

At the same time Africans still have concerns with respect to their relationships with us:

—They are deeply concerned at the prospect of considerable diminution in aid available to them in the period immediately ahead. While they accepted my frank explanations as to the reasons for this diminution, there is a danger if we are not able within a reasonable period to at least restore past levels of aid and to introduce more flexibility with respect to our programs.

—Similarly, any reversal of direction or loss of momentum by a future Administration with respect to civil rights and equal opportunity could deal a heavy blow to our relationships in Africa.

May I give substance to these general impressions by recounting very briefly my visit to the sixteen African countries during the period between the beginning of June and the middle of July.

*The Gambia (May 31–June 3).*—Bathurst, the capital of The Gambia, was the first stop on my African tour. Here, I met with the Prime Minister, Sir Dawda Jawara, and members of his cabinet for a frank exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. As always, I found the Gambians most friendly in their attitude toward the U.S., pragmatic in their approach to the difficult problems of development, and sharing with us a similar world view. The Gambians were particularly appreciative of our modest aid effort in which they place great hope.

*Guinea (June 3–7).*—Though faced with many difficulties, President Toure has succeeded in solving a number of the problems of nation-building. My visit to Guinea was the occasion for the President and people of Guinea to demonstrate that despite past difficulties they have warm feelings for the U.S., sincerely wish sound relations and are proudly independent. President Toure himself took me out in the provinces, introduced me to his people, and encouraged me to meet with and talk to Guineans of all walks of life. He showed me the imaginative way Guineans are uniting their art and tradition with the task of building a modern society. The President and his people are most anxious for the success of planned American private investment to develop Guinea's bauxite and other resources. My visit to Guinea was one of the most useful of my entire trip.

*Sierra Leone (June 7–8).*—My brief visit to Freetown came during a period when Prime Minister Siaka Stevens was in the process of dealing with a number of internal domestic problems. I nevertheless was able to have a wide-ranging discussion with him, which among other things contributed to a better understanding of the role of the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. It is to be hoped that with the return to civilian rule in Freetown the country will be able to work out its political problems and reengage its efforts in solving its economic problems.

*Upper Volta (June 8–11).*—In Upper Volta I had most cordial meetings with President Lamizana and his ministers dealing with both foreign and domestic affairs. This gave me the opportunity of discussing both African matters and developments within the country itself. Among my interesting visits on this trip was one to the Markoy cattle ranch, a project financed by A.I.D. I was much impressed by this pilot animal husbandry project, as well as the country's determination to tighten its belt and work for its economic development. I also took this occasion to fly over the rich nearby manganese ore deposits in the Tambao area of the country.

*Niger (June 11–13).*—In Niger, I had long and helpful talks with President Diori, who recalled with great pleasure his visit last year to the United States, as well as with other principal officials. President Diori—like other African leaders—was most generous in his hospitality to me personally. His role in OCAM and the Entente and his deep concern with the Nigerian problem gives him a special position in African affairs. I also was able to visit the A.I.D.-sponsored young farmers' training school and a reforestation project. On the flight from Niamey to Fort Lamy, I stopped for several hours in the desert town of Zinder where I had the opportunity to observe life in this historic area as well as to learn of the repercussions the Nigerian civil war is having on the economy of Niger.

*Chad (June 13–16).*—The Chadian Government spared no effort in its hospitality. My visit was productive as well as enjoyable. I met with President Tombalbaye, Foreign Minister Baroum and Minister of National Economy Abdoulaye Lamana, with whom I discussed local and regional political and economic problems. President Tombalbaye provided his personal airplane to visit Mao, the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Bornu and Bol, where I saw the progress of the Lake Chad land reclamation project. I also saw the work of the Peace Corps and was especially impressed by an ox-drawn pump, designed by the volunteers, which greatly facilitated local irrigation efforts.