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WITHDRAWAL ID 00542

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Memorandum
CREATOR'S NAME U. Alexis Johnson
RECEIVER'S NAME 40 Committee
DESCRIPTION re intelligence matter
CREATION DATE 07/10/1972
VOLUME 2 pages
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 004700173
COLLECTION TITLE PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE
BOX NUMBER 31
FOLDER TITLE National Security - Intelligence
 (7)-(16)
DATE WITHDRAWN 05/02/1988
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST WHM

sanitized 7/15/03 dal

*GRFL: GRFP: Prez Handwriting Files b. 31
Folder: "Intel (8)."*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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60 JUL 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE 40 COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Request for Funds for President [REDACTED] to Pass to President Bokassa of the Central African Republic in Forgery Case.

Background

On July 1, 1972 President Bokassa of the Central African Republic told a public audience that a certain great power was committing subversion in his country, and that he was considering breaking relations. Other information reaching Embassy Bangui indicated that Bokassa had received forged documents of the type which have been appearing in African capitals in recent months attempting to show that the CIA is actively working to overthrow regimes in power. Since President [REDACTED] cooperated with us last March by showing us the documents he received, and had allowed us to demonstrate to him that they were forgeries, we asked him to contact Bokassa and warn him not to do anything rash on the basis of documents which might be forgeries planted by unfriendly powers seeking to harm US-African relations. [REDACTED] agreed to contact Bokassa, and did so by telephone. He reported back to Ambassador McKesson that Bokassa was planning to break diplomatic relations on the basis of the documents he had received, but that he had persuaded Bokassa to wait for a scientific analysis. Shortly after [REDACTED] made this report to McKesson, Bokassa called in Ambassador Panfull on Saturday morning and gave him the documents, requesting that the USG analyze them. The crisis in our relations with Bokassa appears to be at an end, at least for the moment.

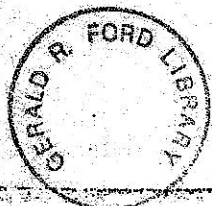
When we asked [REDACTED] to contact Bokassa on this problem, they were happy to cooperate. However, they indicated that whenever they deal with Bokassa on a problem, they are usually expected to give Bokassa a financial contribution since Bokassa is always broke. They were going to help us on our forged documents problem in any event, but wanted us to know that they would probably have to give Bokassa a gift, and thought it only fair to ask us to put up the money. After Bokassa turned the documents over to Embassy Bangui on Saturday, Ambassador McKesson was

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MR 00-26, #24, declass 6/11/02, CIA REF 4/15/03

del NARA Date 7/15/03



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contacted by the [REDACTED] Foreign Minister who said they were still interested in knowing if the USG would be willing to make a financial contribution.

Ambassador McKesson feels certain that [REDACTED] intervention turned Bokassa completely around on the forged documents question. He feels that [REDACTED] either had to promise Bokassa a gift, or is expected to provide one on the basis of their regular relationship. McKesson feels that while we made no promises when we made our original request, we are under a political and moral obligation to be forthcoming.

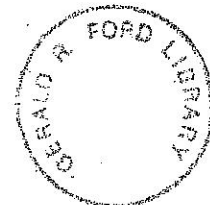
This problem has been discussed informally with CIA, which is the Agency primarily concerned with the wave of forged documents circulating in Africa in recent months. It agrees that [REDACTED] action has had the desirable impact of avoiding embarrassment to the USG, and has given it a new opportunity to trace the origin of those documents. They are therefore in agreement that we should make the requested payment. We consider [REDACTED] request unfortunate, and sufficient to make us wary of dealing with him on matters of this type in the future, but we nonetheless believe that in the present circumstances we should make the payment. The CAR shares a frontier with Congo (Brazzaville); a break in our relations with the CAR and a reduction in our limited influence there would mean that there would be two countries on the border of Zaire, where we have an important stake, with which we would not have relations. Our efforts to maintain our position in the CAR are therefore justified by our wider interests.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ambassador McKesson has been dealing closely with [REDACTED] on the issue; and in the circumstances it would seem best to permit him to make the payment if it is authorized.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Recommendation

That the Committee authorize \$20,000 to be made available to Ambassador McKesson to pass to President [REDACTED]

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