

(The following table was supplied:)

U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA
[Net obligations and loan authorizations; in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year						
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
AID.....	315.0	239.1	189.0	149.7	169.5	184.1	157.2
Food for freedom.....	99.0	209.5	133.3	118.0	137.7	165.3	149.3
Export-Import Bank long-term loans.....	67.5	9.7	12.2	34.5	44.2	14.0	49.4
Other U.S. economic programs.....	7.3	14.9	24.9	27.2	32.7	25.7	22.9
Total, economic.....	488.8	473.2	359.4	329.4	384.1	389.1	378.8
Military assistance.....	23.7	26.1	28.4	17.7	21.9	31.2	22.6
Total, economic and military.....	512.5	499.3	387.8	347.1	406.0	420.3	410.4

† Approximate.

Mr. MORSE. Has there been a significant reduction year by year?

Mr. PALMER. Yes, there has been a steady reduction.

Mr. MORSE. You say on page 4 that—

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.

What were your frank explanations?

Mr. PALMER. My frank explanations, Mr. Congressman, were those that I outlined a few minutes ago, that the heavy expenses which the United States is bearing in connection with its international activities, our balance-of-payments problems, and the budgetary pressures that we face here in the United States, and the necessity from the point of view of our own interests and general world interests of making the adjustments that are required to keep our budgetary and our balance-of-payments situation in a strong position.

Mr. MORSE. I notice, sir, that you said in Gambia you infer that the Gambians shared with us a similar world view. Does this imply a diminution of French influence in Gambia?

Mr. PALMER. Gambia has a British background and tradition.

Mr. MORSE. Of course.

Mr. PALMER. What I mean is that on most international issues the Gambia traditionally is with us.

Mr. MORSE. What were the attitudes of most of French Africa vis-a-vis U.S. policies?

Mr. PALMER. I would say they vary a good deal.

I would say that there is a much higher degree of understanding on such issues as Vietnam than there has been in the past. Certain countries, of course, adhere more closely to French positions than others. I would be glad to go into those in executive session.

Mr. MORSE. Very well, sir.

Is there considerable interest in the South West-African situation?

Mr. PALMER. This was not raised as the South West Africa situation. I would say it was subsumed in general concerns about the whole situation in southern Africa, and the Portuguese territories and Rhodesia.