

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador Abdullahi Ahmed Addou, Somalia
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 24, 1975
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

The President: I appreciate your message after the incident in San Francisco.

Addou: We are praying for your safety. You are very important for your country and the world and we hope this will not reoccur. We are all in the hands of the Almighty and will live so long as he wills.

The President: How is your President?

Addou: He is well and has the best memories of his visit with you. He wants to the maximum extent to have the closest relations with the United States. We have had close relations with the United States going back to our struggle for independence, which you supported.

We have no reason to be anything but grateful to you. We had a misunderstanding which was ended with the visit of President Siad to you. We are fiercely jealous of our independence and will not jeopardize it for anyone.

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The President: I am glad to hear that. We have supported your independence. It is in our interest to have a strong self-reliant Somalia and we will continue to support your independence. We were pleased to help in the drought and are reviewing proposals to be of economic assistance to you.

Addou: We are very grateful for your help for the worst drought in Somali history. We have had a difficult time and we appreciate your aid -- also with your plans for economic aid.

The President: Does the drought last more than a year?

Addou: It is cyclical, but this one has been longer and deeper. 20,000 have died. We are moving 250,000 into agricultural areas where they can be self-supporting. We hope for support in this from friendly nations.

I have here a letter from President Siad which I have the honor to present to you.

The President: Please convey my best wishes to the President.

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