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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

*Warren
J*

August 27, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Warren Christopher, Acting *WC*

Moscow Embassy Fire. The fire burned nearly ten hours before it was controlled Saturday morning. The most difficult period came around 10 p.m. (EDT) Friday when the fire broke out anew on the roof and it appeared that the building would be destroyed if we did not allow the firemen access to our sensitive tenth floor, attic and roof areas. Ambassador Toon, after consulting with me, refused to authorize access to the sensitive areas.

Structural and electrical engineers have been dispatched today to help assess the damage. Fire damage to the communications center appears limited but overall structural loss may pose extensive repair problems. Standby communications gear has been installed in our ground floor commercial office located two blocks from the Embassy. When it becomes operational about 11 p.m. tonight, we will have restored direct classified telegraphic contact.

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State, NSA, DOE reviews
completed

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Lagos Conference. The outcome of the Lagos Anti-Apartheid Conference justified our decision to participate actively. The Conference Declaration is a more moderate document than it would have been without our participation and that of other Western nations. The Declaration does contain elements unacceptable to us, however, including a call to end all nuclear cooperation with South Africa, to end sports contacts with South Africa, and for Chapter VII sanctions. Our reservations on these and other points will be stated in a letter appended to the Conference report.

Andy Young's speech was an effective statement of our policy and was greeted with much enthusiasm. He was able to spell out the U.S. position without creating the impression that we were shielding South Africa. The Conference also added to the prestige of Nigeria, for despite the general chaos of Lagos, the Conference ran well and achieved most, if not all, of the goals set for it by moderate African opinion.

Israel - South Africa. In response to a further inquiry from us, Prime Minister Begin has now added a statement that Israel "does not cooperate with South Africa in the production of nuclear explosives of any kind, nor are we aware of any Israeli private firm which is active in this field". There are several obvious loopholes in this assurance, which was obtained through what Ambassador Lewis characterized as "a cool and careful exchange". Begin's two statements do not rule out the possibility of Israeli-South African cooperation in the development of explosive techniques, cooperation in testing an Israeli

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Ask for (demand)

recurrence

Prepare
personal
message
JC → MB.
expressing
serious
concern re

SA coop
in development of
a nuclear explosive
device -

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device, or various kinds of cooperation on the techniques of handling nuclear explosive materials. Since speculation on the nature and extent of Israel's involvement has already surfaced, we are giving careful thought to the most effective way to pursue this matter.

Caribbean AID Program. AID plans to follow up Andy Young's trip to the Caribbean by expediting the Jamaican economic package, authorizing a new loan to the Caribbean Development Bank to finance agriculture projects, developing new assistance proposals for Guyana, and seeking early FY 1978 approval of the PL 480 Title I programs for Jamaica, Guyana and Haiti. AID will also send survey teams on agriculture, education, and health to the Eastern Caribbean early in the fall. A proposal to form a Consultative Group for the Caribbean, to include Venezuela and Trinidad among the donors, is also being developed.

good

Nigerian Manpower Training. We recently signed an agreement with Nigeria providing for the fully reimbursable training of up to 500 Nigerians in vocational and related skills. The students will arrive in September and will receive instruction for six to twenty-four months at either community colleges or technical schools. We hope to receive up to 2,000 additional students by January 1978 and perhaps up to 10,000 more by September of next year. Programs like this pay high long-term dividends for the United States, for we frequently find that leaders of developing countries are predisposed to our country because they once participated in such programs.

We'll go back to Front Line

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talks are encouraging

Rhodesia. In the meeting this morning in Lusaka between Andy Young, David Owen and the Front Line Presidents, the Presidents reacted negatively to parts of Owen's presentation, particularly those relating to the status of the Rhodesian army during the interim period and the composition of the future Zimbabwe Force. From the fragmentary reporting we have, it appears that Nyerere took charge of the afternoon session and, drawing heavily on his conversations with you, obtained concurrence that the proposals should be presented to Vorster.

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*We can't hope
for their
agreement*

In an earlier meeting with Owen and Young, Patriotic Front leaders Nkomo and Mugabe also objected to portions of the proposals dealing with internal security. They would not accept continuation of elements of the Rhodesian army in any form. It remains to be seen how the understandings reached with the Front Line Presidents will affect the position of the two Patriotic Front leaders when Owen and Young meet with them tomorrow.

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