

Mr. O'HARA. I noted with much satisfaction that you stress that African solutions must come to African problems.

Mr. PALMER. I do believe this very firmly, Mr. Chairman. I have said from the beginning of the Nigerian conflict that I did not think that it was going to yield a peaceful solution except within an African framework.

In saying this I do not derogate at all from the very constructive and useful efforts that have been made by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the many influences that other powers outside Africa have had on these constructive influences, but this is a Nigerian problem first; it is an African problem second. I think that the increase in African concern with respect to this problem has been a constructive element in moving things toward a solution.

Mr. O'HARA. I trust, Mr. Secretary, that your position in that will be made well known to the American people and to the people of all of Africa. We are well-wishers and we will cooperate in every possible way we can but we will never force our own notions of solutions to African problems.

Mr. PALMER. I agree, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O'HARA. Mrs. Bolton.

Mrs. BOLTON. Who is the Diamond firm you mentioned earlier?

Mr. PALMER. I will have to supply it for the record, Mrs. Bolton. [It is Diamond Distributors, jointly owned by Diamond Distributors, Inc., of New York, and the Central African Republic Government.]

Mrs. BOLTON. I was interested in your mentioning the Port Gentil plywood factory. It has grown a great deal since I was there years ago.

Mr. PALMER. Yes, it has.

Mrs. BOLTON. What is the proportion of Africans that they use there? Do they have many?

Mr. PALMER. Yes, I believe that the proportion of Africans is increasing; perhaps not as fast in Gabon as in other areas.

Mrs. BOLTON. When we were there there were only two whites.

Mr. PALMER. I think at the management level it is still largely European.

Mrs. BOLTON. I am surprised to hear you say it is mostly white in management because they had hoped they would have very little need of the Westerner.

Mr. PALMER. There is a large African component certainly.

Mrs. BOLTON. Uganda and all these lovely areas you mentioned—trees come up from the bottom of these deep valleys and they are all brilliant abloom.

Mr. PALMER. It is certainly some of the most beautiful country in the world.

Mrs. BOLTON. Who is the new Ambassador to Bujumbura?

Mr. PALMER. George Renchard. He was consul general in Bermuda. He was confirmed by the Senate the other day. He will be going out to his post next month.

Mrs. BOLTON. What about the hospitals in Bujumbura?

Mr. PALMER. I did not have an opportunity to see any of the hospitals there, Mrs. Bolton. I was there a comparatively short period of time.

Mrs. BOLTON. The situation has been very bad there.