

when you spoke so eloquently in behalf of the Foreign Assistance legislation. I noted among the statements made by your colleagues the true and well-earned words of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs when he expressed his appreciation and admiration for your great work as Chairman of this Subcommittee on Africa. In addition, Dr. Morgan expressed two thoughts which I would like to reiterate. He noted the affection and esteem in which you are held by the leaders of every country in Africa, and he expressed the admiration of the Bureau of African Affairs in the Department of State for your service in behalf of African-American relations.

I would like to affirm in the strongest possible terms my own support for this tribute. You have, indeed, Mr. Chairman, been a source of strength and inspiration to us all.

I recall that it was about ten years ago when you, Mr. Chairman, made a significant trip through Africa. I need hardly emphasize the transformation that has taken place during this past decade. My own trip of the past six weeks—when I visited some sixteen African countries—gave me new insights into this rapidly changing continent.

In almost all of these countries I found many developments of an encouraging nature. There was a sense of dedication, of determination and purpose among African leaders as they tackle their awe-inspiring problems of national development. There was a similar sense of dedication and service among the American officials working in Africa. I spoke with African heads of regional organizations, such as President Diouri of Niger, presently the Chairman of both the Common Organization of African and Malagasy States and the Entente, and with President Beheiry of the African Development Bank—thereby gaining further understanding of African cooperative efforts.

I visited over a hundred developmental projects which illustrated the value of effectively continuing our economic assistance programs. I saw a number of Peace Corps activities which demonstrated the vigor and effectiveness of these volunteers. I saw the benefits of American private enterprise and had a glimpse of the opportunities which can be developed for such activity. And everywhere I encountered the well-known hospitality of the African leaders and their people which made the entire trip a real pleasure. May I highlight for you a few of my principal impressions and then make myself available to the Subcommittee for questions and discussion if it so desires:

Africa, during the past decade, has been going through a process of problem identification. While this process is by no means completed—and may never be—it has resulted in delimiting the major tasks and priorities which lie ahead. The experience is resulting in far more pragmatism and a greater emphasis on internal problems rather than on ideological adventures.

The emphasis almost everywhere is increasingly on agricultural production as the realistic basis for development, with secondary emphasis on transportation, communications and the exploitation of mineral resources.

Along with this pragmatic approach to developmental problems, the advantages of regional cooperation are receiving increased attention and acceptance. In this regard, the urge to break down the barriers between English-speaking and French-speaking Africa is gaining force.

Nations of Africa are quietly, but firmly, determined to assert positions of true independence, to build national identities reflecting African values and based on African aspirations. Similarly, efforts are beginning to be made to involve people of all levels of life in the entire developmental process. Ministers and high officials are spending more time outside their capitals, thus bringing the government to the people and informing themselves of the desires and needs of the country as a whole. The increasing attempts to impart a sense of national identity by emphasizing African cultural heritage is also worthy of note.

Virtually everywhere I went I found great friendship for the U.S.

—There is deep gratitude for our programs of economic assistance in all of its forms—A.I.D., Peace Corps, PL 480, Eximbank, etc.

—We benefit greatly from our own revolutionary past and the fact that the principles for which we stand as a nation are principles that are acceptable to Africans.

—There is widespread understanding of what our Government is doing to advance the cause of civil rights and equal opportunity here in the U.S.

—There has been a substantial improvement and understanding of the American position on Viet-Nam since the talks in Paris began.