

~~SECRET~~

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PRECEDENCE

CLASSIFICATION

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM//TOSCO 78 11

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

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State Dept. review completed

INFO:

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DTG: 152215Z

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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WHITE HOUSE
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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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THOUGHT, WAS THAT EVEN THOUGH THE MPLA KNEW THAT THERE WERE CHINESE ARMS IN THE FNLA'S HANDS, THEIR PROPAGANDA LINE WAS CENTERED ONLY ON THE THEME THAT THE FNLA AND MOBUTU WERE THE STOOGES OF YANKEE IMPERIALISM.

3. HE ASKED ME SPECIFICALLY IF THE ZAIRIANS HAD M-16'S IN THEIR INVENTORY. I RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF OUR DECISION NOT TO SELL M-16'S IN AFRICA, THE SUBSEQUENT CHANGE IN SEPT 1974 WHEN WE INFORMED MOBUTU AMONG OTHERS THAT SUCH WEAPONS COULD BE PURCHASED UNDER FMS AND MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ZAIRE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL VISITS FROM COLT AND THAT IT LOOKED AS IF ZAIRE MIGHT USE SOME OF ITS FMS CREDIT TO BUY M-16'S DIRECTLY FROM THE SUPPLIER. I SAID THAT I DID NOT KNOW IF THIS TRANSACTION HAD BEEN COMPLETED BUT I DOUBTED IT. I FURTHER SAID, CONCERNING THE MORTARS AND THE "SELF-PROPELLED ROCKETS" THAT NONE OF THESE WEAPONS WERE INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS OR ON-GOING MAP/FMS DELIVERIES.

4. IT SEEMS EVIDENT--AS I [REDACTED] HAVE SUGGESTED [REDACTED] -THAT USG PRESS SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON WILL SOON BE QUERIED AS TO THE VERACITY OF THE RUMORS THAT HAVE NOW BEGUN TO CIRCULATE IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS. WALKER

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