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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

0676

ACTION

January 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: FRED WETTERING *FW*

SUBJECT: Niger: Schedule Proposal for Brief Presidential Meeting with President Kountche (C)

Niger President Kountche plans a private visit to the US from February 27 - March 2 and State proposes that he meet briefly with the President in the Oval Office for 20 minutes during that period. (C)

Niger has been a target for Libyan destabilization for the past several years, both by Libyan threats and from Libyan-trained terrorists/insurgents. Qadhafi clearly covets both Niger uranium and Niger's key location between Chad and Nigeria. President General Seyni Kountche, since taking power in 1974, has been a solid and unflappable friend of the US and France despite Libyan threats. We collaborate closely with the French in both economic and security assistance to Niger. (C)

President Kountche fears the expansion of Libyan influence and with reason, given not only domestic meddling by Libya but also the ascendance of Libyan influence in neighboring Chad and Upper Volta. He rightly sees himself as one of the anti-Qadhafi, pro-West bulwarks in Africa. A brief meeting would enhance President Kountche's stature, bolster his confidence, and serve our interests. (C)

I support the State recommendation. *FW* Geoff Kemp concurs. (U)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Schedule Proposal for a brief Presidential meeting/photo opportunity with President Kountche. (C)

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachment

Tab I

Schedule Proposal

A Incoming memo from State

cc: Vice President
Charles Tyson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *DO/NSC WALKER*
BY *CK* NARA DATE *8/5/22*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO: FREDERICK RYAN, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ROBERT KIMMITT

REQUEST: Photo opportunity; brief meeting.

PURPOSE: To acknowledge the friendship and close and cordial relations with President Kountche of Niger and to provide symbolic encouragement to a pro-West leader under Libyan threat.

BACKGROUND: The President of Niger, General Seyni Kountche, has established since taking power in 1974, a solid record of friendship and cooperation with the US and France. Niger has a strategic location between Libya and Nigeria, and produces uranium, which Libyan leader Qadhafi covets. President Kountche's government has been the repeated target of Libyan threats and Libyan-trained terrorists.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None.

DATE AND TIME: Mar 2; Feb 27; Feb 29. Should none of these dates be available, he will be available from Feb 27-March 2, 1984.

LOCATION: Oval Office.

PARTICIPANTS: President Kountche and 2-3 aides; the President, Vice President, appropriate State and NSC advisors. Specific list to be provided.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: 20-minute meeting with photo opportunity.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks (provided by State/NSC).

MEDIA COVERAGE: Photo opportunity.

RECOMMENDED BY: State Department.

OPPOSED BY: None.

PROJECT OFFICER: ROBERT KIMMITT.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8400662

0676

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Request that President Reagan Agree to a Meeting
with Niger's President Kountche

The Department of State requests that the President agree to a brief meeting in the Oval Office with the President of Niger, General Seyni Kountche, during the week of February 27-March 2. We understand President Kountche will be in the US on a private visit during that period. Niger's desperate poverty, economic troubles, and threats from its northern neighbor, Libya, all argue for a US show of support for this moderate Sahelian country; the Department believes a brief meeting and photo opportunity with the President would bolster Kountche's status in the eyes of his African neighbors as well as in Qadhafi's.

Niger's strategic location between Libya and oil-rich Nigeria make it a key buffer state in our efforts to contain Qadhafi. The Libyan leader has openly identified Niger as "next in line after Chad" in his dreams of a Libyan-dominated Sahel. Under the military leadership of President Kountche, who came to power in a 1974 coup, Niger has proven to be a moderate friend, and a stable influence in the region. Kountche sees the Libyan hand in such recent events as last August's coup in Upper Volta, and the Libyans earlier sent a team of terrorists to bomb one of Niger's uranium factories. Kountche is working hard to build his image as a wise and effective leader. A meeting with President Reagan would go a long way in bolstering his own confidence and his image at home.

Niger's economic fortunes fell with the world price of uranium, the country's major export and only significant earner of foreign exchange. With the price of that mineral remaining stagnant over the past three years, Niger has been forced to abandon its development plans. Even with major donor budget support (in which France and the US figure), the country's medium-term economic prognosis is grim.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECL: OADR.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

BY

8/15/82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

The Department believes President Kountche would welcome a 20-minute Oval Office meeting as a sign that the US supports its friends in Africa. It would send a similar signal to Qadhafi, other radical African states, as well as our francophone African friends.

For *Samuel*
for Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *sign*

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1330

ACTION

February 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT KIMMITT

FROM: FRED WETTERING *W*

SUBJECT: Cancellation of Presidential Appointment

State has advised that President Kountche cannot make the scheduled meeting/photo opportunity with the President on March 2, 1984. State has indicated they will resubmit a request for a photo opportunity for President Kountche later in 1984. (C)

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the attached Kimmitt/Ryan memo cancelling the March 2 photo opportunity with the President for President Kountche. (C)

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments
Tab I

Kimmitt/Ryan memo
A Incoming memo from State

CC:
Charles Tyson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *DOS/NSC/111*
BY *CW* NARA DATE *8/5/82*

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1330

MEMORANDUM FOR FREDERICK RYAN
Director of Appointments & Scheduling

FROM: ROBERT KIMMITT

SUBJECT: Request for Cancellation of Presidential
Appointment

The State Department advises that President Segni Kountche of Niger will not be able to travel to the U.S. in late February-early March 1984 and, therefore, must regretfully cancel his request for a meeting with the President. (C)

A fifteen-minute meeting with President Kountche had been approved from 9:45-10:00 AM, March 2, 1984. This should be cancelled. (C)

cc:
Charles Tyson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: *IDS/NSC policy*
BY: *CS* NARA DATE: *8/5/22*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

United States Department of State


 011 07
 Washington, D.C. 20520

February 15, 1984

CONFIDENTIAL
 MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MACFARLANE
 THE WHITE HOUSE

 Subject: Response of Niger's President Kountche to
 Proposed Meeting with President Reagan

President Kountche has informed Ambassador Casey that it is not possible for him to accept the President's offer for a brief visit to the oval office on March 2, at 9:45 AM. President Kountche has indicated, however, a desire to meet with President Reagan during a visit to Washington at a later date.

Domckmley
 for Charles Hill
 Executive Secretary

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 OADR

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 Authority *EX/SC/ML*
 BY *CH* NARA DATE *8/5/22*

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RECEIVED 01 MAR 84 15

TO PRESIDENT

FROM KOUNTCHE, SEYNI

DOCDATE 08 FEB 84

HILL, C

01 MAR 84

KEYWORDS: NIGERIA

AFRICA

HS

W
Pres msg's
Niger

SUBJECT PRES KOUNTCHE LTR RE 6TH INTERSTATE COM FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN SAHEL

ACTION. PENDING STATE RECOMS

DUE: 09 MAR 84 STATUS D FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

STATE

FORTIER

MARTIN

WETTERING

COMMENTS

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(MR

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D C. 20520

February 29, 1984

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 February 29, 1984.

Charles H. Jackson, Jr.
Director, S/S-I
Information Management Section
Executive Secretariat
ext. 23836

Translation

Dear Mr. President:

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that on the 30th and 31st of January 1984, my country was host to the Sixth Conference of the Presidents of the CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel). This institution, as part of Solidarity and Cooperation in their fight against the effects of the drought, includes the following countries: the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Gambia, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Upper Volta, the Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Chad.

At the end of this conference, the Presidents made an appeal that they named "The Declaration of Niamey" which was intended to sensitize the international community to the alimentary tragedy which the population of the Sahel and its livestock are actually experiencing.

It just so happens that during the CILSS conference, the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, made public the decision of your administration to ask the United States Congress to approve an important financial assistance program for the African countries threatened by starvation.

The Chiefs of State of CILSS have honored me by naming me President of our institution. In this capacity and also in the name of my country, I would like to express to the United States of America the sincere gratitude of the African populations at the same time hoping that an important part of this assistance will be devoted to the countries in the Sahel.

As Secretary of State George Shultz emphasized with a great deal of pertinence, the problem of AFRICA and, especially the problem of the Sahelian countries, is a structural problem and not one of conjuncture. It is basically a human dimension which implies the idea of "The Right of Development" to which our hardworking populations intensely aspire. In other words, on the one hand, it involves making use of a global strategy which will serve as a platform of actions against the drought and its effects, and, on the other hand, conceiving developmental actions to insure the self-sufficiency of food for the populations.

RELEASED / DECLASSIFIED
DOS/NSC WAIVER
BY CN DATE 8/5/22

In this regard, I am very pleased to renew to you my sincere gratitude and that of the other member countries of the CILSS for the cooperation that our countries, individually and collectively, maintain with the United States Agency for International Development in the primary sector of Rural Development. I know that I can count on the support of Your Excellency, Your Administration, the Congress, and on the great people of the United States of America, to insure that our fight for life will be crowned with success.

Mr. President, please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

General of the Brigade Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military Council
Chief of State of Niger
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS

DECLARATION OF NIAMEY

WE, the Presidents of the member countries of the CILSS,

CONSIDERING that today more than yesterday, the Sahel is threatened in its very physical, economic, and political existence by a drought which reveals a more and more endemic character,

CONSIDERING that this drought causes an accelerated deterioration of the land, the advancement of the desert and the risk of profound change in our countries if these actual tendencies continue,

CONSIDERING that today more than 30 million men, women and children are threatened in their survival by the lack of regular rainfall and receding river levels,

CONSIDERING that today hundreds of thousands of livestock are doomed because of the lack of water and pasturage,

CONSIDERING that never before has the Sahel encountered such a critical food situation in spite of the efforts made by the member states and the assistance received by the international community,

CONSIDERING that a hostile nature works desperately to destroy the efforts that are nevertheless not lacking in intelligence and generosity,

CONVINCED that the international community will not fail to honor the "Contract of Generation" that it freely accepted to seal with our countries in 1976 in Dakar in order that its assistance will be inscribed in our middle and long term prospects,

CONSIDERING that the self-sufficiency of food, the principal objective of our countries, seems to be more and more difficult to achieve due to the continuing decrease of production combined with the effects of the deteriorating terms of exchange and the consequences of the world crisis which seriously limits the capacity of our countries to meet their alimentary needs,

CONSIDERING that the ever increasing cost of our imports obliges us to call for alimentary assistance which unfortunately tends to institutionalize itself,

CONSIDERING the imperative necessity for our Governments to insure the alimentary security of our people,

CONVINCED that only the establishment of a rational system of food security stocks at the national and regional levels, based especially on the substantial increase of local production, can remedy the actual deficiencies of alimentary assistance,

CONSIDERING that the international community has granted significant and appreciable financial efforts during this period of global crisis affecting everyone,

CONVINCED, therefore, that the recovery from this situation and the durable development of our countries requires from us, more than ever before, a mobilization on our part of regional and national resources, and also an even greater effort by those more endowed than us,

PREOCCUPIED WITH the decrease in assistance given to the Third World countries and in particular to those of the Sahel,

CONSIDERING that the pursuit of this tendency would constitute a serious threat to the peace and balance of the world,

HOPING that the visit of the Secretary General of the UN to the Sahel, the numerous initiatives of the General Manager of the FAO and the efforts that they deploy to sensitize the international public opinion to encourage our countries,

MAKING THEIR APPEALS OURS so that multilateral donors can be encouraged to take favorable action and consecrate a significant part of their resources to the Sahelian countries,

MAKING an urgent appeal to the international community at the next summit conference of the industrialized nations, to the organization of the UN and to its specialized institutions, to the Organization of Islamic Countries and to all the people of goodwill in order that they may regain interest in our countries in their common fight against the drought and desertification,

ASKING all the countries and organizations sensitive to the difficulties in the Sahel to be more attentive to the critical situation of our countries, to support our efforts for the development of an original cooperation which would take the form of a Sahel Fund capable of guaranteeing secure and foreseeable resources without which the development of our economies will remain a perilous exercise and without a future.

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

Niamey, le

9 FEV. 1984

CONSEIL MILITAIRE SUPREME

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
ET DE LA COOPERATION

CABINET DU MINISTRE

N°/MAE/C/CAB
N° 01211

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 faire parvenir ci-joint la lettre sous pli fermé n° 026/PCMS/DIRCAB que Son Excellence le Général de Brigade SEYNI KOUNTCHE, Président du Conseil Militaire Suprême, Chef de l'Etat du NIGER, adresse en sa qualité de Président en Exercice du CILSS, à Son Excellence Monsieur Ronald REAGAN, Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

Le Ministère serait très reconnaissant à l'Ambassade de la diligence avec laquelle elle voudra bien transmettre ce pli à Son Haut Destinataire.

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

AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUE.

NIAMEY



République du Niger

Le Chef de l'Etat

NIAMEY, le 8 FEV. 1984

N° 0 2 6 /PCMS/DIRCAB.

Monsieur le Président,

Il m'est un agréable plaisir de porter à Votre connaissance que mon Pays a abrité, les 30 et 31 Janvier 1984, la 6ème Conférence des Chefs d'Etat du Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel. Cette Institution regroupe, dans un cadre de Solidarité et de Coopération dans leur lutte contre les effets de la sécheresse, les Pays suivants : la République du CAP VERT, la République de GAMBIE, la République du MALI, la République de HAUTE VOLTA, la République Islamique de MAURITANIE, la République du NIGER, la République du SENEGAL et la République du TCHAD.

A l'issue de ce Sommet, les Chefs d'Etat ont lancé un Appel que nous avons baptisé "Déclaration de NIAMEY", afin de sensibiliser davantage la Communauté Internationale sur le drame alimentaire dont souffrent actuellement les populations du Sahel, ainsi que leur cheptel.

Il s'est trouvé qu'au moment même où se tenait la Conférence du CILSS, le Secrétaire d'Etat George SHULTZ rendait publique la décision de Votre Administration de demander au Congrès des ETATS-UNIS d'AMERIQUE d'approuver une importante aide financière en faveur des Pays africains menacés de famine.

Son Excellence,
Monsieur Ronald REAGAN,
Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

...../.....

WASHINGTON

Author: DOS/USE WALKER
BY CN NARA DATE 8/5/22
(RELEASE)

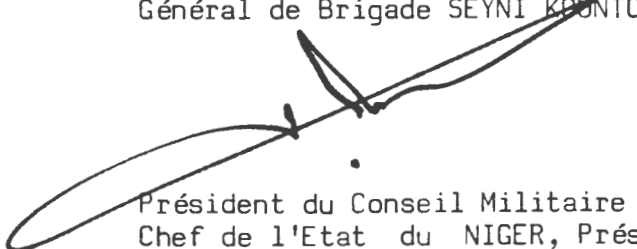
Les Chefs d'Etat du CILSS m'ont fait l'honneur de me confier la Présidence en exercice de notre Institution. C'est en cette qualité, mais également au nom de mon Pays, que je tiens à exprimer aux ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE la profonde gratitude des populations africaines, tout en formant le voeux qu'une part importante de cette aide soit consacrée à l'assistance aux Pays du Sahel.

Comme l'a souligné le Secrétaire d'Etat George SHULTZ avec beaucoup de pertinence, le problème de l'AFRIQUE, et singulièrement celui des Pays du Sahel est un problème structurel et non une situation conjoncturelle. Il revêt, à ce titre, une dimension fondamentalement humaine, qui implique la notion de "Droit au Développement" auquel aspirent intensément nos laborieuses populations. En d'autres termes, il s'agit d'une part, d'élaborer et de mettre en oeuvre une stratégie globale qui servira de plate-forme d'actions contre la sécheresse et ses effets, mais aussi concevoir des actions de développement afin de garantir durablement l'auto-suffisance alimentaire des populations.

A cet égard, je suis heureux de Vous renouveler ma sincère gratitude et celle des Pays membres du CILSS, pour l'éminente coopération que nos Pays, individuellement et collectivement, entretenent avec l'USAID dans le secteur prioritaire du Développement Rural. Je sais pouvoir compter sur le soutien de Votre Excellence, de Votre Administration, du Congrès et du Grand Peuple des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE, pour que notre lutte pour la vie soit couronnée de succès.

Je Vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Général de Brigade SEYNI KROUTCHE,



Président du Conseil Militaire Suprême,
Chef de l'Etat du NIGER, Président en
Exercice de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat
du CILSS.

DÉCLARATION DE NIAMEY

Nous, Chefs d'Etat des Pays membres du CILSS.

CONSIDERANT qu'aujourd'hui plus qu'hier le Sahel est menacé dans son existence physique, économique et politique par suite d'une sécheresse qui revêt de plus en plus un caractère endémique ;

CONSIDERANT que cette sécheresse entraîne la dégradation accélérée des terres, l'avancée du désert et le risque de bouleversements profonds dans nos pays si les tendances actuelles se poursuivaient ;

CONSIDERANT qu'aujourd'hui plus de 30 millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants sont menacés dans leur survie par suite de la faiblesse des précipitations pluviométriques et des crues ;

CONSIDERANT qu'aujourd'hui des centaines de milliers de têtes de bétail sont vouées à une mort certaine par manque d'eau et de pâturage ;

CONSIDERANT que jamais auparavant le Sahel n'aura connu situation alimentaire aussi critique et cela malgré les efforts déployés par les Etats membres et l'aide reçue de la Communauté internationale ;

CONSIDERANT qu'une nature hostile s'acharne à annihiler des efforts qui n'ont pourtant manqué ni d'intelligence ni de générosité ;

CONVAINCUS que la Communauté internationale ne manquera pas d'honorer le «contrat de génération» qu'elle a librement accepté de sceller avec nos pays en 1976 à Dakar pour que son aide s'inscrive dans nos perspectives à moyen et long terme ;

CONSIDERANT que l'auto-suffisance alimentaire, objectif prioritaire de nos Etats, semble de plus en plus difficile à atteindre, du fait de la baisse continue de la production des effets combinés de la détérioration des termes de l'échange et des retombées de la crise mondiale qui limitent sérieusement la capacité de nos pays à couvrir leurs besoins alimentaires ;

2

CONSIDERANT que les factures de plus en plus élevées de nos importations nous contraignent à recourir à l'aide alimentaire qui tend ainsi malheureusement à s'institutionnaliser ;

CONSIDERANT la nécessité impérieuse pour nos Gouvernements d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations ,

CONVAINCUS que seule la mise sur pied d'un système rationnel de stocks de sécurité alimentaire au niveau national et régional, basé avant tout sur l'accroissement substantiel de la production locale, peut remédier aux déficiences actuelles de l'aide alimentaire ;

CONSIDERANT que la Communauté internationale a consenti des efforts financiers importants et appréciables en cette période de crise mondiale qui n'épargne personne ;

CONVAINCUS cependant que le redressement de cette situation et le développement durable de nos pays requièrent plus que jamais de notre part une mobilisation de toutes nos ressources nationales et régionales mais également un effort encore plus grand de la part de ceux qui sont mieux dotés que nous ;

PREOCCUPES par la baisse de l'aide en faveur des pays du Tiers monde et en particulier ceux du Sahel ;

CONSIDERANT que la poursuite de cette tendance constituerait une menace sérieuse pour la paix et l'équilibre du monde ;

NOUS FELICITONS de la visite qu'effectue actuellement dans le Sahel le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, des nombreuses initiatives du Directeur général de la FAO et des efforts qu'ils déploient pour sensibiliser l'opinion publique internationale au sort de nos pays ;

FAISONS NOTRES leurs appels pour que soient renforcées les sources multilatérales d'aide à des conditions de faveur et qu'elles consacrent une part significative de leurs ressources aux pays sahéliens ;

LANÇONS UN APPEL pressant à la Communauté internationale, à la prochaine conférence au sommet des pays industrialisés, à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et à ses Institutions spécialisées, à l'OCI et à toutes les bonnes volontés pour susciter un regain d'intérêt en faveur de nos pays dans leur combat commun contre la sécheresse et la désertification ;

DEMANDONS à tous les pays et organisations sensibles aux difficultés du Sahel de se pencher plus attentivement sur la situation critique de nos pays, afin d'appuyer nos efforts pour le développement d'une coopération originale qui prendrait la forme d'un Fonds du Sahel seul capable de nous garantir les ressources sûres et prévisibles sans lesquelles la planification du développement de nos économies restera un exercice périlleux et le présent sans avenir.

Niamey, le 31 janvier 1984

République du Niger

Wettering
Pres mgs
Niger

Le Chef de l'Etat

NIAMEY, le

3 FEV 1984

N° 0 2 6 /PCMS/DIRCAB.

Monsieur le Président,

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Il s'est trouvé qu'au moment même où se tenait la Conférence du CILSS, le Secrétaire d'Etat George SHULTZ rendait publique la décision de Votre Administration de demander au Congrès des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE d'approuver une importante aide financière en faveur des Pays africains menacés de famine.

Son Excellence,
Monsieur Ronald REAGAN,
Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

WASHINGTON

Authority NOX/NSC
BY CN NARA DATE 8/5/82
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Walter

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National Security Council
The White House

System # I

Package # 1702

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64 MAR 10 P 4: 28

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Bill Martin	<u>1</u>	<u>wfm</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>ic</u>	
John Poindexter			
Wilma Hall	<u>3</u>	<u>✓</u>	
Bud McFarlane	<u>4</u>	<u>my</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>		<u>D</u>
Situation Room			
Tom Shull			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 8401702

REFERRAL

DATE: 20 MAR 84

MEMORANDUM FOR. STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: KOUNTCHE, SEYNI

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 20 MAR 84

KEYWORDS: NIGERIA

AFRICA

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HS

SUBJ: 6TH INTERSTATE COM FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN SAHEL

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 21 MAR 84

COMMENTS

Melanie Rhodes
FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to express my sincere appreciation to you and to the other Chiefs of State of the CILSS for your kind letter of February 8.

The United States has been an active and concerned participant in the international effort in the Sahel. I am pleased that this year our direct economic assistance to the region will amount to over \$180 million, a significant increase over previous years.

The new proposals we announced would provide additional and immediate emergency food assistance to the countries of Africa, including those in the Sahel. Over the longer term, the assistance would encourage reforms supportive of renewed economic growth. These proposals are in addition to our ongoing programs of assistance in Africa. They are now before Congress and we are hopeful that they will be approved.

Please convey to your fellow Chiefs of State in CILSS my warm regards and assurances that the United States will continue its commitment to help the nations of Africa help themselves.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

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

DECLASSIFIED 1/24/2017
Authority DOS/WSC/NAIU
BY UV NARA DATE 8/5/22

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 19, 1984

per news

1000 MAR 19 11 09 20

1702

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *RCM*

SUBJECT: Niger: Proposed Letter to President Kountche

Issue

To provide a polite response acknowledging President Kountche's warm thank you letter for your recent African assistance proposals.

Facts

President Seyni Kountche of Niger wrote you on February 8 on behalf of himself and seven other African leaders from Sahel states (states just below the Sahara Desert suffering from a long drought) to thank you and express appreciation for your recent proposals to Congress on new assistance to Africa. He specifically referred to your new Economic Policy Initiative for Africa and your request for increased PL 480 authority to combat natural disaster and food shortage in Africa.

Discussion

President Kountche is an opinion leader in the Sahel states. He is the first African leader to have publicly acknowledged and expressed appreciation for your new African aid initiatives. State proposes and NSC Staff concurs in a proposed courteous reply to his letter. The speechwriters have cleared the text.

Recommendation

OK No

_____ _____ Sign your reply to Niger President Kountche.

Attachments

- Tab A Letter to President Kountche
- Tab B Incoming letter

cc: Vice President

ACTION

March 15, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: FRED WETTERING *FW*

SUBJECT: Niger: Proposed Presidential Letter to
President Kountche

On February 8, Niger President Seyni Kountche wrote the President on behalf of the eight Sahel countries organized into a regional organization (CILSS) expressing his thanks and appreciation for the President's new economic policy initiative for Africa, as well as his request to Congress for increased PL 480 authority to fight drought in Africa.

President Kountche's letter is the first appreciation of these new initiatives from African chiefs of state. It is warm and courteous, and State proposes a brief Presidential reply in the same tone. I concur.

The speechwriters have cleared the text.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign/forward your memo to the President endorsing the proposed reply to Niger President Kountche.

APPROVE *FW*

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments
Tab I

- Your memo to the President
- A Presidential letter to President Kountche
- B Incoming letter

March 9, 1984

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. McFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSESUBJECT: Message to the President from Eight African
Chiefs of State

On February 8, President Kountche of Niger wrote a letter to President Reagan on behalf of the Chiefs of State of the eight Sahel countries then gathered for a conference in Niamey, Niger. That letter welcomed the Administration's Economic Policy Initiative for Africa, which had earlier been announced by the Vice President and by Secretary Shultz.

The Initiative has been well-received generally in Africa, but this is the sole instance to date in which that appreciation has been conveyed at the very highest level. We believe it important that the President acknowledge the incoming letter, and use the occasion to reaffirm America's commitment to helping the African nations.

To that end, the text of a proposed reply from President Reagan is attached.

*Copy*Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- 1) Proposed response
- 2) Incoming letter from President Kountche

Authority
BY CANARA DATE 8/5/77~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

Suggested Letter

Authority 1305 VALUE
BY CH NARA DATE 8/5/22

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to express my sincere ^{appreciation} ~~gratitude~~ to you and to the other Chiefs of State of the CILSS for your kind letter of February 8.

The United States has been an active and concerned participant in the international effort in the Sahel. I am pleased that ~~in this current year~~ our direct economic assistance to the region will amount to over \$180 million, a significant increase over ~~our aid in~~ previous years.

The new proposals ~~which we have announced to assist~~ the countries of Africa, including those in the Sahel,

^{and immediate} would provide additional emergency food assistance

~~immediately,~~ and ^{the assistance} over the longer term, would ~~make available~~ ~~assistance to~~ encourage reforms ^{which will} supportive of renewed economic growth.

^{They} Both of ~~these proposals~~ are now before the Congress, and we are hopeful that they

^{be approved} will ~~meet with favor there.~~ ^{These proposals in addition} Both ~~are additional~~ to our

ongoing programs of assistance in Africa.

His Excellency
Seyni Kountche,
General of the Brigade,
President of the Supreme Military Council,
Chief of State of Niger,
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Please convey to your fellow Chiefs of State in CILSS my warm regards and my assurances that the United States will continue in its commitment to helping the nations of Africa to help themselves.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

Suggested Letter

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to express my sincere gratitude to you and to the other Chiefs of State of the CILSS for your kind letter of February 8.

The United States has been an active and concerned participant in the international effort in the Sahel. I am pleased that in this current year our direct economic assistance to the region will amount to over \$180 million, a significant increase over our aid in previous years.

The new proposals which we have announced to assist the countries of Africa, including those in the Sahel, would provide additional emergency food assistance immediately, and over the longer term would make available assistance to encourage reforms which will support renewed economic growth. Both of these proposals are now before the Congress, and we are hopeful that they will meet with favor there. Both are additional to our ongoing programs of assistance in Africa.

His Excellency
Seyni Kountche,
General of the Brigade,
President of the Supreme Military Council,
Chief of State of Niger,
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10
Special unit
3/12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Please convey to your fellow Chiefs of State in CILSS my warm regards and my assurances that the United States will continue in its commitment to helping the nations of Africa to help themselves.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 112172-A
RHC/MM
French

Republic of Niger

Supreme Military Council

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation

Office of the Minister

No. 01211/MAE/C/CAB

Niamey, February 9, 1984

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Niger presents its compliments to the United States Embassy and has the honor to enclose letter No. 026/PCMS/DIRCAB which His Excellency Seyni Kountche, President of the Supreme Military Council, Chief of State of Niger, has sent in his capacity as President of CILSS to His Excellency Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America.

The Ministry would be grateful if the Embassy would transmit the enclosed letter to its distinguished addressee.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the

United States Embassy,
Niamey.

Republic of Niger thanks the United States Embassy for its cooperation and [complimentary close].

[Initialed]

[Ministry stamp]

DECLARATION OF NIAMEY

We, the Chiefs of State of the member countries of CILSS,

Considering that now more than ever the physical, economic, and political existence of the Sahel is threatened by a drought that is becoming increasingly endemic;

Considering that this drought leads to accelerated deterioration of the land, the encroachment of the desert, and the risk of major upheavals in our countries if the current trends continue;

Considering that low rainfall and river levels now threaten the survival of more than 30 million men, women, and children;

Considering that hundreds of thousands of livestock are currently doomed because of lack of water and pasturage;

Considering that the Sahel has never before experienced such critical food shortages, despite the efforts of the member states and the assistance received from the international community;

Considering that a hostile nature is endeavoring to negate these intelligent and generous efforts;

Convinced that the international community will not fail to honor the "Generation Contract" that it freely agreed to

conclude with our countries in 1976 at Dakar, so that our medium-and long-term prospects can include its assistance;

Considering that food self-sufficiency, the primary objective of our States, seems increasingly difficult to achieve, because of the continuous decline in production combined with deteriorating terms of trade and the aftermath of the world crisis, which seriously limit our countries' ability to meet their food requirements;

Considering that ever-increasing import costs force us to resort to food aid, which unfortunately tends to become an established procedure;

Considering that it is imperative for our Governments to guarantee a secure food supply for our people;

Convinced that the only remedy for current food aid deficiencies is to establish an efficient system to guarantee a secure food supply at the national and regional levels, based in particular on a substantial increase in local production;

Considering that the international community has made important and appreciable financial efforts during this period of world crisis affecting everyone;

Convinced however that in order to recover from this situation and ensure our countries' lasting development, now more than ever we must mobilize all our national and regional resources, and those more fortunate than ourselves must make an even greater effort;

Concerned by the decrease in assistance to the countries of the Third World, particularly those of the Sahel;

Considering that this trend, if it continues, would seriously threaten world peace and stability;

Are gratified by the visit that the Secretary General of the United Nations is now making to the Sahel, the numerous initiatives of the Director-General of FAO, and their efforts to make international public opinion aware of the fate of our countries;

Join in their appeals to have multilateral sources of aid strengthened on preferential terms and a significant portion of their resources allocated to the Sahelian countries;

Urgently appeal to the international community, to the next summit conference of the industrialized countries, to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to the Organization of Islamic Countries, and to all people of good will to renew their interest in our countries and their common fight against drought and desertification.

Request all countries and organizations that are aware of the problems in the Sahel to pay more attention to the critical situation in our countries and to support our efforts to develop native cooperation in the form of a Sahel Fund, the only way of guaranteeing secure and predictable resources,

without which planning the development of our economies will continue to be a perilous exercise and our present will hold no future.

Niamey, January 31, 1984

8406189

Translation

Dear Mr. President:

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that on the 30th and 31st of January 1984, my country was host to the Sixth Conference of the Presidents of the CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel). This institution, as part of Solidarity and Cooperation in their fight against the effects of the drought, includes the following countries: the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Gambia, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Upper Volta, the Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Chad.

At the end of this conference, the Presidents made an appeal that they named "The Declaration of Niamey" which was intended to sensitize the international community to the alimentary tragedy which the population of the Sahel and its livestock are actually experiencing.

It just so happens that during the CILSS conference, the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, made public the decision of your administration to ask the United States Congress to approve an important financial assistance program for the African countries threatened by starvation.

The Chiefs of State of CILSS have honored me by naming me President of our institution. In this capacity and also in the name of my country, I would like to express to the United States of America the sincere gratitude of the African populations at the same time hoping that an important part of this assistance will be devoted to the countries in the Sahel.

As Secretary of State George Shultz emphasized with a great deal of pertinence, the problem of AFRICA and, especially the problem of the Sahelian countries, is a structural problem and not one of conjuncture. It is basically a human dimension which implies the idea of "The Right of Development" to which our hardworking populations intensely aspire. In other words, on the one hand, it involves making use of a global strategy which will serve as a platform of actions against the drought and its effects, and, on the other hand, conceiving developmental actions to insure the self-sufficiency of food for the populations.

Authority DES/USC WA/VA
BY CN NARA DATE 8/15/22

In this regard, I am very pleased to renew to you my sincere gratitude and that of the other member countries of the CILSS for the cooperation that our countries, individually and collectively, maintain with the United States Agency for International Development in the primary sector of Rural Development. I know that I can count on the support of Your Excellency, Your Administration, the Congress, and on the great people of the United States of America, to insure that our fight for life will be crowned with success.

Mr. President, please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

General of the Brigade Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military Council
Chief of State of Niger
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 29, 1984

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 February 29, 1984.

Charles H. Jackson, Jr.
Director, S/S-I
Information Management Section
Executive Secretariat
ext. 23836

Republic of Niger

The Chief of State

Niamey, February 8, 1984

No. 026/PCMS/DIRCAB

Mr. President:

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that on January 30 and 31, 1984, my country was host to the Sixth Conference of the Presidents of CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel). Combatting the effects of the drought with solidarity and cooperation, this institution includes the following countries: the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Gambia, the Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal, and the Republic of Upper Volta.

His Excellency
Ronald Reagan,
President of the United States of America,
Washington.

DZ
Authority POS/NSC WAL/W
BY W NARA DATE 8/5/22 12E/4513

At the end of this summit conference, the Chiefs of State made an appeal they called "The Declaration of Niamey," which was intended to make the international community aware of the acute food shortages that the people of the Sahel and their livestock are now experiencing.

It so happened that while the CILSS Conference was being held, Secretary of State George Shultz announced that your administration had decided to ask the United States Congress to approve an important program of financial assistance to African countries threatened by starvation.

The Chiefs of State of CILSS have honored me by appointing me President of our institution. In this capacity, but also on behalf of my country, I wish to express the deep gratitude that the African people feel toward the United States, together with my hopes that a sizeable portion of this assistance will be allocated to the countries of the Sahel.

As Secretary of State Shultz emphasized with such pertinence, the problem of Africa and particularly of the Sahelian countries, is a structural and not an economic problem. Accordingly, it has a fundamentally human dimension implied by the "right to development" to which our hardworking people aspire. In other words, it entails formulating and implementing a global strategy that can serve as a platform of activities to combat the drought and its effects, but it also

entails planning development activities to ensure that the people achieve permanent food self-sufficiency.

In this regard, I am very pleased to reiterate my sincere gratitude and that of the CILSS member countries for the important cooperation that our countries enjoy individually and collectively with USAID in the priority sector of rural development. I know that I can rely on Your Excellency's support and that of your administration, the Congress, and the great people of the United States, in ensuring that our fight for life will be successful.

Accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high consideration.

[Signature]

Brigadier General Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military
Council
Chief of State of Niger
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS

DECLARATION OF NIAMEY

WE, the Presidents of the member countries of the CILSS,

CONSIDERING that today more than yesterday, the Sahel is threatened in its very physical, economic, and political existence by a drought which reveals a more and more endemic character,

CONSIDERING that this drought causes an accelerated deterioration of the land, the advancement of the desert and the risk of profound change in our countries if these actual tendencies continue,

CONSIDERING that today more than 30 million men, women and children are threatened in their survival by the lack of regular rainfall and receding river levels,

CONSIDERING that today hundreds of thousands of livestock are doomed because of the lack of water and pasturage,

CONSIDERING that never before has the Sahel encountered such a critical food situation in spite of the efforts made by the member states and the assistance received by the international community,

CONSIDERING that a hostile nature works desperately to destroy the efforts that are nevertheless not lacking in intelligence and generosity,

CONVINCED that the international community will not fail to honor the "Contract of Generation" that it freely accepted to seal with our countries in 1976 in Dakar in order that its assistance will be inscribed in our middle and long term prospects,

CONSIDERING that the self-sufficiency of food, the principal objective of our countries, seems to be more and more difficult to achieve due to the continuing decrease of production combined with the effects of the deteriorating terms of exchange and the consequences of the world crisis which seriously limits the capacity of our countries to meet their alimentary needs,

CONSIDERING that the ever increasing cost of our imports obliges us to call for alimentary assistance which unfortunately tends to institutionalize itself,

CONSIDERING the imperative necessity for our Governments to insure the alimentary security of our people,

CONVINCED that only the establishment of a rational system of food security stocks at the national and regional levels, based especially on the substantial increase of local production, can remedy the actual deficiencies of alimentary assistance,

CONSIDERING that the international community has granted significant and appreciable financial efforts during this period of global crisis affecting everyone,

CONVINCED, therefore, that the recovery from this situation and the durable development of our countries requires from us, more than ever before, a mobilization on our part of regional and national resources, and also an even greater effort by those more endowed than us,

PREOCCUPIED WITH the decrease in assistance given to the Third World countries and in particular to those of the Sahel,

CONSIDERING that the pursuit of this tendency would constitute a serious threat to the peace and balance of the world,

HOPING that the visit of the Secretary General of the UN to the Sahel, the numerous initiatives of the General Manager of the FAO and the efforts that they deploy to sensitize the international public opinion to encourage our countries,

MAKING THEIR APPEALS OURS so that multilateral donors can be encouraged to take favorable action and consecrate a significant part of their resources to the Sahelian countries,

MAKING an urgent appeal to the international community at the next summit conference of the industrialized nations, to the organization of the UN and to its specialized institutions, to the Organization of Islamic Countries and to all the people of goodwill in order that they may regain interest in our countries in their common fight against the drought and desertification,

ASKING all the countries and organizations sensitive to the difficulties in the Sahel to be more attentive to the critical situation of our countries, to support our efforts for the development of an original cooperation which would take the form of a Sahel Fund capable of guaranteeing secure and foreseeable resources without which the development of our economies will remain a perilous exercise and without a future.

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

CONSEIL MILITAIRE SUPREME

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

ET DE LA COOPERATION

CABINET DU MINISTRE

Niamey, le

9 FEV. 1984

N°/MAE/C/CAB
N° 0 1 2 1 1

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 faire parvenir ci-joint la lettre sous pli fermé n° 026/PCMS/DIRCAB que Son Excellence le Général de Brigade SEYNI KOUNTCHE, Président du Conseil Militaire Suprême, Chef de l'Etat du NIGER, adresse en sa qualité de Président en Exercice du CILSS, à Son Excellence Monsieur Ronald REAGAN, Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

Le Ministère serait très reconnaissant à l'Ambassade de la diligence avec laquelle elle voudra bien transmettre ce pli à Son Haut Destinataire.

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

AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUE.

NIAMEY



CONSIDERING that the international community has granted significant and appreciable financial efforts during this period of global crisis affecting everyone,

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ASKING all the countries and organizations sensitive to the difficulties in the Sahel to be more attentive to the critical situation of our countries, to support our efforts for the development of an original cooperation which would take the form of a Sahel Fund capable of guaranteeing secure and foreseeable resources without which the development of our economies will remain a perilous exercise and without a future.

DECLARATION OF NIAMEY

WE, the Presidents of the member countries of the CILSS,

CONSIDERING that today more than yesterday, the Sahel is threatened in its very physical, economic, and political existence by a drought which reveals a more and more endemic character,

CONSIDERING that this drought causes an accelerated deterioration of the land, the advancement of the desert and the risk of profound change in our countries if these actual tendencies continue,

CONSIDERING that today more than 30 million men, women and children are threatened in their survival by the lack of regular rainfall and receding river levels,

CONSIDERING that today hundreds of thousands of livestock are doomed because of the lack of water and pasturage,

CONSIDERING that never before has the Sahel encountered such a critical food situation in spite of the efforts made by the member states and the assistance received by the international community,

CONSIDERING that a hostile nature works desperately to destroy the efforts that are nevertheless not lacking in intelligence and generosity,

CONVINCED that the international community will not fail to honor the "Contract of Generation" that it freely accepted to seal with our countries in 1976 in Dakar in order that its assistance will be inscribed in our middle and long term prospects,

CONSIDERING that the self-sufficiency of food, the principal objective of our countries, seems to be more and more difficult to achieve due to the continuing decrease of production combined with the effects of the deteriorating terms of exchange and the consequences of the world crisis which seriously limits the capacity of our countries to meet their alimentary needs,

CONSIDERING that the ever increasing cost of our imports obliges us to call for alimentary assistance which unfortunately tends to institutionalize itself,

CONSIDERING the imperative necessity for our Governments to insure the alimentary security of our people,

CONVINCED that only the establishment of a rational system of food security stocks at the national and regional levels, based especially on the substantial increase of local production, can remedy the actual deficiencies of alimentary assistance,

8406189

Translation

Dear Mr. President:

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that on the 30th and 31st of January 1984, my country was host to the Sixth Conference of the Presidents of the CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel). This institution, as part of Solidarity and Cooperation in their fight against the effects of the drought, includes the following countries: the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Gambia, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Upper Volta, the Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Chad.

At the end of this conference, the Presidents made an appeal that they named "The Declaration of Niamey" which was intended to sensitize the international community to the alimentary tragedy which the population of the Sahel and its livestock are actually experiencing.

It just so happens that during the CILSS conference, the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, made public the decision of your administration to ask the United States Congress to approve an important financial assistance program for the African countries threatened by starvation.

The Chiefs of State of CILSS have honored me by naming me President of our institution. In this capacity and also in the name of my country, I would like to express to the United States of America the sincere gratitude of the African populations at the same time hoping that an important part of this assistance will be devoted to the countries in the Sahel.

As Secretary of State George Shultz emphasized with a great deal of pertinence, the problem of AFRICA and, especially the problem of the Sahelian countries, is a structural problem and not one of conjuncture. It is basically a human dimension which implies the idea of "The Right of Development" to which our hardworking populations intensely aspire. In other words, on the one hand, it involves making use of a global strategy which will serve as a platform of actions against the drought and its effects, and, on the other hand, conceiving developmental actions to insure the self-sufficiency of food for the populations.

1 RELEASED
Authority: DOS/NSC Walker
BY: CW NARA DATE: 8/15/22

In this regard, I am very pleased to renew to you my sincere gratitude and that of the other member countries of the CILSS for the cooperation that our countries, individually and collectively, maintain with the United States Agency for International Development in the primary sector of Rural Development. I know that I can count on the support of Your Excellency, Your Administration, the Congress, and on the great people of the United States of America, to insure that our fight for life will be crowned with success.

Mr. President, please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

General of the Brigade Seyni Kountche
President of the Supreme Military Council
Chief of State of Niger
President of the Conference of the
Chiefs of State of CILSS

République du Niger

Le Chef de l'Etat

NIAMEY, le 1 FEV. 1984

N° 26 /PCMS/DIRCAB.

Monsieur le Président,

Il m'est un agréable plaisir de porter à Votre connaissance que mon Pays a abrité, les 30 et 31 Janvier 1984, la 6ème Conférence des Chefs d'Etat du Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel. Cette Institution regroupe, dans un cadre de Solidarité et de Coopération dans leur lutte contre les effets de la sécheresse, les Pays suivants : la République du CAP VERT, la République de GAMBIE, la République du MALI, la République de HAUTE VOLTA, la République Islamique de MAURITANIE, la République du NIGER, la République du SENEGAL et la République du TCHAD.

A l'issue de ce Sommet, les Chefs d'Etat ont lancé un Appel que nous avons baptisé "Déclaration de NIAMEY", afin de sensibiliser davantage la Communauté Internationale sur le drame alimentaire dont souffrent actuellement les populations du Sahel, ainsi que leur cheptel.

Il s'est trouvé qu'au moment même où se tenait la Conférence du CILSS, le Secrétaire d'Etat George SHULTZ rendait publique la décision de Votre Administration de demander au Congrès des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE d'approuver une importante aide financière en faveur des Pays africains menacés de famine.

Son Excellence,
Monsieur Ronald REAGAN,
Président des ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED 11/19/85
Authority DOS/DCI/11/85
BY CU NARA DATE 8/5/22

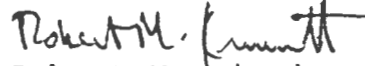
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

2229

March 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES HILL
Executive Secretary
Department of StateSUBJECT: Niger's Ambassador to the United States
(S/S 8408142)

The President has reviewed and concurs in the recommendation of the Department of State that the appointment of Mr. Mounkeila Arouna as Ambassador-Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Niger to the United States would be agreeable to the Government of the United States. You are requested to so inform the Government of the Republic of Niger.



Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

2229

March 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT KIMMITT

SIGNED
SIGNED

FROM: FRED WETTERING 

SUBJECT: Niger: Request for Agreement on Ambassador
Arouna

The State Department has forwarded the Republic of Niger's nomination of Mr. Mounkeila Arouna for consideration as the next Ambassador to the U.S. from Niger. State recommends that agreement be granted.

I have reviewed the material and see no reason for denying agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the attached Kimmitt/Hill memo granting agreement on Mr. Arouna as the new Niger Ambassador.

APPROVE _____



DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments:

Tab I

Kimmitt/Hill Memo of Agreement
A Incoming material from State

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2229



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 17, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Appointment of Mounkeila Arouna of the Republic of Niger as Ambassador to the United States.

The Government of the Republic of Niger has inquired whether our Government agrees to the appointment of Mounkeila Arouna as its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States (Tab 2). A biography of Mounkeila Arouna is attached (Tab 1).

The Department believes from the information available that Mounkeila Arouna will make a good Ambassador to the United States and recommends that the President agree to the proposed appointment. If he concurs, the Department will inform the Government of the Republic of Niger.

Charles Hill
for Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Biography.
2. Telegram No. 01249 from Niamey.

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(UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF ATTACHMENTS)

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BY CW NARA DATE 8/5/22

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BIOGRAPHY - Mounkeila Arouna

Republic of Niger

In late February 1984, the Government of Niger requested agreement for the nomination of Mounkeila Arouna as Ambassador to the United States. He is not a career diplomat, but he did serve during 1981-83 as Ambassador to France with concurrent accreditation to Italy, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Spain, and Iceland. That assignment and others -- including that of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation during 1975 and frequent stints as Acting Foreign Minister during the absences of the incumbent during 1976-81 -- give him extensive experience in foreign policy at the highest levels of the Nigerien Government.

Mounkeila Arouna studied economics at the University of Dakar, Senegal during 1963-67, and toward the end of that period, he became financial vice president of the General Union of West African Students. After he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1967, he returned home and joined the General Department of Development. He did post graduate work in Dakar at the Institute of Economic and Development Planning for a year during 1969-70. He subsequently held increasingly responsible development-related posts in Niamey, including that of Director of International Cooperation during 1973-74.

In 1974, Mounkeila Arouna was named Secretary of State for Development, thus becoming one of only four civilians with cabinet rank in the new government. During 1975, while he was serving as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, he also took temporary charge of the Ministry of Mines and Hydrology. He subsequently served as Minister of Mines and Hydrology during 1976-80 and as Minister of Mines during 1980-81.

Mounkeila Arouna, who is about 45, is a reserved person, and more than normally conscious of proper protocol. Mounkeila Arouna visited the United States in 1978 as a guest of CONOCO for discussions with the company's executives and to inspect its uranium mining and processing installations. Mounkeila Arouna speaks French and limited English. He and his wife, who has been a social worker, have six children. His name is a compound of his and his father's given names; like many Nigeriens, he has no family name.

A thorough search of U.S. Government sources reveals no grounds for objection.

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PAGE 01 NIAHEY 01249 01 OF 02 291210Z
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~~AGREEMENT~~

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PDIP, PREL, NG
SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REQUEST - NIGER

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FEBRUARY 27 EMBASSY RECEIVED GON DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO. 00030 REQUESTING THAT WE TRANSMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THEIR REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR MOUNKEILA AROUNA AS AMBASSADOR TO THE USA.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT:

- QUOTE
- THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF THE
- REPUBLIC OF NIGER PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
- EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN NIAHEY
- AND HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST THE EMBASSY TO INFORM
- ITS GOVERNMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER WOULD
- LIKE TO ACCREDIT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
- STATES OF AMERICA AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY
- AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, MR. MOUNKEILA AROUNA REPLACING
- MR. DIATTA JOSEPH.

- THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION
- RETAINED THE CANDIDACY OF MR. MOUNKEILA AROUNA
- WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT HE HAS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS
- REQUIRED TO PERFORM SUCH A DELICATE MISSION;
- IT IS WITH THIS PURPOSE THAT THE MINISTRY TRANSMITS
- TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
- PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE
- CURRICULUM VITAE OF MR. MOUNKEILA AROUNA.
- THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION
- REQUESTS THAT THE EMBASSY ASK THE U.S. MINISTRY
- OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER THE CANDIDACY OF
- MR. MOUNKEILA AROUNA TO THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR
- EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY AND TO INFORM
- THE MINISTRY IF IT IS ABLE TO GIVE ITS AGREEMENT IN
- ORDER TO PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER TO TAKE THE
- NECESSARY STEPS PRECEDING THE OFFICIAL NOMINATION
- OF THIS GENTLEMAN TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED HIGH-LEVEL
- DUTIES.

- THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF
- THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER THANKS THE EMBASSY OF THE
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR BEING DILIGENT IN
- THE SETTLING OF THIS MATTER AND AVAILS ITSELF OF
- THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY THE
- ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
- UNQUOTE.

4. ALSO INCLUDED WAS FOLLOWING CURRICULUM VITAE:

- QUOTE.
- SURNAME: MOUNKEILA
- GIVEN NAME: AROUNA
- DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 1938 AT OUALLAN

- MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED, 6 CHILDREN
- PRIMARY EDUCATION: TILLABERY, 1946-1952, CEPE
- SECONDARY EDUCATION: COLLEGE CLASSIQUE ET MODERNE
- DE NIAHEY, 1953-1962
- LYCEE DE COCODY (IVORY COAST), 1960-1962
- DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCES
- UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR-FANN
- (REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL), 1963-1967
- BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS
- POST GRADUATE EDUCATION: OCTOBER 1969-JULY 1970
- INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT
- DAKAR (REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL)
- DIPLOMA OF THE INSTITUTE
- POSITION OCCUPIED:
- OCTOBER 1967-AUGUST 1968: RESPONSIBLE FOR
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE GENERAL DEPARTMENT
- OF DEVELOPMENT
- AUGUST 1968-SEPTEMBER 1969: RESPONSIBLE FOR
- THE DIRECTION OF PROGRAM AND STUDIES IN THE
- GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
- JULY 1970-MARCH 1973: CHIEF OF THE SECTION
- OF STUDIES ON CONJUNCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION
- AT THE GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
- APRIL 1973-APRIL 15, 1974: DIRECTOR OF INTERNA-
- TIONAL COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
- AND COOPERATION
- JUNE 8, 1974-JUNE 5, 1974: SECRETARY OF STATE
- FOR DEVELOPMENT
- JUNE 6, 1975: SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
- AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

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Authority

BY Col NARA DATE 8/5/22

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01249 02 OF 02 291222Z
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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PDIP, PREL, NG
SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REQUEST - NIGER

- SEPTEMBER, 1975- FEBRUARY 21, 1976: IN CHARGE
- OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROLOGY
- FEBRUARY 21, 1976-JUNE 16, 1980: MINISTER OF
- MINES AND HYDROLOGY
- JUNE 16, 1980-FEBURARY 1981: MINISTER OF MINES
- MARCH 11, 1981-NOVEMBER 15, 1983: AMBASSADOR
- OF NIGER TO FRANCE, ACCREDITED ALSO TO ITALY,
- GREAT BRITAIN, SWITZERLAND, SPAIN, ICELAND.
- HONORS: COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF MONO (TOGO).

5. BIO INFO:

MOUNKEILA AROUNA IS ABOUT SIX FOOT TWO AND PROBABLY WEIGHS 190 POUNDS. HIS FACE BEARS TRIBAL SCARS. HE TIRES EASILY AND IS BELIEVED TO BE IN INDIFFERENT HEALTH. HE SMOKES HEAVILY. HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND NIGERIEN LANGUAGES. HE VISITED THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST ONCE AS A GUEST OF CONOCO. HE KNOWS LITTLE ENGLISH. I KNEW MOUNKEILA FAIRLY WELL AND TRAVELED WITH HIM FOR A MONTH ACROSS THE US AND TO PERU IN 1978. FROM MY DEALINGS WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF MINES I FOUND THAT HE WAS NORMALLY RESERVED BUT FRIENDLY. IT TOOK SOME TIME BEFORE HE LET THE RELATIONSHIP WARM TO ANYTHING BEYOND CORRECT FORMAL INTERCOURSE. HE WAS USUALLY GUARDED WITH HIS OPINIONS AND IN SOME BUSINESS MEETINGS GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING DETACHED FROM THE PROCEEDINGS. HE WAS MORE THAN NORMALLY CONCERNED WITH INSURING PROPER RESPECT WAS PAID TO HIS TITLE. ONCE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED HE WAS LESS STIFF AND WARMER BUT HE WAS NEVER COMPLETELY OPEN. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM SINCE HE LEFT NIAMEY FOR PARIS IN 1980. HE HAS NOT SURFACED SINCE HIS RETURN IN NOVEMBER 1983.
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