

PRIME MINISTER

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PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE

President Mobutu is calling on you at 1545 on Wednesday.

He will be accompanied by:

the Foreign Minister - M. Yoka; and  
the Zairian Ambassador - M. Matangulu.

On our side, I have agreed that the following should attend:

Mr. Richard Luce (who visited Zaire in June); and  
Mr. John Snodgrass, our Ambassador in Kinshasa.

President Mobutu speaks little or no English. Mr. Peers Carter will attend to interpret. Since we have allotted only 30 minutes for the call, we shall not get through much business. However, for President Mobutu the main point is a political one - to be able to show by his current round of visits to Western capitals, that he has international support at a time of continued domestic insecurity and economic difficulties.

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A photo has been arranged. In view of the numbers, I suggest we use the Cabinet Room.

A.S.C. 9/12.

8 December 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 December 1981

*Dear John,*

Visit of President Mobutu

President Mobutu is to call on the Prime Minister at 1545 on 9 December. We understand that he will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister, M. Yoka, and the Zairean Ambassador to London, M. Matangulu. Mr Luce will attend.

/ I enclose a brief for the Prime Minister's use which includes personality notes. You will have seen Washington telno 3701 giving an account of the President's visit to the US (a copy is attached for ease of reference).  
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President Mobutu speaks little or no English. We have therefore arranged for Mr Peers Carter to attend as interpreter.

President Mobutu is to be received by The Queen on the morning of 10 December. The Lord Privy Seal will host a lunch in his honour on the same day.

*yours ever*

*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

John Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CALL BY PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE ON THE PRIME MINISTER: 9 DECEMBER 1981

POINTS TO MAKE

BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. Grateful for Zairean support during Rhodesian negotiations and constructive attitude over Namibia. Congratulate Zaire on becoming member of Security Council 1982/3, at a time when Council will have serious decisions to make on African problems.

2. Mr Luce has warm recollections of his reception in Kinshasa last June. Recall President's honeymoon in Scotland in May 1980.

3. Pleased we could offer Zaire a further grant (£3 million over next three years) as Programme Aid.

[If asked for more aid. We are also contributing about £12.5 m. as our share of the European Development Fund's programme and supporting other multilateral agencies helping Zaire. We cannot increase our bilateral aid in present circumstances.]

NAMIBIA

4. Attach great importance to early settlement of Namibian problem. Present conflict is a source of instability in the region, which I know is of concern to you.

5. Initial reactions to African tour last month by senior officials of the Five were generally encouraging. Formal replies now received from both sides provide good basis for progress. Aim is still to negotiate remaining issues (eg impartiality of electoral progress, composition of UN force) in time for ceasefire and beginning of implementation of UN Plan during 1982.

CHAD

6. Congratulate Zaire on prompt despatch of contingent to Chad on 15 November. We are examining with Nigerians way of



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helping with their contingent. [If asked. We cannot add to the aid already offered for Zairean contingent by USA and France.]

7. Essential OAU efforts succeed. If Libyans are invited back by Goukouni, it will be very difficult to dislodge them a second time.

Central African Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.  
7 December 1981

CALL BY PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE ON THE PRIME MINISTER: 9 DECEMBER 1981

ESSENTIAL FACTS

PRESIDENT MOBUTU

1. Born 1930. Trained as a journalist. Appointed Chief of Staff of the Congolese Army after independence in 1960. Deposed President Kasavubu in bloodless coup and assumed presidency in 1965. Has maintained power since, despite chaotic upheavals of the 1960s and recurrent serious economic difficulties. Has shown great political skill in controlling ~~complet~~ inter-tribal and secessionist forces. But ruthless, corrupt, and increasingly isolated from realistic advisers.
2. Made a State Visit to Britain in 1973 and in May 1980 went to Scotland on honeymoon with his second wife.

FOREIGN MINISTER (M. YOKA)

3. Born 1939. A leading lawyer and member of the Central Committee of the Party. No previous Ministerial experience prior to his appointment as Foreign Minister in October 1981. This is believed to be his first visit to Britain.

ZAIREAN AMBASSADOR (M. MATANGULU)

4. Born 1940. Ambassador to Britain since September 1979. Previously Ambassador to Kenya, Portugal and Switzerland.

REASONS FOR VISIT

5. President Mobutu has just returned from Washington, where he had talks with President Reagan. He attended the Franco-African Summit in Paris last month where he met President Mitterand. His visits to Western capitals reflect need for support at a time of increasing economic difficulty in Zaire

and some political unrest. He can be expected to refer to the communist threat to Zaire from neighbouring countries, but we believe he exaggerates the dangers. Other aspects of Mobutu's current diplomatic initiative include the sending of troops to Chad (see Paras 13-16 below) and Zaire's election as a member of the Security Council 1982/83.

#### UK/ZAIRE RELATIONS

6. Reasonably cordial but with little content. Our aid is small - Belgium, France and the United States shoulder most of the burden. In recent years we have supplied bridging equipment (£2.4 million) and under an agreement of 1980, £2 million of foreign exchange for the purchase in Britain of spare parts and raw materials for subsidiaries of firms operating in Zaire (including British Leyland, Tootal, British American Tobacco and Unilever).

7. For the future we have promised a grant of £3 million to be spent in the next three years. The ODA plan to send a mission to Zaire in the New Year to discuss how this will be spent. We also contribute an 18% share (about £12.4 million) of EC's European Development Programme in Zaire.

8. British exports to Zaire last year were £27.6 million (transport equipment, textile yarns, minerals) and imports were £52.6 million (minerals, coffee, cocoa, timber). British firms experience mounting difficulties in Zaire because of shortage of foreign exchange. ECGD cover is restricted to short term (180 days).

9. Last British Minister to visit Zaire was Mr Luce in June 1981. He was received by President Mobutu. Previous Zairean Foreign Minister, Bomboko, visited London and lunched with Lord Carrington in June; but was replaced by Yoka in October.

ZAIRE: ECONOMY

10. Zaire is world's largest producer of cobalt and industrial diamonds and a major producer of copper. But economy continues to deteriorate rapidly. Acute shortage of domestic and foreign exchange and inflation. Agriculture is a very poor way. Problems explained partly by commodity prices but also by administrative mismanagement and corruption. Total Zaire debts are about \$4.5 billion. IMF granted an Extended Fund Facility of \$1.1 billion in June, but Zaireans will have difficulty in meeting strongest performance criteria in July/September quarter. Production of diamonds and copper has fallen and cobalt stocks are proving hard to sell.

POLITICAL

11. There are signs of increasing unrest. President Mobutu frequently changes his Ministers - two major reshuffles this year. His Prime Minister, Nguza Karl-i-Bond resigned in April when in Belgium, thus joining other political figures in exile. Security situation will continue to remain unstable and there remains a continuing risk of a coup, although President Mobutu has proved extraordinary powers of survival.

12. Amnesty International has expressed concern at reported infringements of human rights. At Zaire's invitation, a two-man team visited Kinshasa in July 1981, but their report has not yet been published.

NAMIBIA

13. Having received formal responses from both sides to our proposed Constitutional Principles, the Five hope to secure an agreed text this year, ending Phase 1 of the negotiations. Senior officials met in Ottawa on 7-8 December to determine a strategy for Phase 2, which is to be devoted to the size,



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composition and deployment of UNTAG; and the impartiality of the electoral process. Zaire's attitude in general moderate, but Mobutu does not carry much weight with other African states.

CHAD

14. Zaire was first country to respond to President Moi's (OAU Chairman) peace-keeping initiative: on 15 November 700 Zairean paratroops arrived in the capital Ndjamena. President Mobutu in Washington on 2 December is reported to have secured US\$15 million assistance for Zairean contingent. Press reports suggest Mobutu will increase contingent to 2,000 (possibly larger than Nigerian force). Only Zaireans, about 150 Senegalese and advance guard of Nigerians, so far in Ndjamena (other contributors are supposed to be Guinea, Togo and Benin).

15. We have offered to help the Nigerians by providing essential equipment, such as transport, within ceiling of \$1 million. US original offer was US\$12 million to be divided between Nigerian and Zairean contingents. France are helping with contingents from francophone states (whether they are assisting Zaire is not clear).

Central African Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.  
7 December 1981





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