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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 20//

TO COVEY/PASSAGE/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH61863

TOHAK 20

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

VERNON K. JARRETT
KISSINGER MERITS APPLAUSE, NOT ABUSE FOR URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH
BOSTON
IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT A BRILLIANT MAN CAN EARN NEARLY
UNIVERSAL REPUTATION AS AN EXPERT ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND
YET KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT MORE THAN 11 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.
HENRY A. KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE, DISCOVERED MONDAY
NIGHT HE HAD A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE IN THE UNITED
STATES.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY A SECRETARY
OF STATE APPEARED BEFORE A BLACK CIVIC RIGHTS ORGANIZATION,
THE 66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE,
AND DELIVERED A MAJOR AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENT.
MR. KISSINGER SPOKE FOR NEARLY 50 MINUTES, UNINTERRUPTED BY
THE AUDIENCE. HE CALLED FOR RECOGNITION OF AN INDEPENDENT,
FREE AND PEACEFUL AFRICA AS ESSENTIAL TO THE WELFARE OF THE
U.S. AND, BY IMPLICATION, COMMITTED THIS COUNTRY TO ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE TO THE UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS OF AFRICA.
HE ALSO CALLED FOR A NEW ATTITUDE IN RACE RELATIONS ON THE PART
OF RHODESIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, TWO COUNTRIES
THAT HAVE AROUSED THE IRE OF MOST OF THE BLACKS IN THE U.S.
AS HE ENTERED THE CROWDED GRAND BALLROOM OF THE SHERATON
BOSTON HOTEL, LARGE SECTIONS OF THE AUDIENCE GAVE HIM AN
OVATION.
HE WAS NOT APPLAUDED AS HE SPOKE, BUT WAS CHEERED AT THE
SPEECH'S END.

***** W H S R COMMENT *****

MC FARLANE, RODMAN, SEC FILE

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AFTER THE SPEECH MR. KISSINGER CONSENTED TO A QUESTION-
AND ANSWER PERIOD WITH A PANEL OF JOURNALISTS.

THAT IS WHEN THE TROUBLE STARTED MR. KISSINGER WAS ASKED
WHY THERE WERE NOT MORE BLACKS IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE STATE
DEPARTMENT, AND IN GIVING HIS ANSWER HE SUGGESTED-OR
LEFT THE IMPRESSION IN THE AUDIENCE-THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO
FIND ENOUGH "QUALIFIED" BLACKS.

SOME NEWSPAPERS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA REPORTED THAT
MR. KISSINGER WAS MET WITH A "CHORUS OF BOOS" AND GENERAL
"WHISSING." THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. THERE WAS A RESPONSE
FROM THE AUDIENCE, BUT ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL BOOED MR. KISSINGER'S
ANSWER.

SOME URBAN LEAGUE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED DISGUST WITH
THE MEDIA'S DRAMATIZATION OF THAT ONE PHASE OF MR.
KISSINGER'S APPEARANCE.

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST DISTINGUISHED BLACK ECONOMISTS,
DR. ANDREW F. BRIMMER, THE HARVARD-EDUCATED FORMER MEMBER
OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, SAID AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH
TUESDAY THAT MR. KISSINGER'S DELIVERY OF A MAJOR FOREIGN
POLICY STATEMENT AT THE CONVENTION WAS A BREAKTHROUGH.

THE BIGGEST DEFENSE OF MR. KISSINGER CAME THE FOLLOWING
NIGHT FROM SENATOR ROBERT H. HUMPHREY (D., MINN.), WHO
APPEARED ON A PANEL TO DISCUSS "THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AND
THE BLACK VOTER."

"WITH A BIG CARD-CARRYING DEMOCRAT," HE DECLARED, "BUT I WILL
TELL YOU THIS: I CAME BACK TO THE SENATE IN 1971. . . AND I
FOUND THERE WAS NO INTEREST IN ANY AFRICA POLICY IN THE
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

HE PRAISED MR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN TRYING TO CARRY
OUT THE DECISIONS OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS HEADED BY MR. HUMPHREY AND THEN PRAISED MR. KISSINGER'S
URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH.

MR. HUMPHREY WAS APPLAUDED LUSTILY AND HE WAS APPLAUDED
AGAIN WHEN HE URGED BLACKS TO INSIST THAT CONGRESS -THE CONGRESS
THAT IS DEMOCRATICALLY CONTROLLED- DEVELOP A POLICY THAT HAS
AN INTEREST IN THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA.

MR. HUMPHREY SAID, "I HATE TO ADMIT IT-BUT HE
(MR. KISSINGER) GOT MORE BLACKS IN THERE (THE STATE DEPARTMENT)
THAN WE HAD."

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