

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

0330

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Marshall Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire

PARTICIPANTS: The President

President Marshall Mobutu Sese Seko

DATE, TIME & PLACE: The White House, January 31, 1989,
2:40 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

The Presidents exchanged greetings in French.

President Mobutu asked the President if he was in good health.

The President replied that he had a cold, but he was getting better.

President Mobutu then commented, saying it was "no wonder," what with the long campaign and so many recent speeches.

President Bush said he was calling to thank Mobutu for his message of congratulations after the election, and that he looked forward to working with the Zairian president.

President Mobutu asked about the health of the Bush family, particularly Mrs. Bush.

The President replied that he had told both his wife and his mother he would be calling President Mobutu, and then said, "You remember meeting my mother, she speaks French."

"Yes," Mobutu responded, and inquired about her health.

President Bush admitted his mother was getting older, but otherwise she was in fine health.

Mobutu asked if she was in Maine, and was told Mrs. Bush was in Florida.

The President then reiterated that this call was to send his greetings.

Mobuto responded by thanking the President and then said his own wife was in Brussels, in spite of the present "quarrel" with the Belgians.

The President asked how Zaire was getting along with Belgium and was told by Mobuto the two countries presently were "fighting."

President Bush said at least the U.S. and Zaire were getting along, and repeated that he looked forward to working with the President.

President Mobuto replied with thanks, and said Zaire was counting on U.S. "cooperation," because this fits in with his program of economic recovery for Zaire.

President Bush concluded by sending his wishes for a good visit to Morocco.

The two Presidents exchanged good-byes in French.

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