responsabilité de Nations comme la Vôtre. J'ai pleine conscience qu'en Vous saisissant, Monsieur le Président, je trouverai en Vous, non seulement une oreille attentive, mais aussi la volonté, dont Vous avez toujours fait montre, par ailleurs, de préserver l'humanité des grands défis qui menacent gravement son fragile équilibre. Je m'adresse donc à Vous avec le profond sentiment de traduire les immenses préoccupations non seulement des Pays d'AFRIQUE, mais également celles de toutes les Nations en voie de développement.

Comme le sait Votre Excellence, l'environnement économique international défavorable, la stagnation de l'assistance publique bilatérale et multilatérale, la détérioration continue des termes de l'échange et la morosité des marchés financiers internationaux, infligent aux Pays pauvres un choc particulièrement sévère et appellent de la part des Pays industrialisés, une réaction collective dans la sauvegarde des chances d'un monde de Paix, de Stabilité et de Progrès. Une telle réaction pourrait se manifester

Son Excellence,
Monsieur RONALD REAGAN,
Président des ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE
MAISON BLANCHE
WASHINGTON, DC. USA

...../.....

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 205/USC wa/cw
BY CA NARA DATE 9/5/22



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D C 20520

July 15, 1983

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ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert M. Kimmitt
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Alerting NSC on Presidential
Correspondence

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to President Reagan
from President Seyni Kountche of Niger
which is transmitted for your information.

This document was received in the Executive Secretariat
Information Management Section on July 15, 1983.

Charles L. Jackson, Jr. for

Director, S/S-I
Information Management Section
Executive Secretariat
ext. 23836

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 30, 1983

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSESUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Niger
President Kountche on IDA

President Seyni Kountche of Niger has written President Reagan expressing the concern he and other Sub-Saharan leaders feel over the US position on the replenishment of the International Development Association of the World Bank.

We recommend that the President reply to President Kountche and attached is a draft response.

Ch. Hill
Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Draft response.
2. Letter from President Kountche.

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CONSEIL MILITAIRE SUPREME

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
ET DE LA COOPERATION

CABINET DU MINISTRE

N° 06289 /MAE/C/CAB y

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AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUENIAMEY

République du Niger

Le Chef de l'Etat

NIAMEY, le 13 JUIL. 1983

N^o. 242/PCMS/DIRCAB.

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Son Excellence,
Monsieur RONALD REAGAN,
Président des ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE
MAISON BLANCHE
WASHINGTON, DC. USA

..../....

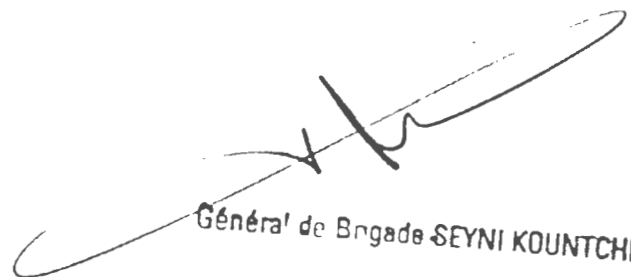
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AUTHORITY
TY C/S NARA DATE 8/5/22
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de diverses façons, et plus opportunément à travers les mécanismes de la Banque Mondiale, dont l'Association Internationale pour le Développement (IDA) a jusqu'ici joué un rôle privilégié dans la lutte contre la misère et le sous-équipement.

Je souhaite aussi attirer l'attention de Votre Excellence sur l'urgente nécessité, d'une part, de boucler pour 1983, la reconstitution intégrale des ressources de l'IDA 6, et d'autre part, de tout mettre en oeuvre pour que soit acquis pour l'IDA 7, un niveau de ressources atteignant au minimum 16 Milliards de dollars. Bien que l'on perçoive une augmentation en valeur réelle par rapport aux 12 Milliards de dollars de l'IDA 6, le niveau de l'IDA 7 resterait à la limite du raisonnable, quand on prend en considération l'accroissement démographique des Pays concernés et l'inflation sur les coûts des produits et des services.

Aussi, un effort collectif et urgent des pays donateurs, et notamment des ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE s'avère indispensable pour maintenir les interventions de l'IDA au minimum indispensable et redonner aux Pays pauvres l'espérance d'une vie meilleure.

C'est avec l'assurance que Vous serez sensible à ma présente démarche que je Vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, en même temps que mes vœux renouvelés pour Votre santé personnelle, les assurances de ma très haute considération.



Général de Brigade SEYNI KOUNTCHE

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
247997	CABLE 211518Z OCT 83	1	10/21/1983	B1

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Niger
PM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Mrs. Loret Ruppe, Director of the Peace Corps of the United States, is visiting your country for several days. The occasion affords me an opportunity to reemphasize the strong and continuing commitment of the United States to your government and country.

The courage and dedication you have shown and the courageous and responsible economic measures you and your government have undertaken are widely respected throughout Africa and here in the United States. The progress of your country can serve as a shining example of what hard work and enlightened leadership can accomplish.

Mrs. Ruppe will be visiting some of the over one hundred Peace Corps Volunteers, young and old, who work in your villages side by side with your people to bring economic progress and a better life to your country. Since the Peace Corps began its work in Niger in 1962, thousands of Americans have had the opportunity to live and work in Niger. They have brought back to the United States many fond memories of the hospitality and graciousness of your people. Their involvement in the life of your nation serves as a symbol of the friendship which binds our two nations, though the miles may separate us.

The United States continues to support, and to assist where appropriate, the steady progress you have already made in your sincere commitment toward the eventual establishment of civilian rule in your nation.

1/27/84 SET

Authority NSC/VS NAIW
BY CLV NARA DATE E/5/22

Please accept my best wishes for the continued
success of your government and the people of Niger.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency
General Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military Council
of the Republic of Niger
Niamey

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name

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247998	CABLE NIAMEY 06759	3	11/29/1983	B1

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Niger

5

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The United States continues to support, and to assist where appropriate, the steady progress you have already made in your sincere commitment toward the eventual establishment of civilian rule in your nation.

DECLASSIFIED 1/26/50
Authority *DUS/NSL/WH*
BY *CM* NARA DATE *8/8/22*

-2-

Please accept my best wishes for the continued success of your government and the people of Niger.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
General Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military Council
of the Republic of Niger
Niamey

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

'83 DEC -6 P9:17

TF

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S/S #

Ch 8/8

3 DEC 6 1983

27

MESSAGE NO. 833 CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE No. Pages 1

FROM: JOCK COVEY S/S 632-8448 7224NS
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Telegram to Niamey, subj: National Day Message

TO: (Agency) DELIVER TO: Extension Room No.

NSC

BOB KIMMITT

395-3044

wettering
Shull

FOR CLEARANCE ☒ INFORMATION ☐ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: REQUEST CLEARANCE BY COB WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

S/S Officer: Corey S

CROSSHATCH

RETURN TIME-STAMPED COVERSHEET TO S/S.

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12/5/83 X 23066
AF/W - EJPERRINS

S/CPR - JANE A. GUILBAULT
NSC
S/S

AF - JAMES K. BISHOP
S/S-S(C) - B. HAMBRICK
S/S-0

PA AF/P VOA/PA
PRIORITY: NIAMEY

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, NG, US

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AT
APPROPRIATE TIME PRIOR TO DECEMBER 18. QUOTE DEAR
MR. PRESIDENT: AS YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF NIGER CELEBRATE
NIGER REPUBLIC DAY, IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEND CONGRATULATIONS
AND SINCERE BEST WISHES ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
WE FULLY ANTICIPATE THAT THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP OF
OUR TWO PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND STRENGTHEN THE
COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.
SINCERELY, RONALD REAGAN UNQUOTE

2. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN RELEASE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION
TO RELEASE BY CON. YYY

DELIVERED
Authority DOS/NSC Wayne
BY CW NADA DATE 8/8/22

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