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THE WHITE HOUSE
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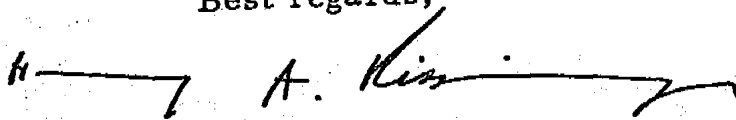
September 27, 1973

Dear Congressman Biester:

Thank you for your recent letter and for your kind expression of good wishes on my appointment, which I deeply appreciate.

Please be assured of our continuing interest in improving and strengthening our relations with Africa, and in working with Ambassador Reinhardt and the other U. S. envoys to African nations, who have done so much to establish and sustain our relations with this important area.

Best regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

The Honorable
Edward G. Biester, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dispatched 9/28/73 (ADC)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

9/27

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September 12, 1973

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Dr. Kissinger:

Just a note to tell you how pleased I was to observe that you expressed the need for freshened interest on the part of Americans in Africa.

As a Member of the Subcommittee on Africa of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have hoped that we could appreciate the enormous benefit which can flow to the United States out of such an interest. Dave Newsom has worked long and hard to sustain our position there.

I recently returned from a two-week trip in which I visited Liberia, South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya and Nigeria. I was impressed by the high quality and intense interest of our foreign service people throughout the countries I visited, but should you wish special perspective and information on Nigeria and black independent Africa, it is my belief that our ambassador in Nigeria, John E. Reinhardt, would give you the richest background, and do so crisply and clearly.

My heartiest congratulations to you on your appointment. Needless to say, as a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I look forward to mutual cooperation and significant progress in our country's foreign affairs and believe they will be substantially enhanced by your appointment.

Very sincerely yours,


Edward G. Biester, Jr.
Member of Congress

EGBJr/k