

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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TOSEC # 240235

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STATE 295323/1 TOSEC 240235

E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SOPN, AO

SUBJECT:

MEDIA

1. INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR BIDEN ON NBC-TV "TODAY SHOW," BARBARA WALTERS AND DOUGLAS KIKER, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1975.

2. ANOTHER ISSUE THAT IS VERY MUCH WORRYING WASHINGTON, AND INDEED WORRYING THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, AT THIS POINT, IS THE CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA, THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY IN AFRICA, AND SPECIFICALLY A REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ARMS AND SUPPORT FUNDS TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FIGHTERS, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA ARE FULFILLING HEAVY MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO THE LEFTISTS, BOTH IN TERMS OF ARMS AND TROOPS. A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS IS SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN ... AND SOME PEOPLE ARE NOW CALLING THIS ANOTHER VIET NAM. GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN ...

3. KIKER: WELL, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THIS DECISION HAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, URGED SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER NOT TO DO THIS, TO SEEK A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, AND RESIGNED WHEN HIS ADVICE WAS REJECTED. IS THIS TRUE?

4. BIDEN: I CAN'T CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THAT'S WHY MR. DAVIS RESIGNED, BUT I CAN CONFIRM THAT I THINK IF MR. DAVIS SAID THAT, HE'S ABSOLUTELY CORRECT. I THINK THIS WAS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION WAS CALLED FOR (SIC), NOT THE KIND OF ACTION THAT HAS BEEN AT LEAST REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

5. KIKER: IT IS ALSO STATED THAT NOT ONLY MR. DAVIS WAS OPPOSED TO THIS POLICY, BUT ALMOST THE ENTIRE AFRICAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS MANY OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.

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ABOUT THE SOVIETS HAVING A FOOTHOLD, AND BLOCKING OUR ROUTES, OUR SHIPPING ROUTES FROM THE PERSIAN GULF, AND ALL THE REST - BUT THEY'RE THE SAME KIND OF ARGUMENTS I HEARD WITH REGARD TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND I THOUGHT THEY DIDN'T MAKE SENSE THEN, AND I DON'T THINK THEY MAKE SENSE NOW. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF WE GET INVOLVED? CAN WE IN FACT EFFECTUATE AN OUT-COME IN ANY WAY, AND IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE THREE RIVAL FACTIONS, AND THE MILITARY PROWESS OF MR. SAVINDI AND HOLDEN ROBERTO, IT SEEMS TO ME, EVEN IF WE SHOULD BE THERE, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IN FACT WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL.

15. KIKER: IS IT LEGAL UNDER THE WAR POWERS ACT FOR US TO BE DOING WHAT WE'RE DOING?

16. BIDEN: WELL, I THINK IT'S QUESTIONABLE, BUT ... BASICALLY WHAT IT IS NOW, I THINK THAT TECHNICALLY THE ADMINISTRATION IS ABLE TO DO WHAT THEY ARE DOING UNDER THE WAR POWERS ACT.

17. KIKER: IS IT COMMUNIST VS. ANTI-COMMUNIST, OR IS THIS OVER-SIMPLIFIED?

18. BIDEN: I THINK IT'S REALLY OVERSIMPLIFYING THE PROBLEM, BECAUSE IT ASSUMES, FOR EXAMPLE, MR. MOYNIHAN I READ IN THE TIMES OR THE POST THIS MORNING, I CAN'T RECALL WHICH, GAVE A SPEECH YESTERDAY WHEREBY HE SAID THE SOVIETS WILL GAIN A FOOTHOLD, AND WE'LL CHANGE ... WELL, THAT ASSUMES THAT IF IN FACT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE SOVIET HELP, THEY WILL IN FACT RUN THE ... MR. NETTO - DR. NETTO'S THE HEAD OF THE THIRD FACTION - THEY WILL

RUN THAT, HIS ARM OF THAT ... AND I JUST DON'T THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN. I THINK THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE OUT OF THERE EVEN IF THEIR SIDE PREVAILS. I DON'T THINK THAT ...

19. KIKER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL