

Mr. PALMER. I would say, Mr. Congressman, that I think there are several dimensions to it. I think in the first place that 10 years ago expectations ran awfully high in the United States that there would be instant stability in Africa. There has not been. Problems have arisen.

I do not think there has been any diminution in the interest or the excitement. I think that people have come to realize and to understand that it will be a much more difficult and longer range problem than they perhaps thought at the beginning.

There is, of course, a problem with respect to resources. I myself am very seriously disturbed, as I think my statement implied, as to how responsive the United States will be able to be to assisting in the task of developing Africa unless more resources are made available and unless more flexibility is introduced into the administration of our aid program to get away from many requirements in the current legislation.

I think this is terribly important because I think we must be responsive. We cannot abandon Africa to the former metropolitan powers. Their ability to be responsive is also diminishing. This is a field, I think, in which the United States has to play an important important role if we are to live up to our commitments on the continent. To what extent this is a function of Vietnam it is difficult to say. It is obviously a function of Vietnam to some extent, because in the competition for funds Vietnam has very high priority.

It is also a function of some of our balance-of-payments problems, of the necessity for general cutbacks in spending, and a whole variety of factors.

As I indicated before, I think the Africans are understanding of this on the short term. I tried to emphasize to them that our economy is essentially healthy. What we are making here are adjustments to keep it healthy.

I think they continue to hope very strongly that it flows from that that as we restore the health of our economy and make these adjustments that are necessary to keep it that way, that we will be able to resume a larger flow of resources to Africa.

As I say, I think it is essential that we do.

Mr. DIGGS. I have one final question, Mr. Chairman. How many Afro-American Ambassadors do we have in Africa now and to what countries are they assigned?

Mr. PALMER. We have Clint Knox in Dahomey; we have Elliott Skinner in Upper Volta; Franklin Williams, as you know, recently resigned as Ambassador to Ghana, and Samuel Adams has just been appointed as Ambassador to Niger. I think that is it.

Mr. DIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. BOLTON. Mr. Chairman, may I include something at that point on this problem? Has the feeling disappeared that I found very rampant when we first began sending ambassadors to the new countries? Some of the countries felt that if it was not a white man we were considering them as second-rate nations. Did you run into that, Mr. Diggs?

Mr. PALMER. I honestly have not.

Mr. DIGGS. I have not from my conversations.

Mrs. BOLTON. It is gone, then. That is fine.

I know that at the beginning it was very strong.

Mr. PALMER. I have not encountered it at all.